

June Meeting

Minutes Meeting of Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce Placemaking Committee June 4th 2013
 In attendance: Gerry and David Brown, Stephen Hall, Judy MacDonald, Suvira McDonald, Malcolm Price

1) Gateway Public Art Project

Suvira reported on progress with the BSC Public Art Committee and next steps with Gateway Sculpture project. Council's Public Art Committee has recommended the project proceed to detailed design the committee has asked what specific financial or in kind support Suvira would be requesting..

Next steps

- Engineering design of sculpture
- Fund raising

Discussion - A range of options for fund raising were mentioned:

- Charity/cause of the month bucket at Mullumbimby Markets
- Street stalls and market stalls with project proposals as both promotion of public art and funding raising activity.
- A weekly voluntary levy of businesses and/or direct canvassing of businesses and individuals
- Creating public art money tins to be placed in businesses, the tins themselves could be a local art competition

Of critical importance was sorting out where and how money could be received. It was agreed that using the general Chamber of Commerce bank account would create complexity not needed by C of C or individual public art projects. The suggestion was to establish an independent association that would be a member of the chamber and which can sit harmoniously with the "Magical Mullum" branding.

- After a review of a number of alternatives, **Creative Mullum** (Association) was agreed as the preferred name as it can encompass art, music and other creative endeavours.

ACTIONS

- Malcolm to approach local engineers to design sculpture
- Investigate incorporation of **Creative Mullum** Association and establish bank account to receive funds for public art (Judy).

2) Developing The Mullumbimby Story/Narrative

We discussed the need for a unifying Mullumbimby story that highlights key events, processes and characters in the town's history. A story that connects "The Biggest Little Town" with "Magical Mullumbimby" and creates common ground between all the various groups that comprise modern day Mullumbimby. A unifying story like this would provide a basis for decisions about how people would like to see the town evolve in the future.

David Brown who was present at this meeting has just completed a Conservation Management Plan for

the town. This included a study of its history and a draft 2025 vision. (David to circulate for comment and suggestions.)

ACTION: Malcolm proposed we attempt to engage a professional writer to compile an interesting, lively narrative using the resources of the Historical Society and the work of David Brown, for use initially as a feature article in a magazine like *The Good Weekend* or airline magazines. If we are opportunistic this could be published later in the year before the various festivals in September, October and November.

Stephen, Malcolm and David are to meet with Alan Close, a local writer, to further this idea. The BVHS may be asked for some additional support.



3) Update of Possible Projects

Community Noticeboard

Proposal to locate a glass noticeboard on the wall of the Newsagency to display Magic Mullum Storyboard, community project displays and advertising for up coming events.

Mullumbimby Art Projects:

Ephemeral Tree Art, Laneway Murals, Pop up Shop Art spaces, Temporary Exhibition Infrastructure.

All of these projects were still supported, however they need individuals or groups to champion them, and realistically the champion will not always be inside this committee.

ACTION: It was suggested that organising a meeting or workshop of the local visual artists should happen in the near future and this would be an important step in developing a wider strategy.

The Mullumbimby Walking Trail

A trail incorporating local stories as it starts in the middle of town and heads North along Stuart Street to the river, where there could be a mobile café, it then follows Heritage Park and the river telling natural history, it crosses over to the Sculpture Walk at Federation Bridge and follows the existing bicycle trail to The Petria Thomas Pool, follows Salt

Water Creek to the Museum and Community Garden and returns via Stuart Street to the middle of town.

Future of Old Telstra Site

In light of the understanding that BSC would like to sell this site for finance reasons once it is rezoned and the strong rumour that Woolworth would like to buy it to build a service station/ convenience store, the group thought it vital that the community or someone in the community secure/purchase the site for a community/commercial purpose that would have a wider benefit to Mullumbimby.

Other project ideas and wider community processes were listed for discussion (laneway secondary dwellings, the future of the Showground, street beautification, street trees, building connections to Tallowood Ridge, and the implications of the new planning system likely to be introduced by the State Government) but the meeting ran out of time.

8. June Meeting

