



GWYDIR
SHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Thursday 9 June 2022

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a **Meeting of the Community Services and Planning Committee** will be held in the Roxy Conference Room on **Thursday 9 June 2022**, commencing at **9:00 am** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

Yours faithfully,

Max Eastcott
General Manager

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1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME - MAYOR

2 APOLOGIES

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes of the Community Services and Planning Committee held on 10 March 2022 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

4 PRESENTATION

5 CALL FOR THE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, GIFTS RECEIVED AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

6 ADDITIONAL/LATE ITEMS

7 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Confidential Organisation & Community Services Report

It is recommended that the Council resolve into Committee of the Whole with the press and public excluded to allow consideration of this Item, as provided for under Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds the report contains (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

8 MAYORAL MINUTE

9 DEFERRED ITEMS

10 OFFICERS' REPORTS

10.1 Organisation & Community Services Report

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| File Reference: | NA |
|------------------------|----|

Delivery Program

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Goal: | 5. Organisational management |
| Outcome: | 5.1 Corporate management |
| Strategy: | 5.1.5 Provision of responsible internal governance |
| Author: | OCD Director |

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

NIL

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

The monthly Organisation and Community Services Report details the activities carried out by the Department during May 2022.

TABLED ITEMS

Nil

BACKGROUND

The monthly Organisation and Community Services report forms part of a regular reporting regime. The purpose of the report is to inform Council of the activities carried out within the Department.

COMMENT

SOCIAL SERVICES

Bingara Neighbourhood Centre

Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice

Bingara Neighbourhood Centre continues to assist community groups with grant applications and attend to the needs of the public through advocacy and referral to other services.

Centrelink

Centrelink operated as normal during May. The new contract has been released and will continue as is for another 12 months.

Youth Services

Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice

In May the program GirlGLOW continued to run on a Thursday afternoon at the Roxy Theatre. Friendships and team building exercises were the focus of the sessions, and with been able to use the theatre, the Attendees did some drama-based activities and put on their acting skills. This was an activity based on certain scenarios and how to deal with those when they may be faced with them.



Youth Council

Several applications were received for the 2022 youth council however, the standard of the applications was not at a level to reflect the importance of the role. The applicants were asked to resubmit their applications with a little extra care. This has unfortunately led to most of the applicants withdrawing from the process due to other commitments. The youth service is in the process of redesigning the application process and encouraging young people to apply.

Supported Playgroup Development Worker

Funding body – Department of Community and Justice

| Warialda Toy Library | March 2022 | April 2022 | May 2022 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Total daily attendance count for children, (calculating each child, each day over the month –total points of contact). | 76 | 59 | 44 |
| Full borrowing members (new and/or renew) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Non borrowing members (new and/or renew) | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Casual borrowing members (new and/or renew) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Commemorative Birth Certificate applications received | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Toys returned | 4 | 11 | 9 |
| Toys borrowed | 10 | 9 | 9 |
| Groups using the service (FDC carer, Pharmacy) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuesday group activity morning x 2 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Wednesday group activity morning x 2 | 16 | 18 | 10 |
| Thursday group activity morning x 2 | 41 | 27 | 19 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|---|
| Friday group activity morning x 2 | 10 | 5 | 6 |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|---|

Unfortunately, this month due to the outbreak of COVID-19 again and the flu season beginning numbers for the toy library have been low, and the service has had to shut on occasions due to staff shortages within the department

We recognised Road Safety throughout the month, with discussions with children been had about how we can be safe on our roads when walking with Mums and other Family members. Children engaged in Traffic Light activities and chatted with the Supported Playgroup Development worker about what colours meant what and what we should do when we see the colours pop up on Traffic Lights when we see them while driving around in the cars with Mum and Dad.

Painting with rollers was a fun activity but also to help children with fine motor skills as they had to roll the roller with their hand to get the patterns on the paper. Threading with coloured beads was another activity the children enjoyed using their fine motor skills, they made snakes and necklaces with them as well.

Children also had the opportunity to colour napkins and see what they could make with dropping paint onto the napkin and watching the colours spread. Children got adventurous and were making butterflies and folding the napkin in half and making matching patterns.

On Wednesday 25 May, the children participated in National Simultaneous Storytime listening to the Family Tree by Josh Pyke. The children watched a live reading of the story by the Author online at the same time as other children across the Nation.

On Thursday 26 May, Children enjoyed chalk drawing on white paper. They loved to see the colours coming out nice and bright on the dark paper. They also participated in dot paintings. This session we had quite a few families attend the service as we farewelled one of our regular families.

During the month, one of our members who is a physiotherapist had chats one on one with families about the exercises to do after childbirth to help their bodies. This was a great opportunity to have as she could talk to them about their own situations, rather than group chats. She advised us that she would be operating her service from the Medical Centre one day a week starting in July which will be a wonderful service to use for our families and the community. We are scheduling a few chat mornings within the next couple of months for her to come and speak again.



Bingara Toy Library

Funding body – NSW Department of Education and NSW Department of Communities and Justice

| Particulars | MARCH 2022 | APRIL 2022 | MAY 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Total daily attendance counts for children who utilised the service for the month | 104 | 44 | 53 |
| Full borrowing memberships - New/renew | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non borrowing memberships - New/renew | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Casual borrowing memberships - New/renew | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Commemorative Birth Certificate - voucher memberships | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Toys returned | 2 | 13 | 20 |
| Toys borrowed | 7 | 23 | 4 |
| Children & Groups using toys | 5 | 14 | 1 |
| TUESDAY x 3 play sessions | 22 | 15 | 0 |
| WEDNESDAY x 3 play sessions | 28 | 39 | 16 |
| THURSDAY x 2 play sessions | 14 | 11 | 5 |
| KSK Program x 5 sessions | 68 | 6 | 41 |

With the cooler nights and days came colds, coughs, and runny noses amongst the families with some succumbing to covid too, which in turn affected numbers this month. Staff also being struck down with COVID meant the service was closed for a week.

Mother's Day was Sunday 8 May, so the playgroup and after school session attendees for the week prior, were offered options of craft and gifts to make for mummy, granny or a special someone. Silk flowers, cards, decorated biscuits, handmade chocolates, and paperclip bracelet, to name just a few.

Families Week 15-21. The Bingara Public Library had invited Toy Library families and staff to join them at the CWA Park for a picnic morning tea and adopt a teddy bear event on the 19 May. This event ended up totally being operated by the Public Library staff as the toy librarian was away with Covid. Pictures of this event were posted on the Public Library Facebook page.

Kool Skool programmers were invited to attend the Town Library, after school program, for three sessions whilst the service was closed but otherwise all other sessions were held at the Toy Library exploring and playing in the main toy room, colouring in, Pictionary, memory games and their favourite, Lego.

Both the planned Rural Outreach visit, and the Speech Pathologist presentation were cancelled due to the guests coming down with Covid 19. These events will be rescheduled for another time once they recover.



Bingara Preschool

*Funding Body – Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
NSW Department of Education.*

| Days | May 2022 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Tuesday</i> | 22 |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 23 |
| <i>Thursday</i> | 24 |
| <i>Friday</i> | 19 |

Professional Development and Training:

Work Placement Student – Studying Certificate 111.

During the month of May, Bingara Preschool has welcomed a student completing their studies in Certificate 111 in Education and Care. The student has been attending the service on Wednesday's, Thursday's, and Friday's during the month of May. The student will have days to complete during June as well. Upon successfully completing the hours and tasks assigned to this practical, the student will have completed their Certificate 111 qualification.

Quality Improvement Plan Goal 4.2.2: To train and have access to more trained Early Childhood Educators within our community.

One of our goals identified within our services Quality Improvement Plan is to assist the community in training more qualified Early Childhood Educators, to help to fill Education and Care gaps within our community. This student's goal is to become a Family Day Care Educator when she has completed her Certificate 111 qualification.

Families Week 2022:

At Bingara Preschool, 'National Families Week' was celebrated by inviting all families into the service to share a healthy morning tea, followed by a play out in the yard. National Families Week was 15 – 21 May. Over the course of the week, families brought in a healthy plate to share for morning tea. There was a lot of feedback from families about how wonderful it was, to be able to come back and spend time at the service again.

National Quality Standard 6.1.1: Families are supported to be a part of the service.



National Simultaneous Storytime

The local Library Services Coordinator visited Bingara Preschool for morning tea and to read the book: 'Family Tree' by Josh Pyke. The book, 'Family Tree' was chosen as the story for this year's Simultaneous Storytime, where children all around the country, all sit and listen to this book at 11am on Wednesday 25th May. The local Library Services Coordinator also read two other stories to the Preschool children: 'Dippy's Big Day Out and Mr Scruff'. She also brought some beads and pipe cleaners for the children to make their own bracelets.

National Quality Standard 5.2: Each child is supported to build and maintain sensitive and responsive relationships.



Bingara Show Entries

The children at Bingara Preschool worked extremely hard on creating their entries for the Bingara Show. They had drawn their own interpretation of a chicken, created clay creations, decorated biscuits using healthy ingredients and made inventions out of Lego. Due to the Bingara Show being cancelled due to the wet weather, Bingara Preschool worked with the local Library Services Coordinator to have the children's drawings and creations to be on display at the Bingara Library. The creations were viewed by many people within the community and the positive feedback received

was amazing.



Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit

Funding body – Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

| Days and Venues | May 2022 |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Monday at Yetman | 6 (1 casual) |
| Tuesday at North Star | 10 (1 casual) |
| Wednesday at Yallaroi | 6 (2 casual) |
| Thursday at Gravesend | 4 |
| Friday at Croppa Creek | 10 |

Significant celebrations – Tharawonga has participated in some significant events in the last few weeks including Mother’s Day, road safety week, family’s week, and national simultaneous story time. The children engaged with handprints to create butterflies, read stories about our mums, and decorated cards, puzzles, matching lotto game, road signs with bikes and helmets, road safety song and painting traffic lights and stories. Children shared family photos at group time, they drew pictures of their families, and we were going to have our biggest morning tea however this has been postponed due to COVID effects in our community.

COVID-19 – Due to COVID effects in our Tharawonga community our service has had educators unwell and we have had the Social Services Assistant cover the days for our educators. Numbers of children attending the venues have also been low due to a large amount being affected by COVID-19.

Community Involvement – Kim from the Gwydir News visited Tharawonga on Tuesday 24 May, 2022 to see what our service provides to the communities and to put an article in the community newsletter about our service.

Assessment & Rating – Tharawonga undertook, for the very first time, their assessment and rating visit from Monday 16 May 2022 through to Friday 20 May 2022.

Yetman – This month at Yetman we have had a family visit the service and have a couple of orientation and enrolment mornings with us for when their child turns 2. Families have been utilising the service for casual days and one of our casual families have booked a permanent day.

The educators have been intentional teaching the children transitional learning experiences including counting and number recognition, learning about manners, and sharing and turn taking due to the children’s age and developmental stages.

We have been singing songs to promote the children to learn about imitating actions and singing along with the songs which have included 5 cheeky monkeys, 10 fat sausages and heads, shoulders, knees, and toes.



North Star – This month at North Star our educational and play focus has been creating a literacy and print rich preschool environment, learning colours and numbers, and gardening.

The sand pit has been an area of extended interest and learning this month. Educators provided a muffin tray, tongs, and table- and tea- spoons to the café area. With one tray, children had to negotiate and communicate with each other to work together and share the resource. The utensils provide an opportunity to develop fine motor skills and strength and coordination. Children incorporated cake mix into their play, making use of it in different ways. They discussed the characteristics of the mix - texture, smell, taste and how it looked. Also in the sand pit, large trucks and machines provided dramatic play reflecting our busy farming communities. The cake mix even became concrete “to hold something”.

Inside the children became mums, dads and siblings caring for babies in the nursery. The children engaged in discussions with each other about their knowledge of babies and how to care for the, sharing aspects of their home culture and family identity. Children continued to share photographs of their family and pets to add to our families display.

Children connected with National Families Week. We read "Love Is". Children had the opportunity to draw their families as part of the event “my family is strong because...” activity. We also participated in Road Safety Week through dramatic play and intentional teaching around Road Safety Signs. Children used road signs outside in partnership with the balance bikes and dramatic play, they also completed puzzles with road safety messages and had the opportunity to make their own driver licence (part of our text rich environment).



Yallaroi – This month at Yallaroi the children played in the outlying yard. In this natural space children were inspired to draw snakes at the easel and engage in conversations around the characteristics of snakes with educators and peers. They also constructed a fire, gathering and placing wood and leaves in the fire. Children decided to roast marshmallows over the fire, creating an inclusive and welcoming space to share in friendship.

The children also planted our new garden beds. They mixed and turned the soil, levelling it through the garden bed and digging holes for the plants. Together, they planted the seedlings and identified what the plants were and where to plant them in relation to each other. They watered the newly planted seedlings and covered the garden with straw to protect the plants and keep the moisture in. We look forward to tending to this garden, watching it grow, cooking with fresh produce and hopefully being able to share some with our families.

The children have been engaging with sensory trays structured around their interest in farming and machinery. The sensory tray offers opportunity for children to gain confidence and involvement in learning using all their senses – and encourages children to express what they feel, smell, see, taste, hear and touch.

This month we introduced the world map! We located Australia and discussed what the different colours on the map represented – water, continents, and different countries. We found the countries where different children and educators have family and heritage.



Gravesend – This month at Gravesend the children have been engaged in the home corner area especially in the kitchen the children used their role play as they were cooking the meals in the kitchen, the children cared for the babies and washed their clothes. Some of the children attending the Gravesend have new siblings at home and we believe that programming experiences which reflect the children’s home cultures is beneficial to the children’s learning.

Educators have been following the children’s interest and they have created a dinosaur world for the children to explore using the wooden blocks and the dinosaurs each week since setting this up the children have been busy exploring the world with the dinosaurs. Educators have been intentional teaching the children about feeling stories including “When I’m feeling loved”, “When I’m feeling kind” and “When I’m feeling angry” and our transitions focuses have been shape and colour recognition and counting.

This month Tharawonga has introduced a Preschool sign-in-station to promote a sense of belonging, name recognition and to encourage the children to be confident and involved learners and learn to write their names.



Croppa Creek – This month at Croppa Creek the Children used their knowledge of shapes, perception and visual skills and matching skills to complete the matching set and foam pieces. They also had opportunities to engage with a range of puzzles. The children also followed patterns using the cue cards and wooden blocks in the afternoon. Children use different strategies to solve puzzles and patterns and are learning to analyse the effectiveness of these strategies in different situations.

They identified the names of the magnetic letters and moved them around on the white boards. They then used the white boards to write words and letters like their names using their name tags.

Children engaged in dramatic and imaginative play in the hospital. They placed babies in their belly, becoming mothers-to-be, and waited for the doctor to come to deliver their babies. The girls shared turns being the doctor, the mother, and different supportive family members bringing food or coming to visit. They used role play and crafted scripts in their dramatic play - developing the ability to mirror, repeat and practice the actions of others, either immediately or later and using language and engage in play to imagine and create roles, scripts, and ideas.



CONSULTATION

Consultation has occurred within the Organisation and Community Development Directorate.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy implications are those relating to the 2021/2022 Operational Plan and the Policies of Gwydir Shire Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The activities carried out by the Organisation and Community Services Department are in line with the 2021/2022 Operational Plan.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The activities undertaken by the Organisation and Community Services Department regarding social and environmental factors are targeted in line with the 2021/2022 Operational Plan.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

10.2 Executive Services Report

File Reference: NA

Delivery Program

Goal: 5. Organisational management

Outcome: 5.1 Corporate management

Strategy: 5.1.5 Provision of responsible internal governance

Author: General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

NIL

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for reception.

TABLED ITEMS

Nil

COMMENT

Town Services Monthly Report for May 2022

Water and Sewer

Water and Sewerage operators attended 27 service line repairs, 3 repairs to water mains, 1 new water connection, 1 new sewer connection and repaired 10 sewer blockages during May 2022.

Regular weekly tasks carried out by Water and Sewerage staff include grounds maintenance at the Warialda Truckwash ponds, both sewerage treatment plants, maintenance of grounds at pump stations and water treatment plants and reservoirs, flushing mains and trucking biosolids from Warialda Truckwash to landfill.

Other work was undertaken at the Bingara Showground and tennis courts, Warialda Caravan Park, Captain Cook Park, Coolatai toilets, The Living Classroom, Gwydir Oval, Warialda truckwash, Naroo and Touriandi, Whitfeld Place, Bingara Preschool, Cunningham Park, Gwydir River common, Myall Creek Memorial and the Bingara and Warialda cemeteries.

During May, a 77kw solar system contract was awarded to Origin Energy for solar panels at the Water Treatment Plant in Bingara.

Water and Sewerage staff replaced 200m of service line on Betts Road, Bingara during May.



Replacement of Service Line in Betts Rd, Bingara

Drainage pipes were laid to assist with road drainage at The Living Classroom during May.



Drainage pipes at TLC

Warialda Truckwash

The truckwash facility was used by 126 trucks during May with an average wash down time of 56 minutes and total water used was 792kL. The estimated income for May is \$7,067 less monitoring fees and expenses.

Grant Projects

Federal Drought Program

Upper Horton water supply – waiting on solar pump to complete this project.

All Abilities Park – landscaping of the western end of the park including terracing and sandstone retaining wall has been delayed due to the availability of the contractor.

Cunningham Park – project completed.

Covid Stimulus Funding

Batterham's Lookout – the guardrail installation has been delayed due to resourcing issues.

State Drought Program

Cunningham Park project has been completed.

Showground Stimulus funding

The refurbishment of the Bingara Showground Grandstand has been completed as part of Phase 2 Showground Stimulus Funding.

Electronic bird scarers will be trialed at the Bingara Showground to address the problem of bird droppings in the grandstand and kitchen areas.

Bingara showground was utilised during the Bingara RSL Country music festival for overflow campers from the caravan park, generating \$1,800 in camping fees.

Regional Sports Facility Program

The covered netball court at Gwydir Oval with a total project value of \$330,083. Council received a grant to the value of \$247,562.00. The project includes 50mm asphalt overlay, 20m x 60m shed, 4 x 3m 2 tier aluminum seating, line marking and Led Lighting. Revised quotations for the shed have been requested. Asphalt works have been ordered and the initial crack sealing will be undertaken in June. The aluminum seating has been ordered. Other parts of the project will be undertaken as the project progresses.

Regional Sports Events Funding

Council secured a grant of \$10,000 from Regional Sports Events NSW for the Bingara Bush Bash Tennis competition to be held in June.

Parks and Gardens

All parks and gardens continue to be maintained. Council undertakes weekly inspections of playgrounds and cleaning of handrails and touch areas. Mowing, weed control, irrigation, hedging, and trimming were routinely undertaken during May. Council continues to mark and maintain the fields for the community groups

using Council's ovals. Myall Creek and the Glacial area are inspected on a weekly basis.

Town Utilities staff assisted with the Bingara Tennis Courts resurfacing project by trenching for power and drilling holes for new posts, disconnection, and reconnection of water, and assisting with spreading 80 tonnes of sand at a rate of 20 tonnes per court. The sand dressing finishes the synthetic surface and makes it more resistant to wear and tear.



The new surface on Bingara Tennis Courts



40 Tonnes of beach sand waiting to be spread

Parks and Gardens staff trimmed a tree on the corner of Queen Street and Apollo Avenue in Warialda to allow vision of oncoming traffic.



Tree was obstructing vision on the corner of Queen Street

Workshops and Depots – May 2022

| Workshop Services and Jobs | Mar | Apr | May |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Total number of services in Workshops | 23 | 20 | 21 |
| Total number of repairs in Workshops | 138 | 131 | 128 |

Repairs and maintenance undertaken in the workshops during May included:

- P1684 – compactor – repairs to fuel pump and fan drive
- P1788 – grader – repairs to circle drive gearbox
- P1724 – tractor – fit 4 new tyres
- P1475 – roller – fuel system repairs
- P1917 – truck – suspension repairs
- P1028 – truck – repairs to differential
- P1903 – ute – repairs to transmission



P1788 – repairs to (broken) shaft in turn circle



P1724 – 4 new tyres

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

12 CLOSURE