

Chinese students enjoy local culture

Bringing together culture and creating opportunities for learning and shared experience between students and teachers from GuiXi and Shangrao cities in JiangXi province in China and Mullumbimby High School last week was a great success, according to organiser Katie Grubb from Mandarin Pathways. The kids got to enjoy a range of learning experiences at Mullum High and there was a spontaneous Australia v China table-tennis tournament at lunchtime.

'Mullumbimby High School is embracing the 21st century learning skills that our youth are going to need for their future in an amazing way and are quite innovative in their learning programs,' said Katie.

Welcome to country took place at Mullumbimby Community Gardens and the ten teachers and 61 students were hosted by 29 local families where they were able to get an insight into Australian life.



Chinese students and teachers watch the preparations of Indigenous performers Coedie Ochre Warrah and Mundara Baker. Photo Jeff Dawson

'They like the way our children are taught independence, like helping make their school lunches or doing chores around the house,' said Katie. 'In China the kids do nothing like this because their lives are filled up with such a regimented study schedule.'

The clean environment where kids could run around barefoot, the stars and the friendly people were also highlights.

'They said they were surprised at how friendly Australians are. They mostly learn about our country through the political things

that are published and Australia doesn't actually look that good overseas.'

On the final night host families came together and had a picnic and fire where 'the Chinese kids learnt how to roast marshmallows on the fire and said they had the best time ever.'

Council calls for federal approach to coastal hazards

Aslan Shand

Councillors voted 8-1 last week to 'write to our local members of parliament calling for a coordinated national approach to managing coastal hazards... To submit a bid to host the 27th NSW Coastal Conference in 2018 and the next unallocated Australian Coastal Councils Conference' and if these 'are unsuccessful, staff prepare a report on the implications of holding an event in Byron Shire, inviting key experts in coastal management.'

They also invited coastal engineer Angus Gordon to 'share his insights on the Col-

laroy tripper wall for possible adoption within Byron Shire.'

Both Cr Hackett and the mayor Simon Richardson highlighted the failure of the state government in responding to this issue 'the coastal zone management plan (CZMP) was submitted 12 months ago,' and we've still had no response, said the mayor.

The increasing pressure on Belongil in the future owing to further development was a key motivating force for an invitation to Angus Gordon to address Council. Mr Gordon was instrumental in the development in the late 1970s of the tripper wall in

Dee Why that has seen dunes being reinstated following extensive storm damage.

'We are getting nothing back from our state government. I heard that we could do something in the meantime that is inexpensive while we wait for the governments to get back to us,' said Cr Hackett.

The motion was opposed by Cr Alan Hunter who said that they had already chosen 'the least-cost path out of the six options for the maintenance of the beach and coast' previous studies' expensive consultations had provided to Council.

'We need to move on... I

can't believe we are spending money on this,' he said.

Council welcomes roundabout funds

News that the federal government will fund a new roundabout at the Ewingsdale Road/Bayshore Drive intersection at Byron Bay has been applauded by the Byron Shire mayor Simon Richardson.

'This is great news for the whole community and it will be a huge relief for all those making the trip along Ewingsdale Road, to and from the Byron Bay Arts and Industry precinct to work every day,' Cr Richardson said.

'The federal government's grant of \$2.6million means a really important infrastructure project will be delivered sooner, and it also frees up

the money we had set aside for that project to get to work on other critical road projects in the Byron Shire.

'Ewingsdale Road carries up to 20,000 cars a day during quieter times of the year and the volume of traffic gets heavier during peak seasons.

'Businesses, including tradespeople, often find it very difficult to get in and out of Byron Bay so the new roundabout will improve things considerably.

'Council is currently building a new roundabout at Sunrise on Ewingsdale Road, so when this is finished, and the Bayshore Drive rounda-

bout is completed, a trip in or out of Byron Bay should be much better.'

Council's application for funding was one of 500 received by the federal government and only 100 were successful.

'Council's staff are to be commended for the work they did on the submission,' Cr Richardson said.

'We're thankful the federal government has recognised the need for improved infrastructure in Byron Bay,' he said.

The federal government grant is from its Building Better Regions fund.

Repower clean energy

Community Owned Renewable Energy Mullumbimby (COREM) has partnered with Enova Community and Zero Emissions Byron to create Repower Byron Shire.

Repower is an alliance of state and national organisations coordinated to drive a transition to a clean energy future. It's about switching on people power to improve the affordability and ensure the reliability of renewable energy while cutting carbon emissions.

Repower works with households to reduce unnecessary electricity usage, demystify solar PV and source ethical electricity from a retailer who supports renewables over coal and gas. The goal is to make electricity use climate friendly.

Mullumbimby Creek's Tristran Parade is the first street in Byron Shire to be introduced to Repower. The movement resembles Lock the Gate, by encouraging community action, so a meeting will be held for Tristran Parade residents to pass the Clean Energy Future baton to their neighbours in Brushbox Drive on Sunday August 27.

'The choice is ours to have locally made renewable energy that ensures our air and water is clean and healthy for our families and generations that follow,' a spokesperson said.

For more information Brushbox/Tristran residents can contact Nina Bishop on 0422 684 683 or if you want to bring Repower to your street contact dave@corem.org.au.

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North Byron Parklands

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION AFTERNOON
AT NORTH BYRON PARKLANDS!
Saturday 19 August 1pm - 3pm**

Earlier this year we invited the community to provide feedback on our Development Application to become a permanent venue for outdoor events. Thank you to the many community members for your feedback. It has proved invaluable in refining our application and preparing our Environmental Impact Statement.

Please join us for a community information afternoon at Parklands on Saturday 19 August from 1pm to 3pm to discuss the final plans and learn about our vision to become a venue for sustainable world-class arts and cultural events in the Northern Rivers.

RSVP ESSENTIAL:

Monday 14 August at community@northbyronparklands.com
Please enter the main gate (Gate C) at 126 Tweed Valley Way, Yelgun and follow the signs.

www.northbyronparklands.com