

EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

PUBLIC FORUM

All members of the community who have registered have been advised that they have a **maximum of seven minutes** to put their case.

Ordinary Meeting of Council on **24 November 2020**

Name	Subject/Comments
Public Forum – 9.30am	
Henk Roubos obo Susan Mackenzie	NOM20/007 Reclassification of Land CCS20/046 Lease of Batemans Bay Community Centre
Bernie O'Neil	NOM20/007 Reclassification of Land CCS20/046 Lease of Batemans Bay Community Centre
Coral Anderson	NOM20/007 Reclassification of Land
Allan Russell	CCS20/046 Lease of Batemans Bay Community Centre
Lei Parker	CCS20/046 Lease of Batemans Bay Community Centre
Charles Stuart	CAR20/018 Corrigans Beach Reserve Plan of Management
Alison Spurgeon	CAR20/019 - Narooma Sport and Leisure Precinct Plan of Management

Council meeting speech for 24 Nov 2020

I am Henk Roubos, speaking on behalf of Dr Susan Mackenzie, President of PERFEX, speaking

- **in support of Item agenda NOM20/007 Reclassification of land NOTICE OF MOTION and**
- **against agenda item CCS20/046 Lease of Batemans Bay Community Centre**

Today our Council votes whether to keep our Community Centre in our hands.

Council is elected to serve our community's needs, to foster a cohesive and thriving community; to serve our children and grandchildren as well as the present populace.

The Batemans Bay Community Centre was created through community passion and hard work, contributions of time, materials and effort, backed up by continued use over many years. It was NOT built by some commercial group with profit in their eyes, but by people making something to GIVE BACK to the community for the future.

It's not some millstone hemorrhaging debt; as Mackay Park is shaping up to be.

It's not left empty by community groups because it doesn't have the facilities we need, like technology support, sprung floors, accessible clean toilets, close parking, a commercial-scale kitchen, easy access, versatile spaces and wonderful staff. Over 120 community groups used it last year, many on a regular basis.

Now community groups are being forced to use other Council spaces and commercial venues without the combination of facilities at the BBCC, at increased rates.

So tell me, why is the commercial sector of town being favoured over the core demographic of community activities and community volunteers?

Why must we as a shire bear the weight of some \$10 million shortfall each year for Mackay Park AND Batemans Bay lose community services AND community facilities?

Batemans Bay is still a young town, built by families putting in to make it the place it is today. Each person, each family, each group has contributed to the fabric that we are. Their legacy is remembered down the years.

It is a town built on goodwill: goodwill to ourselves in massive volunteer work; goodwill to the visitors who come to enjoy our welcome and our beautiful environment, to rest and relax. It's a town built on goodwill when there is chaos and disaster and threat; and on the generosity needed for rebuilding.

It's **NOT** a town built on commercial interests over community ideals, and we DO NOT want it to go that way. Too many examples of that show us those towns polarise and suffer, with community and environmental degradation- the very foundation of our attractiveness.

We must work hand in hand with environmental, commercial, AND community. Do not let this Centre be sacrificed on the money altar.

By Council voting to revert the classification of the land under the BBCC back to 'Community' you are flagging your loyalties and commitment to our community and its future wellbeing.

You have received many submissions, emails, letters and a petition signed by over 1000 locals. The community calls on you to vote to favour ***Community over Commercial!***

Keep our Community Centre in Community hands for ongoing Community use and benefit. We support the motion.

A Better Eurobodalla (ABE) presentation to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Tuesday 24 November 2020 opposing Agenda item CCS20/046 Lease of Bateman's Bay Community Centre and in support of Councillor Mayne's NOM20/007 Reclassification of land

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to address Council this morning.

I am presenting on behalf of A Better Eurobodalla (ABE), a community forum dedicated to having open and inclusive government in our region. ABE expects that before governments, at any level, make decisions that will impact their communities, they will undertake broad and meaningful consultation, listen to and share expert advice, and proceed using a transparent decision-making process so that the community understands who makes decisions, when and why.

ABE has applied these principles to the issue of the Batemans Bay Community Centre (BBCC), which leads it to support Cllr Mayne's Notice of Motion to reclassify the land and reject the current lease proposal.

ABE notes the following aspects in support of this position:

1. The Eurobodalla community have been significantly impacted by both natural disasters of bushfire and flooding, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Expert advice tells us that strong community connections are a key to recovering from disasters such as the bushfires and COVID-19.
3. The Batemans Bay Community Centre is used by a wide variety of groups, including Meals on Wheels, and is an important facility contributing to community service, cohesion and integration. It has a central location in the Shire's largest urban centre. No other facility offers the same utility as this Centre.
4. As late as May this year, Council was advising Community groups who use the Community Centre that it would remain available for their use until the new Batemans Bay Regional Arts & Leisure Centre (BBRALC) becomes available in May 2022.
5. The proposal for Council to approve entering into a lease with the preferred candidate is not consistent with Council's previous advice to community groups. At the very least, Council should respect their previous commitment and allow community groups to use the Community Centre until the Regional Arts and Leisure Centre is open and fully operational.
6. The 1,000 strong petition received by Council on this matter is an indication of community wishes and needs. Genuine consultation that respects community views is good practice. The current lease proposal will undermine and disadvantage community groups, with Council effectively taking away key community facilities that enable community connections and services at a time when they are critically needed.
7. The proposed changes to the Batemans Bay Community Centre would be an indication of poor governance and lack of transparency which would set an undesirable precedent for future management of many other significant community facilities throughout the Eurobodalla shire.
8. We expect that under the current post bushfire and pandemic conditions Council will prioritise community well-being and recovery as a primary concern by actively supporting

existing community groups and services. Council should facilitate community groups being able to plan and organise over mutually agreed extended time horizons, and allow community groups to get on with their important activities without any further disruption or unexpected shocks.

9. Council's management of the Batemans Bay Community Centre is the antithesis of the community-focussed approach to disaster recovery embodied out in the NSW Recovery Plan (November 2016), which includes the following statement "*Supporting self-help and strengthening the resources, capacity and resiliency already present within individuals and communities are the keys to successful recovery. Empowering communities to create their own solutions can improve overall social cohesion, and this is critical to sustainable recovery outcomes.*"(NSW Recovery plan, page 14).

In the light of the above circumstances, which reflect lack of transparency and meaningful consultation, as well as being at odds with informed advice regarding effective post-disaster community recovery practices, ABE cannot support the proposal to lease out the Batemans Bay Community Centre and risk evicting the wide variety of community groups who currently use the centre. Instead, ABE supports Cllr Mayne's Notice of Motion to reclassify the site for the Community Centre as "community land", in support of its important role in assisting post-disaster recovery efforts within the Eurobodalla Shire.

Thank you for your attention.

Bernie O'Neil
Co-convenor
A Better Eurobodalla
23 November 2020

Councillors:

You are already very well aware of the evidence of community sentiment around the council's staff proposed leasing of OUR community centre in Batemans Bay. You have the petition with over 1,000 signatories demanding that OUR centre stay in community hands.

On 4th October 2020, a peaceful protest regarding the lease proposal was organised by Meals on Wheels. Over 150 people attended this rally, many of them long time residents with long memories. You were all invited to come along and listen and speak directly with your community. Only two attended Clrs Mayne and McGinlay, with a legitimate apology from Clr Constable. Apart from these three councillors, the rest of you could not even bother to send a polite apology, how very rude and disrespectful of you. By not showing up or sending a legitimate apology, you have shown disregard for your community. Being available for ceremonial photo shoots with high profile politicians and visiting footy players is not important to us nor does it impress us.

On Friday 20th November 2020, another hastily organised community meeting was held at OUR community centre in Batemans Bay to once again send a strong message to you, our representatives, to keep OUR community centre in community hands. Those who attended this meeting found OUR community centre locked up with no access available to the public toilets; a sign stuck to the inside of the entrance door with blu tac directed us to the Visitors Information Centre and another read the community centre is currently 'open to bookings only'. The friendly staff who are normally present to greet the community must be embarrassed by the directive to shut out the public this way.

Councillors Nathan and Tait....Will you honour the Community Action Alliance pledge 'We won't just listen to our residents' reasonable concerns. We will take notice and we will take action'?

Mayor Innes, will you stay true to your pledge to 'stand shoulder to shoulder with the community'?

Councillors Will you honour your Oath of Office to 'undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people'?

Clr Mayne's motion is clear and well supported by the community. Bring OUR community centre back to the community. Reclassify the land to its original classification of 'community'.

Reject the staff's recommendation to lease OUR community centre to its preferred tenderer and direct them to the 400sm available space in the old Target building over which the Department of Education has taken a lease. It makes sense to have educational facilities in the one building.

The decisions you make today are critical; they will become an election issue in September 2021. You will either be remembered as those who turned their backs on the community or those who supported the community. Are you with us or against us?

Mayor, Councillors, General Manager, Staff

My name is Alan Russell. I am here to speak to you on Item CC20/046 Lease of Batemans Bay Community Centre. I am speaking against the proposal

First, thank you for allowing me to present to you this morning.

Second, an apology. I am sure that you are tired of me filling your inbox with my thoughts. But I am pleased that the Acting Director has tried to address some of my concerns in the very carefully crafted submission before you today.

The history of our town indicates that we have had a Community Centre. That the Community Centre has always been well used and supported. We continue to need such a Centre for the community, not for a selected and favoured group to monopolise and only allow the community to use it when they have time and space available.

I still argue that with commercial rents being charged the opportunity for many to use **our** Community Centre will not be as easy and may not even exist. I do note that as an out, the Acting Director is recommending that no rent be charged for the groups who change to another venue. I never thought this Council would be in the wonderful position of not needing to collect rent for 3 months. This is most generous, philanthropic, and using some imagination to address the issues.

To me it appears that all is being done to help the younger people of the community whereas the present Community Centre is mainly supported by the older people of the area. I feel for the six tap dancing ladies dancing on tiles rather than on a sprung floor; the Line Dancers who have moved all over the town -moving again; the 600 U3A folk who will not have a focal point. But they demonstrate that education can happen anywhere. South Coast Colleges could deliver their educational programmes in your under unused spaces.

My Out and About group members are on walking frames and the ease of access is wonderful but I am sure they can continue to get into Malua Bay Community Hall or Tomakin Hall but it is not the same as being at your towns Centre for many of them; the Probus group with 100 members using the hall will have to be elsewhere and I am sure that the Hanging Rock facility will be very nice, cheaper for a while, have nice views but again further from the Centre of town for many.

These may all seem small matters to active younger people who can move around easily, and who have good transport and support systems. If we put on our thinking hats we will come up with solutions -yes you have started by recommending no rent for those good enough to move along, and by using them to use the areas which are under utilised. But why should these loyal users of the Centre have to move? Is it purely financial or is there another Agenda yet to be revealed?

If one of the two Expressions of Interest is accepted, it will help their educational business. All their rooms will be close by, but we have all seen that in education today, you do not have to be nearby. I am sure that younger and fitter people could have their classes at the library, in the Basketball arena, in the Hanging Rock Centre, at the MacKay Park function Centre and still through their technology be linked to the main campus building. Education is changing and there is no real need for all lessons to be close to the main building. Look at the young children who travel all over London and New York to attend school and who have classes in all sorts of exciting places; or look at St Andrews Cathedral School in Sydney who have students younger than those at the South Coast College courses who use several buildings in a busy city.

The young can go anywhere but it is not as easy for the older person -the person you are shifting for a dollar or two. These people are the majority of our local population.

I did hear that the other group which could possibly hold the lease will be taking rooms out of circulation for more office space for their business. I did warn that it was a proposal which would not win community support and especially as developing community relationships was one of their major objectives.

I am pleased that it has been stated in the Acting Directors report that the Batemans Bay Community Centre is not for sale. This supports the Letter to the Editor on 2 October in the Bay Post, over Councils name, indicating this is presently off the Agenda.

I am a supporter of the new MacKay Park facility. I have noted this in my letters to you. But I believe that on this issue, the Batemans Bay Community Centre lease, you are making a big mistake if you go ahead with a lease at commercial rates and drive the present users to your other facilities. Again I ask, Why are your loyal users of the Centre the ones to suffer? Why cannot you do more to get these various 'unsolicited enquires' to lease the other centres.

But I can understand why you are considering this. Maybe if I was in your shoes and being briefed as you are, I may even make the same mistake. Afterall it is an easy option....someone pays you big bucks for the Batemans Bay Community Centre, you shift your loyal users to other sites and you have everything full and looking wonderful. But underneath the tensions are still there.

I know I am not wrong in my belief that the Centre should stay in **your** hands, for **your** community and that **your** excellent philanthropic support of Not for Profit groups should continue.

Yes, there have been signs shown around town; and still there are people who have not heard of your proposal. But when they do the reaction is not great. You may not be hearing this but in September 2021, I am certain that there will be a negative reaction should you Lease out the facility.

The staff will stay but many sitting here, as Councillors, may not be guiding their work.

I ask that **you** continue to manage the Batemans Bay Community Centre as **your** show piece of philanthropic leadership within the community; to get small groups operating in the center of town and therefore people engaged. Win back the hearts of **your** community by not issuing a Lease.

Unfortunately, I do not believe this is going to happen. Today **you** will delegate another task to the General Manager and her staff, that is to lease out the Batemans Bay Community Centre.

So I am ready when **your** staff have to ring to tell me that the Booking Form I have completed for 2021 was a waste of time as I now have to rebook somewhere else for my Group Social Support activities.

Thank you for your time. It is probably the last time you will hear from me as like others I feel I am belting my head against a brick wall; so while I would like to continue to contribute to **my** community, I feel, along with most of my volunteers and clients, friends and acquaintances, as not a valued member of **your** community so why bother.

I will pay my rates and leave it to you. For you know better than the rest of us what we need.

Presentation : CCS20/046 LEASE OF BATEMANS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE
TO ORDINARY MEETING OF EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2020

Councillors,

You represent the community. You ran on election promises as independents and as Eurobodalla First, Community Action Alliance and Community Voice Eurobodalla.

The community voted and here you are performing your duties that requires you to provide effective civic leadership to the local community.

And here you are today, once again, with the community expecting that you carry out your duties of providing effective civic leadership on behalf of the community who elected you.

In order to arrive at this point it is essential to make mention of the journey so far.

Prior to, and after the acquisition of the Batemans Bay Bowling Club there have been many promises made to the community in regards to the provision of community spaces.

In 2015 the community were encouraged to put in submissions of what they would like to see at the Bowling Club. There were submissions for galleries, workshop spaces, exhibition spaces, cafes and a sundry of other ideas including a heated pool.

But these submissions came to nothing as the building was condemned. Hope still remained that the site might accommodate the Arts and heated pool but it was clear from the start that Council staff had other ideas.

At this point it is important to differentiate between Councillors and Council staff. Much of what lies ahead had little to do with councillors "providing effective civic leadership to the local community".

The leadership was in fact coming from the staff and their vision. Most often the councillors were left in the dark and the community barely aware until it was too late.

The next step happened very quickly. The Option to locate the arts and pools in the Southern section of Mackay Park brought with it a blow to the community as they realised, in one vote, that they were to lose their 50m pool and the promised community spaces.

At no point had there been any mention to the community of the loss of the 50m pool nor had there been any mention of the sale of the Batemans Community Centre.

When cornered Council response was that the community will be provided like-for-like space in the new facility and access to the hall. In time the community began to realise that this was not at all a like-for-like deal.

The community have now discovered that Council staff are pursuing a long game that will see them lose their community centre. First by leasing and then by sale once the new Mackay Centre is opened.

The General Manager has been quite clear that the community must vacate the Community Centre and use the rooms provided in the Mackay Park Centre to ensure its viability. It has also been identified that sale proceeds from the Community Centre are destined to the running costs of the new facility.

The Community have been duped however. They were led along by promises of Like-for Like and will be

delivered, at best, a meeting room with an urn to replace a vibrant, well used, much enjoyed centre that was purpose built with community funds.

The Batemans Bay community raised funds to buy the land for their first Community Hall in Orient Street. They donated materials and labour and built a centre that lasted three decades. Council then sold the centre and land from under them however the ruse was discovered and the community outcry demanded that Council build a new centre. Not in Hanging Rock where Council staff suggested, but in Batemans Bay. Where it stands today.

Through whatever reasoning staff determined they made the land of the new centre Operational.

They now advise that because it is Operational they are not required to consult any further with the community and can do as they please in terms of leasing and selling.

Staff The recommendation before you, as representatives of the community who voted you in to represent them, is from **staff**. Not the community. In fact the community hasn't been consulted. Just told.

Staff who come and go. Staff who want to move your community around as if they are pieces in a jigsaw.

You already have before you a petition of 1000 signatures. You have countless letters and submissions, there have been two very well attended community protests – and your community is appealing to YOU to act on their behalf to represent them, requesting that they retain the community centre they own, use and enjoy.

When voters elected you they elected Independents, Eurobodalla First, Community Action, Community Voice and heard such mantras as

“We will stand shoulder to shoulder with you”

“We won't just listen to our residents' reasonable concerns. We will take notice and we will take action.”

The reality, for some time now, has been otherwise.

Please admit to yourselves, before you proceed any further, that the community, your community, will be the poorer for the loss of their centre. Please admit that the alternate venues offered are little more than inadequate compromises. Please admit that the original promises made to the community prior to Option 1 did NOT advise the community of the loss of their centre or their 50m pool at the cost of the new grand vision.

The community has been left out in the dark this whole journey. It now also appears that councillors too have been left out of the grand vision held by staff.

The staff however were NOT elected. You were. And today you might chose to represent those who voted for you and believe that you would stand to represent them.

Lei Parker

ESC ADDRESS TO COUNCIL, Tuesday, 24 Novmber 2020

I am Charles Stuart, president of The Bay Push, a not-for-profit organisation, the instigator of the now complete, Variety Inclusive Playground at Batehaven.

A petition signed by 794 residents was presented to Council in September last year. The petition calls for approval to a low impact kiddies splashpad at Corrigans Reserve that will be inclusive for all children irrespective of ability.

The petition is a little unique in that the content of the petition was explained in person to each and every signatory, mainly conducted in the Batehaven area, because my organisation, The Bay Push wanted to make this a meaningful petition and not a signature farming exercise.

Since the petition presentation and my address to council late last year, I have been in regular contact with Fiona Robbe, the architect who designed the highly successful – ‘Variety Inclusive Playground, Batemans Bay’. Fiona specialises in inclusive design and proposes a unique water experience, whereby children who are unable to access the proposed Water Park at Mackay Park through disability, may enjoy a more gently water experience at the proposed Splashpad.

Fiona points out that the children with special needs cannot tolerate a large indoor water park with water slides and tipping bucket, both of which cause excessive noise. Fiona recommends a Interactive water play area comprising three zones, namely:

Zone 1: A series of four hooped arches made up of low misty spray graduating in height and spray strength.

Zone 2: A series of taps and pumps for water play.

Zone 3: A traditional splash pad with ground level and raised nozzles and sprays. No tipping buckets, no swivel guns or slides. These components would likely result in meltdowns and other behavioural issues.

The benefits of this waterplay area will enable users to become comfortable with water, reinforce mobility skills in wet conditions and act as a transition to a larger facility with confidence, such as the facility proposed at Mackay Park.

It is envisaged that the water play area will be installed adjacent to and compliment the highly popular Variety Inclusive Playground, Batemans Bay.

The water play area will be fenced, be accessible to all and free of charge.

In my previous address I read a letter from mother, Sally Minato who has a child with severe disabilities in which she stressed the importance of such a facility to families with a child with a disability.

I have attached this letter, rather than read it again together with the content of a supporting email from Fiona Robbe.

Design and Cost Considerations

Lismore Council has recently installed a modest Waterplay 'Town Water' system in a small splash pad approximating the size of a double garage floor. However, the council representative, Mr Cliff Burn advises that their facility uses 12 litres of potable water a minute and he has estimated the running costs to be \$5,000 for the first three weeks of use. Given this expense Lismore Council would prefer to have used a filtration system.

This system is much lower in capital costs but very expensive in running costs.

Tamworth City Council has installed a much larger waterplay area that features a filtration system, one that equates in size to our proposal.

The cost of maintenance has been referred to their Manager, Sports & Recreation, Mr Paul Kelly, who reports the following information and has asked that ESC staff, do not hesitate to contact him on 6767 5036 if they wish to seek clarification. He states: -

- Last financial year I spent less than \$1000 in chemicals for the treatment of water.
- Staff spend on average approximately 2 hours per week undertaking routine maintenance. This averages out around approximately 100 hours per year in staff time.
- Daily blow off of debris and tree leaves, and cleaning of water grates and screens (5mins)
- Daily water quality check (5mins)
- If water quality check requires added chemical, then this could be another 5mins, but is on average only a couple of times per week.
- Backwash sand filter once per week (might take 20mins, but only requires staff to be present to switch to backwash and then come back and rinse 20min later).
- Requires an annual service on the automatic chlorine dosing system & associated probes.
- Infrequent solenoid repairs (every few years) associated with water spurting intermittently through different holes in the ground (dancing water effect)

It should be noted that the above 10-15min per day that is required, is undertaken by Council staff who also have other daily responsibilities (7 days per week) associated with the broader Regional Playground. Staff have no concerns with the above and see it as a great facility and service that adds to the experience of the park.

In short, we have not found this to be an overly arduous or high maintenance piece of infrastructure.

Signed – Paul Kelly, 4 September 2020

It is considered that the above maintenance could be preferably undertaken by Council Rangers whose presence would have the added benefit of security. Alternatively, the toilet block cleaner or Mackay Park pool staff could be utilised in this regard.

In considering the review of the Corrigans reserve Plan of Management, it is proposed that the concept of a filtered inclusive waterplay area allowed for in the Management Plan Review be adopted.

Charles Stuart
President
The Bay Push Inc.

Encl.

1. Letter Sally Minato
2. Testimonial from Muddy Puddles.

TEXT OF EMAIL DATED 25 JULY 2019

For reference I am the mother of a profoundly intellectually disabled 8-year-old boy who has complex medical needs. He is incontinent and suffers dangerous tonic seizures daily. And I am also the mother to a thriving two-year-old who is healthy. Every day is a balancing act and I spend my life trying to get onto the same path as all the 'normal' families out there, and I fail. That's because society is only just beginning to recognise that families like mine exist. Thanks to Charles' hard work we have an incredible resource in the accessible playground at Corrigan's Reserve, which is where I spend much of my time.

I understand that there is a proposal being put for a water-play area. I cannot support this enough. My 8-year-old doesn't know how to 'play' at the park. He enjoys being there, he spins the blocks, I work on his core strength using the balance beams, however the only thing he really enjoys is sensory play - everything else is just therapy really. He loves water play, but not the swimming pool. He likes to splash, touch, make mud. I understand we are having an aquatic centre built, however this will not cater to us because his immune system cannot cope with the germs that kids pick up at pools. At Ulladulla they have a splash area at their playground and when Frankie goes there with his special school, Budawang, I am told the kids genuinely enjoy themselves. They know that this is 'free' fun where they can get wet, not be held back, or told 'no', which sadly we spend most of our lives doing to these vibrant, happy little beings.

To close I hope Charles gets the support and funds he needs to keep this project moving forward. There is so much I want to do and can't, because I am parenting and it's high-stakes and exhausting. Thankfully we live in a community where people such as Charles and his committee are prepared to take the load for us, and ensure we are seen and our stories heard.

Parenting a child with special needs is a constant battle against isolation. Having services that help to make our families feel less alien in this world are essential.

Best wishes,

Sally Minato

Next email from Sally in response to our thanks for her correspondence –

“That's Frankie's (and Bobby's) dreamland Charles. Absolutely wonderful!”



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PO Box 746
Batemans Bay NSW 2536

10 November 2020

Dr Catherine Dale
General Manager
Eurobodalla Shire Council
PO Box 99
MORUYA 2537

Dear Dr Dale

We are writing to support the proposal of a Splashpad at the Corrigans Reserve Playground.

The Corrigans Reserve Playground is a fantastic community meeting place and offers a safe and accessible experience for children. It is well-used by clients of Muddy Puddles and is often used by our own team when they are supporting children with disability to participate in the community.

Many of our clients have a love of water play as it satisfies a sensory need and is so much fun for them. Water activities are used therapeutically for both under and overactive sensory systems. A splashpad at Corrigans Reserve Playground would enhance the play experience for children with disability. It would provide a safe and controlled environment in which to get acquainted with water, begin to understand the rules around water safety, and an inclusive space to develop communication and social skills.

Families are looking for free and appropriate experiences for their children. The risks associated with swimming and playing in water are often much greater for children with disability and the effort to mitigate these risks cause barriers for families to enjoy experiences that are commonplace for other families. We believe that a splashpad at Corrigans Playground would allow families to enjoy a fun, engaging and beneficial experience without weeks of planning and costly supports.

We look forward to a positive outcome to support an inclusive and accessible Eurobodalla.

Warm regards

Cate McMath
CEO

John Wakelin
Chairperson

From: Christine Kris Macauley
Sent: Thu, 27 Aug 2020 10:31:34 +1000
To: Council;.Councillors
Subject: Narooma Foreshore Management Plan - Montague Art and Craft Society Inc (MACS) Proposal for use of Narooma Visitor Information Centre building
Attachments: Museum proposal edited.docx

Please find attached file for this proposal for use of the Lighthouse Museum/Visitor Information Centre building after current contract finishes in May 2021

Please also forward to General Manager Dr Catherine Dale as I do not have a direct email contact for her.

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Regards
Christine Kris Macauley AM
President
Montague Art and Craft Society Inc (MACS)



Macs Society Inc (MACS)
PO Box 2546

Executive Summary

Macs puts forward a proposal to manage the building currently housing the Narooma Visitor Information Centre (VIC) should it be decided that there no longer be a Narooma Visitor Information Centre on that site. MACS proposes it will turn that section of the building not occupied by the museum into an art and craft exhibition and gallery for display of work by local artists with a dedicated section devoted to indigenous art. MACS also offers to continue to monitor and clean the museum section of the building as it has during its last 5 years of occupancy.

Rooms at the rear of the building currently used for admin and storage could be used for small workshops. Macs currently works with disability services such as Roundsquared group to provide activities for the disabled, the building would provide a convenient central location.

The building is currently a central community hub for events and activities as well as a Visitor Information Centre. For example; the promotion and display of flags and brochures for local events and festivals such as River of Art, Tilba Festival, Narooma Oyster Festival and Buskers Festival. The Narooma Dog Training Club has used facilities to store articles on the premises. Rotary Sunday markets occasional use of power and promotion. Outside the building, community boards erected at MACS cost provide information to locals and visitors alike of events and community services.

MACS is very much a community focused group with an emphasis on mental health and inclusion through creative social activities. MACS emphasis is on community and encouraging people to meet in a welcoming and supportive atmosphere where members teach skills and craft as well as painting, sketching and discussion groups.

The contract with Council ends in May 2021 and at that time MACS will no longer require much of its current infrastructure and will return to a much simpler model run entirely by volunteers. MACS also requests a peppercorn rental for use of the premises as it will be very much a community facility and MACS is a not for profit organization, even though there will be no paid staff engaged, MACS volunteers will still be happy to answer questions from visitors

It will request that bus ticket sales be conducted from other businesses such as newsagents as we feel it is an important service for those without computer skills or credit card access



Montague Art & Craft Society Inc (MACS)
PO Box 100
Narooma NSW 2546

PROPOSAL

This is a proposal to Eurobodalla Shire Council (Council) from Montague Art & Craft Society Inc (MACS) to re-purpose the premises known as Narooma Lighthouse Museum (Museum) and Narooma Visitor Information Centre (VIC).

Background

In May 2016 Council contracted management of the VIC, and guardianship of the Museum, to MACS for three years with the option of a further two years, which MACS will have completed by May 2021.

MACS took on the commitment to manage Narooma Visitor Centre as:

- a contribution to Business and the Community, and
- an opportunity to display and sell local art and craft.

In those five years MACS has managed the VIC and the Museum, met AVIC and Destination NSW guidelines, satisfied Council's criteria, and earned the respect of Narooma Business and Community.

Volunteers from the community have made a very large contribution to the Visitor Centre these "Friends of the VIC" have donated their time to help the local businesses and we thank them for their local knowledge and dedication. They were not necessarily MACS members and showed great commitment to the local area and community.

MACS has also sold an average of \$1200 a month of local art and craft through the gallery section at the Narooma VIC providing that little bit extra to local artists to encourage them to continue with their creativity and demonstration of the diversity of our community.

What has changed

During the past five years MACS recognises:

- there has been a decline in the number of visitors using the VIC
- visitors increasingly use technology to access information
- there is an opportunity to deliver a more appropriate and less expensive service

Since the advent of the COVID 19 Pandemic it has been more difficult to attract volunteers at the Centre their safety is a primary concern.



Marrangaroo Art and Craft Society Inc (MACS)
PO Box 2546

MACS also notes:

- Council has generously contributed \$66,000 each year to employ trained staff
- MACS and the Community have provided Volunteers to support the staff
- MACS has operated the VIC and managed to make a small profit which has gone back into providing infrastructure for MAC's Studio rent and supplies.
- 80% of the sales of local art and craft were of 'craft' items, which indicates a continuing need for a 'local craft' outlet.

Proposal

MACS proposes:

- that Council repurposes the premises that now houses the Museum and VIC as a Community Craft Centre and Gallery
- that Council charges MACS a "peppercorn" rent to continue to manage the premises on behalf of the community

Why MACS

MACS was formed in 1981 "for the purpose of encouraging and promoting art and craft" and has an unbroken record of achieving that purpose.

MACS has filled a need for community members to pursue their art and craft in a welcoming, safe, and encouraging environment.

MACS has become very much a community focused group with an emphasis on mental health and inclusion through creative social activities.

MACS has a continuous record of providing low-cost Workshops to upgrade and diversify skills for community members.

MACS currently works with Roundsquared group to provide activities for the disabled and the building would provide a central location with level disability access.

MACS has a proven track record of sales of local art and craft, both at the previous Plaza shop and at the VIC.

Over the past five years MACS has demonstrated a strong and capable commitment to the Community, its businesses, and its wellbeing.



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MACS has a proven track record of being a capable and committed manager.

Implementation

Council grants MACS a five-year lease, and Council continues to be responsible - and to bear all costs for - the Museum, the outside toilets and exterior of the building, repairs, and upgrades. A building that is unoccupied is a building that is deteriorating.

MACS vision

To turn that section of the building not occupied by the museum into an art and craft gallery for display of work by local artists with a dedicated section devoted to Indigenous art.

To use rooms at the rear of the building, currently used for administration and storage, as a small Community Workshops and Learning Centre.

The building has also been - and Macs intends to continue using it as - a central community hub for events and activities.

For example the promotion and display of flags and brochures for local events and festivals such as River of Art, Tilba Festival, Narooma Oyster Festival, Buskers. Narooma Dog Training Club have stored articles on the premises. Sunday Rotary Markets occasional use of power and promotion.

Under MACS proposal the premises will remain as a community facility. Whilst it will be run entirely by volunteers and no paid staff engaged it will still be happy to answer questions from visitors

Bus ticket sales could be conducted from other businesses such as newsagents as MACS notes it is still an important service for those community members without computer skills or credit card access.