



PART 4 Community Services

4.1 Access and Equity

Local Government Act 1993 Section 428(2)(r) Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 Clause 217(1)(d)(i)

Council has adopted a five-year Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (2008-2013). This demonstrates Council's ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of all residents, including those with disabilities. Council's aim is for all residents to enjoy the lifestyle available within the Shire. The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan seeks to remove those physical barriers that may restrict a resident from enjoying day to day activities and social interaction.

Key actions of the Plan are to:

1. complete an audit of Council buildings and public toilets and prioritise improvements according to key locations
2. continue to improve pathways and pedestrian crossings
3. encourage the application of adaptable housing principles in the new Development Control Plan (DCP) and to educate and inform builders and developers of relevant legislation and standards
4. ensure information is provided in alternate formats and community meeting venues are accessible to all
5. provide an ongoing commitment to training for Council staff to improve the accessibility of Council services to the community and to work towards principles of Universal Access and Design in the future.

In 2010/11, Council provided the following access and equity services and activities to meet residents' needs:

1. A part-time Aged and Disability Officer implemented key identified actions from Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (2008-2013). These included:
 - a) Production and distribution of four Mobility Maps for Byron Bay, Bangalow, Brunswick Heads and Mullumbimby, and one A3 brochure style Mobility Map covering all four localities.
 - b) The Access and Mobility chapter of the Shire-wide Development Control Plan (DCP) was presented to Council and Council resolved to include Universal Design principles (including Universal Housing Design principles) in the DCP
 - c) Accessibility upgrades for community buildings and facilities, including A & I Hall Bangalow, Kohinoor Hall (Main Arm), Gaggin Park accessible toilet, Federal Park accessible toilets, Poinciana toilet block upgrade.
- d) Council has resolved to establish an Access Committee
- e) Council facilitated free hearing screening as part of Hearing Awareness Week.
- f) Upgrade of Council's accessibility web guidelines (version 2)
2. International Day for People with a Disability (IDPWD) was celebrated and supported by Council. Council provided \$500 towards a regional IDPWD event held at Alstonville.
3. Drumming to Your Own Beat was held for young people with a disability aged 12-24 participated in drumming workshops. They performed at the Regional IDPWD event.
4. Master Locksmith Access Keys (MLAK) are available free of charge to all eligible permanent residents of Byron Shire with a disability. MLAKs allow access to over 170 community facilities in NSW, including facilities in Byron Shire located at Clarkes Beach, the Byron Bay Surf Club, Suffolk Park sports field, Brunswick Heads Surf Club, Bangalow Swimming Pool, Tyagarah Air Strip and Waterlily Park, Ocean Shores.
5. Council also provides access to an all-terrain 'Free Wheeler' beach chair free of charge for public use at Clarkes Beach.
6. Seniors' Week Opening Ceremony and the program of events included activities for people with varying mobility abilities.
7. A draft Positive Ageing Strategy and Action Plan has been developed and includes actions relating to access and equity development – extensive consultation was held in developing the draft.
8. Australia Day Celebrations had a sign language interpreter for the event.

4.2 Children's Services

Local Government Act 1993 Section 428(2)(r)

Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 Clause 217(1)(c)

Council provides a variety of quality services for families and children.

Children's Services Policy: The objectives of Council's Children's Services Policy are:

- 1.1 To play a major role within the community in supporting the provision of services which address the care, support and education of children in Byron Shire.
- 1.2 To ensure that Children's Services provided by Council continue to effectively meet the needs of children and their carers in Byron Shire.

Sandhills Early Childhood Centre: Council opened Sandhills Early Childhood Centre in August 1995 as a long day care centre licensed to cater for 54 children per day. The centre cares for and educates children aged 0-5 years. The Centre's popularity is evidenced by the lengthy waiting list of families wishing to access the Service.

Sandhills' staff is strengthened by the employment of university-qualified educators, who promote and mentor other staff in the Early Years Learning Framework, and the provision of the highest quality education and care for families within our community.

Fees were increased in 2011/12 with the goal of making the service cost neutral to Council.

Out of School Hours (OOSH) Care Programs:

Council operates the following after-school and vacation care services:

Byron Bay: After-school care for 25 places, five days per week. Vacation care for 40 places during regular school holiday periods.

Brunswick Heads: After-school care for 25 places, five days per week. Vacation care for 50 places during regular school holiday periods.

Mullumbimby: After school care for 20 places, five days per week. Vacation care for 40 places during regular school holiday periods.

Attendances for after-school and vacation care services for 2010/11 were as follows:

- In 2010/11, a total of 5807 Vacation Care places were taken up by the families of Byron Shire. This is an increase of 1168 from 2009/10
- In 2010/11, a total of 7222 After-School Care places were taken up by the families of Byron Shire. This is an increase of 167 from 2009/10.

For 2011/12 Council has introduced a cost-recovery financial framework for the provision of OOSH services. Fees have increased with the goal of making the services cost neutral to Council. The impact of fee increases on attendance will be shown in next year's figures.

Community Pre-schools: Council supports several community preschools in Byron Shire by providing land and/or buildings for the delivery of services for children aged 3 – 5 years. Council's involvement includes acting as Trustee of Crown Land, providing lease of operational and community land at nominal cost to the organisations, and the lease and maintenance of buildings. Services include Federal Community Pre-school, Lillypilly Pre-school at Brunswick Heads, Ocean Shores Community Pre-school, Bangalow Long Day Care Centre, Durrumbul Pre-school, Byron Bay Pre-school and Periwinkle Pre-school.



Parent Support Program: In 2010/11, Council received funding from the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) to deliver the Parent Support Program to Byron Shire families.

FaHCSIA consented to Council providing services in 2010/11 through a third party provider, and an Expression of Interest process was run, resulting in a number of very strong and creative submissions from the community for the provision of parenting support programs on Council's behalf to 30 June 2011. Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre was ultimately the successful applicant and provided parenting support services throughout the Shire on Council's behalf.

Given the success of this approach in 2010/11, FaHCSIA has extended Council's funding for a further three years. Council is currently finalising the approvals with FaHCSIA to appoint a community third party provider for services from 2011 to 2014.

4.3 Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

Local Government Act 1993 Section 428(2)(j)

Council provided the following services in 2010/11 to promote services and access to services for people with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds in a manner that is consistent with the principles of multiculturalism:

- Byron Shire libraries promote the availability of books and journals in different languages.
- Council's Sandhills Early Childhood Centre provides a variety of multicultural learning experiences (music, reading, plays etc) as a major part of its program for children aged 0-5 years.
- Implementation of Council's five-year Cultural Plan (2008-2013) has commenced and included the administration of the web-based annual cultural events calendar; a very wide range of youth activities and events, many of which focused on art, culture and diversity.
- Public Art Policy was adopted.
- Council supported s355 Committees to fund cultural and diversity projects including the Australian Indonesian Art Alliance to assist with a Harmony Day events.
- Harmony Day Artists performed at Seniors Week opening ceremony, with special guest Ambassador for Ageing, Noeline Brown.
- Council employs a part-time Aboriginal Project Officer to develop closer links between Council and Aboriginal communities and to assist in the development of services and programmes.
- Council has established the Aboriginal (Heads of Agreement) Project Reference Group.
- Byron Shire Youth Council has been developed and has worked on identified projects that reflect youth culture and diversity.
- Council worked with the Bundjalung of Byron Bay Aboriginal Corporation (Arakwal) and Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre to run NAIDOC week celebrations.

4.4 Contributions/Donations

Local Government Act 1993 Section 428(2)(l)

Moneys contributed or otherwise granted by Council under Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 during the reporting period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 were as follows:

Moneys distributed under Policy 4.15 Assistance to Festivals and Community Organisations	
Name of Community Organisations or Individual/Purpose	Donation
Brunswick Heads Surf Club - Brunswick Triathlon Road Closure costs	760
Bangalow Chamber of Commerce	
• Bangalow Billy Cart Derby 2011 Road Closure costs	2,000
• Bangalow Xmas Eve Carnival 2010 Road Closure cost	331
Byron Bay Writers Festival 2010 - Road Closure costs	1,500
Special Children's Christmas Parties (Variety) – road closure costs	396
Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce – road closure costs for Kites and bikes festival	289
Volunteer marine Rescue Brunswick Heads – road closure costs for Mullum to Brunswick paddle	500
TOTAL	\$5,776

Moneys distributed under Policy 5.2 Waving of Fees for Building and Development Applications	
Name of Community Organisations or Individual/Purpose	Donation
Bangalow land and Rivercare group Inc. – refund of Development Application fees	480.00
Bangalow Historical Society – Refund of Development application fees	402.50
TOTAL	\$882.50

General donations and donations distributed under Policy 3.13 Donations to Community Organisations, Other Groups and Persons	
Name of Community Organisations or Individual/Purpose	Donation
Mullumbimby Community Garden - Purchase of cabin	2,000
North Coast Academy of Sport - Support Academy's activities	3,780
Brunswick Volunteer Marine Rescue - Financial Assistance	5,000
Brunswick Valley and District Volunteer Rescue Organisation - Financial Assistance	5,000
Byron Music Society	500
Northern Rivers Screenworks Inc	500
Durrumbul Music Club	250
Byron Bay Pre-School Inc	200
Byron Shire Early Intervention Service	500
Bangalow Chamber of Commerce (Munch and Crunch)	300
Byron Underage Drug and Drinking Initiative BUDDI	700

General donations and donations distributed under Policy 3.13 Donations to Community Organisations, Other Groups and Persons	
Name of Community Organisations or Individual/Purpose	Donation
Byron Youth Service	680
The Buttery Limited	1,500
Federal Community Children's Centre	500
Bangalow Public School (P&C)	200
Secretary Byron Bay Public School (P&C)	200
Byron Bay Youth House	1,500
Byron Shire Seniors Computer Club Inc	1,500
Country Women's' Association	675
Animal Welfare League of NSW	300
Pets For Life Animal Shelter Inc.	500
WIRES Northern Rivers	800
Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers Inc	400
Byron Bay Pre-School Inc	2,100
Byron Shire Early Intervention Service	4,000
Mullumbimby Potters Association Inc	700
Katia Project Inc	1,400
Ms J Daly	2,500
Pathways Foundation	1,000
Byron Bay Community Association Inc	1,000
Marine Rescue NSW (Cape Byron)	2,000
Northern Region SLSA Helicopter Rescue	5,000
Byron Environment Centre (Food Trees)	500
Mullumbimby & District Garden Club (Mullumbimby Cemetery)	500
Brunswick Heads Primary School	200
Nashua Landcare Group Inc	500
Byron Region Community College	200
Mr C Brown (maintenance of reserves)	270
Ocean Shores Tidy Towns Committee	200
Bangalow Community Children's Centre	200
Mr G J Kramer (Byron Lighthouse Fun Run)	500
artsCape Biennial Inc	2,000
On Track Community Programs	1,500
Innovations Dance Group	350
Byron Bay Surfers Charity Challenge	500
Quota International of Brunswick Valley Inc	185
Byron Minister's Fellowship	1,000
Australian Indonesia Arts Alliance	2,000
North Coast Dance Festival	350
The Uncle Project Inc	1,500
Byron Bay Beach Bums	1,000
Byron Breast Cancer Support Group	1,500

General donations and donations distributed under Policy 3.13 Donations to Community Organisations, Other Groups and Persons	
Name of Community Organisations or Individual/Purpose	Donation
Liberation Larder Inc	2,500
Byron Neighbourhood Resource Centre	1,500
Koori Kids School Initiatives	450
Australian Goodwill Bicycles Abroad Inc	1,000
Friends of Library Byron Shire Inc (Web site)	580
Bangalow Quilters Inc	400
Special Children's Christmas Parties (Variety)	220
Byron Community and Cultural Centre Inc - annual rent for the property at Lot B DP 372589 known as 18 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay	25,300
College of Marine Studies Inc I-lease preparation costs for office at 1/24 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads	336
Byron Bay High School - Annual prize giving ceremony	100
Mullumbimby High School - Annual prize giving ceremony	100
Byron Arts Classic 2011 - Acquisitive Art Prize	500
Brunswick Junior Surf Life Saving Club (Nippers) - Costs associated with the Far North Coast Junior Surf Lifesaving Carnival	570
Byron Visitor Centre – Financial assistance for payment of 22010/11 General rates	4294
NSW and Qld Local Government Internal auditors – Byron shire Council to host the inaugural joint meeting	700
Contribution to Staff Christmas Party	3,000
Contribution to NAIDOC week	1,000
Contribution Ocean Shores Preschool Lease	45,200
Contribution Mullumbimby Neighbourhood centre	15,600
Contribution Old Country Energy Building	15,600
Mullumbimby Community Garden Inc.	2,000
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	\$183,090

Moneys donated under Policy 3.38 Donations to Charitable and Community Organisations	
Name of Community Organisations or Individual/Purpose	Donation
Byron Bay Surf Club – 100% of the General Rates and fixed Water and Sewer Charges	5,019
Brunswick Heads Surf Club – 100% of the General Rates and fixed Water and Sewer Charges	1,485
TOTAL	\$6,504

Moneys donated under Policy 3.40 Donations to Public halls and Community Centres – Rates and Charges	
(100% of the General Rates and fixed Water and Sewer Charges)	
Name of Community Centre or Public Hall	Donation
Bangalow Heritage House	754.00
Bangalow Parks Trust / Showground	4,685.00
Brunswick Heads Memorial Hall	3,398.89

Moneys donated under Policy 3.40 Donations to Public halls and Community Centres – Rates and Charges

(100% of the General Rates and fixed Water and Sewer Charges)

Name of Community Centre or Public Hall	Donation
Brunswick Valley Community Centre	4,963.08
Cook Pioneer Centre (Senior Citizens Mullumbimby)	754.00
Kohinur Hall	1,123.92
Mullumbimby Cultural Centre (Civic Centre)	2,051.94
Mullumbimby Old Council Chambers	6,559.44
Ocean Shores Community Centre	3,048.70
Suffolk Park Community Centre	2,766.09
Tyagarah Hall	592.50
War Widows Cottage (Mullumbimby)	1,586.50
Bangalow CWA	1,955.44
Bangalow RSL Hall	2,961.29
Billinudgel School of Arts	1,371.50
Broken Head Hall	1,151.93
Brunswick CWA	2,548.63
Byron Bay Community Centre	20,380.72
Byron Bay Senior Citizens	754.00
Coorabell Hall	1,656.11
Durrumbul Hall (not rated)	0
Eureka Hall	1,099.41
Ewingsdale Hall	602.22
Federal hall	913.84
South Golden Beach Community Centre	4,743.36
Wilson's Creek Hall	658.24
*Brunswick Valley Historical Society	754.00
*Brunswick Heads RSL Hall	2,397.58
*Brunswick Heads Scout Hall	754.00
TOTAL	\$76,986.33

* Facilities are not part of Council Policy 3.40 - historically rates are paid by Council.

Total Moneys distributed under Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993

Moneys distributed under Policy 4.15 Assistance to Festivals and Community Organisations	5,776.00
Moneys distributed under Policy 5.2 Waving of Fees for Building and Development Applications	882.50
General Donations and donations distributed under Policy 3.13 Donations to Community Organisations, Other Groups and Persons	183,090.00
Moneys donated under Policy 3.38 Donations to Charitable and Community Organisations	6,504.00
Moneys donated under Policy 3.40 Donations to Public halls and Community Centres – Rates and Charges	76,986.33
TOTAL	\$273,238.83