An anglers delight

Recreational anglers will soon be able to cast a line at the West Wyalong Wetlands.

In a landmark day for the wetlands project, Council’s Environmental staff recently released several thousand yellow belly fingerlings into the wetlands. Measuring between 30 millimetres to 50 millimetres in size, the yellow belly are expected to be ideal for fishing and catching in 12-18 months. Council also installed a number of hollow logs in the wetlands to provide the fish with a refuge from the bird life. The release of fish into the wetlands was supported by a grant from New South Wales Fisheries.

Bald Archies are back

The Bland Shire Council Cultural Advisory Committee will host the Bald Archy exhibition once again this year.

The exhibition will be held at St Mary’s School hall between June 14 and July 7 and be open from Thursdays through to Sundays during that period.

Bland Shire community groups will once again be offered the opportunity to man the door and fundraise through the collection of admission fees. To express an interest in your community group or organisation becoming involved please phone Bland Shire Council on 6972 2266.

Council By-Election called

A by-election has been called for the Bland Shire on Saturday, May 11, 2013

Bland Shire Council’s March monthly meeting resolved to appoint the NSW Electoral Commission to conduct the by-election to elect one Councillor.

The by-election is necessary following the sad passing of Councillor Robert Bland and in accordance with the Local Government Act, a by-election must be held within three months of a vacancy occurring in a civic office. Council’s March meeting accepted a quotation of $38,024.80 from the Electoral Commission to conduct the by-election.

Nominations to stand for the by-election closed at noon on Wednesday, April 10.

All the latest information is available on Council’s website.

Bland Shire residents are reminded that voting is compulsory.
Exciting School Holiday Program

Bland Shire Council has an exciting program planned for young people of all ages over the April school holidays.

There is something on each day for children and youth from Monday, April 15 until Saturday, April 27.

At the library children can learn to sew their own soft toy and let their imagination go wild with an open craft session during the first week of the school holidays. During the second week of the holidays the library will be running a cooking session where children will learn to make and decorate cup cakes.

The vacation care program at the Children Services Unit has a busy two week’s planned full of activities for the children. Highlights of the program include a board games day, football day, a camping day and a science day.

In addition, Council has organised two soccer skills sessions for children and youth on April 23-24. Both sessions will take place at Ron Crowe Oval and include skills development and soccer related activities. People of all skill levels are invited to participate.

An excursion is planned to Wagga for the movies and ten pin bowling for children 8-12 years of age on April 17. In order to guarantee a spot it will be necessary to book in early.

Council has again engaged the NRMA Safer Driving School to return to West Wyalong to provide one hour driving lessons in automatic or manual vehicles.

The program has been booked out so next holidays you will have to book in early to ensure a lesson.

Meanwhile, Centennial Tuvalle will facilitate a free two day Hip Hop workshop on April 26-27. Bookings are essential.

The full April school holiday program is available by visiting the Bland Shire Council website and clicking on the school holiday activities icon on the home page or from Council.

Bookings are essential for all programs and some programs will incur a charge and/or require a permission slip. Further information is available by phoning Vacation Care on 69722795, the library on 6979 0272 or Council on 6972 2266.

Soccer program responds to demand

Bland Shire Council has responded to an overwhelming demand from local youth by announcing plans to bring a soccer program to West Wyalong in the April school holidays.

Former Australian Socceroo Mark Robertson’s Mr Soccer company, which has current Australian captain Lucas Neill as its Ambassador, will run two free single day interactive soccer programs for local youth at Ron Crowe Oval on April 23-24.

The sessions will run from 9am until 3pm and take place on a specially made inflatable soccer field and goals which are being sent directly from Sydney along with a professional coach.

With the support of Bland Shire Council, the soccer workshops are being offered free of charge. However, spaces are strictly limited. Youngsters can secure their participation by registering at www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au.

A local youth survey conducted by Council in late 2011 revealed that sport is comfortably the most popular activity among local youth. Soccer was identified as the sport not currently available in the Bland Shire that young people are most interested in participating in and received more than three times the votes of the second preference.

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Bookings are essential for all programs and some programs will incur a charge and/or require a permission slip. Further information is available by phoning Vacation Care on 69722795, the library on 6979 0272 or Council on 6972 2266.

Hip Hop Dance Workshop

Centennial Tuvalle from Stricklii Fresh will present a two day Hip Hop dance workshop in West Wyalong later this month.

The workshop is for Bland Shire youth aged between 13 and 18 years and will be held at the West Wyalong Services and Citizens Club on April 26-27 between 10am and 4pm each day.

Participation is free but registration is essential by phoning Council on 6972 2266.

The free workshop is part of Eastern Riverina Arts’ Fresh | Dance | Film project. More information is available from Council’s website at www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au.
A near capacity crowd of about 250 people gathered at the West Wyalong Services and Citizens Club recently to celebrate Seniors Week. Patrons were treated to a free lunch, provided by Bland Shire Council, and an afternoon of unforgettable entertainment from Peter Coad and the Coad Sisters, provided by the West Wyalong Services and Citizens Club.

One of the major highlights of the afternoon was the announcement of Nyelva Carnegie (pictured right) as the winner of the Bland Shire Council Seniors Week award. This award recognised Mrs Carnegie’s passion, effort and commitment in organising the Seniors Week luncheon over many years.

The appreciative gathering was told how Mrs Carnegie’s leadership skills drew together volunteers for the annual planning and successful staging of the luncheon. Her tireless efforts and meticulous attention to detail ensured the seniors of Bland Shire Council have been able to celebrate the fellowship of peers in their own Shire.

Bland Shire Mayor, Neil Pokoney presented Mrs Carnegie with her award along with a bunch of flowers donated by Thom, Dick and Harry’s - which also provided the popular prize for the oldest attendee.

Mayor Pokoney congratulated Mrs Carnegie on her work across the community and with Home and Community Care Services over many years.

He also applauded the efforts of the new team behind organising the Seniors Week luncheon, led by Council’s Acting HACC Services Community Care Coordinator, Peta Robertson.

Ms Robertson thanked everyone who was involved in the planning and running of the event and said the HACC team looks forward to another spectacular afternoon to celebrate Seniors Week next year.
New works improve motorist safety

Bland Shire Council has recently undertaken works on Goldfields Way (Barmedman Road) and Ungarie Road to improve safety for motorists.

Dangerous limbs overhanging the roads have been removed by Council crews. As well as reducing the risk of the limbs falling onto the road and possibly endangering vehicles travelling through, the work will also provide a clear pathway for heavy vehicle operators which may have previously been forced to veer to the middle of the roadway to avoid making contact.

Council has also undertaken works to clear some low lying vegetation surrounding some bends and intersections to improve sight distances for motorists. The work will also improve drainage and as a result increased protection for the road network. Similar works are scheduled for Tallimba Road in the near future.

In a busy period for Council crews, Council has also recently undertaken fire hazard reduction work surrounding Naradhan Public School by clearing vegetation to create a fire buffer around the school grounds.

The project was supported by a grant from the Rural Fire Service, which identified the site as a priority.

An insight into your family history

The family tree is branching out at Bland Shire Library with local family history buffs keen to learn about their ancestors now able to trace them simply by visiting the library.

The Bland Shire Library recently launched the Ancestry Library Edition database, which allows people to delve into branches of the family tree simply by logging on to one of the library computers.

Ancestry Library Edition provides the most genealogical information available online with more than five billion names in more than 4000 collections. It offers a wide and diverse variety of unique content to help users trace their family lineage or help historians access historical records that have previously not been available online. It is continuously expanding with new content regularly being added.

Content highlights include - Australian census information, England and Wales Census Collection, 1851 – 1901 England and Wales Civil Registration Index, 1837 – present, convict registers and a wide range of New South Wales and Australian family history resources.

Ancestry Library Edition allows access anywhere within the library system to any number of users. It is a resource that both the beginner and the advanced researcher can use to explore their own family history.

Bland Shire Library members can access Ancestry.com by visiting the library and booking onto one of the computers. Library staff are available to assist with enquiries. For more information contact the Bland Shire Library on 6972 2266.

The West Wyalong Men’s Shed is now OPEN and welcoming new members

To learn more or to join up phone John Mitchell on 6972 4221

CALLING ALL YOUTH 13-18!

Register for Hip Hop workshop and Soccer school holiday programs TODAY at www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au

The Bland Shire Children’s Expo is returning this October

Anyone interested in having a stall is asked to phone Julia Moore at Council on 6972 2795