



### Bellingen Community Resilience Panel Come Together for the First Time

Bellingen Shire Council & Newcastle University have partnered to engage and empower community through a deliberative panel who came together for the first time on 13 November 2020. From 77 expressions of interest, 25 panel members were selected against specific criteria to represent of our Shire. Panelists spent one evening and one day together with expert speakers from Sustainable Landscapes, Cobargo Bushfire Recovery and the Food Connect Foundation.

The aim of the panel was to:

- understand the issues related to community resilience for the Shire and
- explore the role of Council, the community, and others in building capacity for community resilience.

The report will be presented to Council and made available for viewing early this year, check our Create page for updates.

## DISASTER DASHBOARD

Stay up to date with flood warnings and other local real-time disaster information at Bellingen Shire’s NEW online Disaster Dashboard. This online hub provides live updates on floods, fires, road incidents, Covid-19 cases, power outages, weather warnings and shark sightings - all in one place as well as links to key resources such as how to prepare and respond to events in our community. Click on the “Live Cameras” button to see current flood cams at <https://bellingenshire.disasterdashboards.com>



For project updates and links to more information head to the Create Bellingen Shire website and Resilience at Bello Shire Facebook page.



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FEBRUARY 2021

“BUILDING ON OUR CONNECTED COMMUNITY”



# BELLINGEN SHIRE





## Opportunities & Challenges

2020 has been a long and challenging year for all of us – first there was the drought, then the fires and floods, and now the COVID-19 pandemic, and there’s still plenty of hard work to be done to meet the future challenges we’ll face in 2021.

But if we all work together as a Council and a community, and make the most of the opportunities we get, then we’ll continue to achieve great things, just like we did this year despite some pretty challenging circumstances.

Just like how we strengthened our capacity to recover and better prepare for future disaster events, with members of our community securing Community Leadership & Resilience Scholarships to complete two leadership and resilience subjects with Charles Sturt University.

Thankfully, our local leaders will also be joined by the next generation of scholarship recipients in 2021, because Council has been working with the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) and we’ve managed to secure a further \$75,000 to continue the program next year.

That means you need to keep an eye out in the new year to take advantage of the opportunity to become one of our Shire’s local leaders and contribute towards our community’s capacity to support a strong, positive recovery, and better prepare for future disaster events.

We’ve also managed to progress some signature projects in our Shire this year that will continue to deliver and attract thousands of day trippers to Dangar Falls via Coramba Road and provide a positive knock-on effect for local businesses in Dorrigo.

Once completed, the Dangar Falls Upgrade Project will see the old viewing platform upgraded so locals and visitors can take in one of the best views in our Shire as they stand on a curved platform which overhangs the cliff by an amazing three metres.

To deliver people to this natural beauty, Council has also invested \$250,000 and secured another \$1,290,000 in funding to replace Coramba Road’s old single lane and load limited Deep Creek Bridge, which is also good news for the five dairies that use the bridge to transport 6 million litres of milk annually.

Finally, with detailed survey activities well under way, we’re also set to begin delivering our Shire’s \$22 million Coastal Communities Sewer Infrastructure Project in 2021, which will protect our tourism and aquaculture industries and the health of our Bellinger and Kalang Rivers.

So, it looks like 2021 is shaping up to be one of the busiest years on record for our Shire, so let’s take advantage of the opportunity to take it easy this Festive Season, because we’ll need to hit the ground running in the New Year.

Cr Dominic King  
**Mayor, Bellingen Shire.**

The Bellingen Shire Recovery & Resilience Program has been working hard to deliver on:

- managing risk
- effective response and recovery and
- enabling and empowering community resilience.

Over the last few months, the Program has developed useful resources and created engaging activities to strengthen our community some of which are detailed in this newsletter.

## Food Safety & Resilience Forum

Hospitality business owners, market stall holders and small producers were invited to learn how to diversify their business and build greater resilience amongst business peers.

Local business owners shared hints and tips from their experience. NSW Food Authority representatives provided useful information on food safety, labelling, risks, requirements, and resources.

A link to the full presentation can be found on the Resilience at BelloShire Facebook page or on our YouTube Channel.

## Street Scap Renewal Grant Scheme

The Streetscape Grant applications have now been received from far and wide across our Shire. We are delighted to announce that 12 applicants have been awarded grant funding to beautify and celebrate our local places and spaces to celebrate both our local artists and cultural heritage. Funds will be used to enhance the aesthetic look and feel of our street by sprucing up existing paint work, incorporating artistic elements to shop facades and improving cosmetic appearance. Look out for projects in your area. Some include:

- An Old Man Dreaming installation at Thora Store, Thora
- A vertical garden and al fresco space at Farm & Country, Dorrigo
- Historical poster recreation at Foodworks, Urunga.
- Creative enhancement to the facade at Bellingen Gelato, Bellingen

