

9 April 2024

New Lease of Life for Bute Rest Centre

In a move to revitalise the Bute Rest Centre, Barunga West Council has agreed to lease the facility to the Bute 2000 Progress Group.

The decision, made during tonight's Council meeting, entrusts the group with the building's upgrade and maintenance. Constructed in the 1950s, the centre is poised for a new chapter as a community hub.

The Bute 2000 Progress Group's proposal, which outlined a plan to cover annual insurance, maintain the premises, and comply with necessary upgrades, was met with Council approval. This agreement highlights a community-driven effort to enhance the centre's role in Bute.

Mayor Leonie Kerley said councillors recognised the passion from some sections of the community to enhance the Bute Rest Centre's use and supported their vision to try and revitalise it as a valued asset.

"It's great news that the motion to lease the premises for 12 months (or two years) has been supported by the Elected Members," Mayor Kerley said.

"This decision represents Council's confidence that Bute 2000 Onwards Progress Association will breathe new life into the Bute Rest Centre and activate it as a space for a variety of activities.

"It's heart-warming to witness the younger members of our community taking the lead in attempting to activate this space alongside our regular stalwarts. Their enthusiasm and dedication are invaluable assets, infusing the project with fresh perspectives and energy.

"Their proactive involvement ensures continuity and paves the way for a vibrant future. I look forward to watching their initiatives in action and the activities at the centre."

During the past three years, Barunga West Council has invested more than \$2.3 million in Bute, enhancing infrastructure and community amenities for its 390 residents. These efforts have improved facilities such as the Bute Soldiers' Memorial Hall and sports courts, added a new bike track, and upgraded the Community Wastewater System. Council also has contributed significantly to the nationally acclaimed Bute Silo art.

Barunga West Council oversees 14 properties in Bute, offering spaces for sports, meetings, and cultural events at minimal or no cost to non-profit groups, ensuring that community facilities serve all residents effectively.