

MINUTES

WOLLONGONG HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5.20PM ON WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2013



PRESENT	
Councillor Vicki Curran (Chair)	Douglas Boleyn
Mitchell Gordon	Alana Hansell
Annette Williams	Meredith Hutton

IN ATTENDANCE	
Renee Campbell, Manager Environmental Strategy and Planning	David Green, Land Use Planning Manager
Joel Thompson, Strategic Project Officer – Heritage	Marisa O'Connor, Local Studies Team Leader

- 1 WELCOME – Chair, Councillor Vicki Curran, welcome everyone to the meeting.
- 2 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Councillor Ann Martin, Carol Herben, Sharralyn Robinson, Ben Meek and Holly Shalders (Destination Wollongong).
- 3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY was provided by Chair, Councillor Vicki Curran.
- 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None declared.
- 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31 JULY 2013
Recommendation: The minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2013 be confirmed as a true and accurate record. Moved by Mitchell Gordon and Seconded by Alana Hansell.
- 6 CHANGE TO WHAC COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS
Joel advised of change to the Councillor appointment in that:
 - a. Councillor Vicki Curran is now Chair;
 - b. Councillor Ann Martin has been appointed to the Committee.Joel advised that unfortunately Councillor Martin was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
- 7 HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2014
Joel referred to Item 7 in the Business Paper provided to Committee.
Discussion occurred and suggestions raised included:
 - Clarification of walking trail.
 - Convict sites journey.
 - Formation of sub-committee.
 - Migration and link to University of Wollongong.

- Check on existing projects.
- Library has data base of contact details for groups which can be utilised.
- Query harnessing Main Street Program to raise profile.
- Interpretation Strategy – Crown Street Journey.
- Open Wollongong – buildings open on a certain day, maybe also in the evening.
- Extend CBD tour to the foreshore and Bluemile.
- Utilise suburbs, selected clubs (foyers), Steelworks tours, A1 Mining Metallurgy, U3A, Probus clubs.
- Get oral history and record.
- Newspaper spread as done in the past.
- Seniors Week.
- National Trust booklet.

Agreed to form a sub-committee with members Meredith Hutton (National Trust), Annette Williams, Councillor Curran and Joel Thompson.

Joel to liaise with Marisa O'Connor in relation to library data base and also contact Holly Shalders from Destination Wollongong about being part of the committee.

Actions:

Sub-committee to meet at the Old Courthouse on Tuesday 26 November at 5.30 pm. Joel to bring data base.

Joel to contact Holly Shalders from Destination Wollongong in relation to the sub-committee and first meeting.

8 WATERFALL GENERAL CEMETERY – OPTIONS FOR FUTURE MANAGEMENT

Joel referred to Item 8 in the Business Paper provided to Committee.

Emails have been sent to committee members looking at recommendations that suggest a way forward for the options in the discussion paper.

Issues raised in submissions received included:

- Not an active cemetery.
- Conservation maintenance is a focus.
- Not encouraging public to go to the property.
- Visiting site.
- Whether discussion as to the future use of the site has taken place with crematorium staff.

Discussion occurred as to each issue and the following recommendations agreed by committee members present:

1. 4.1 Future Custodianship:

OPTION 1 – Retain in Council's Care and Control.

4.2 Future Management Strategy:

OPTION 2 – Establish a Bush Cemetery.

4.3 Access Options:

OPTION 4 – Public Open Days.

4.4 Planning/Land Use Zoning:

OPTION 1 – Retain E3 Environmental Management zone.

4.5 Heritage Listings:

OPTION 2 – Consolidate the Heritage Listings.

2. The nomination of the site for listing on the State Heritage Register be supported.
3. The formation of a “Friends” group to assist with future management and decision making be supported e.g. Helensburgh Heritage Society.

9 WOLLONGONG LOCAL HERITAGE GRANTS 2013-2014

David Green provided update as per Item 9 in Business Paper provided to committee. The current allocation was noted.

Councillor Curran declared a conflict of interest as Jen Dixon (one of the owners of “Keera Vale”) is a friend.

Discussion as to allocation of the remaining heritage grant funds of \$3,965 to the “Keera Vale” project occurred. Committee members agreed. Meredith Hutton requested time to investigate plaster repair method used as it was one she was unfamiliar with. It was agreed that Meredith was to provide her advice by 5.00 pm on Friday 15 November.

Actions:

Meredith to follow up methodology and advise Joel of any concerns.

Joel to add this project (subject to Meredith’s advice) to the list of successful projects and organise grant allocation.

10 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY – PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Joel referred to Item 10 of the Business Paper provided to committee. Joel requested that Renee Campbell and David Green provide further information.

Council is currently considering its financial sustainability, including:

1. Service and level of service provided to the community.
2. How efficient we are at delivering services.
3. Opportunity to increase revenue.

Heritage is 1 of the 117 delivery streams provided and 1 of the 7 delivery streams of Land Use Planning.

Page 10 of the Heritage Officer’s report lists items identified in the Community Panel report that are of direct heritage interest.

Query raised as to the heritage knowledge of the people on the panel – not targeted as to qualifications but a broad range of people.

The information provided to the panel is available on Council’s website.

Committee members encouraged as individuals to make submissions in relation to the financial sustainability of Council and the recommendations of the Citizens Panel, particularly where these may have an impact on the conservation of our Heritage.

11 NSW HERITAGE GRANTS 2014-2015

Joel referred to Item 11 in the Business Paper provided to Committee.

Joel provided advice on projects being considered for nominations:

- a. Gleniffer Brae – maintenance.

- b. North Beach Kiosk – major failure in parapet and roof.
- c. Heritage Advisor Program – would like to keep this role active. Not sure if this will apply due to timing.

12 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE REFORMS - EXHIBITION

Joel referred to Item 12 in the Business Paper provided to Committee.

Joel encouraged committee members to look at this item. The role of councils is not clear in the document.

There are consultation sessions available for people to attend.

13 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

Joel referred to Item 13 in the Business Paper provided to Committee.

- a. Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Group – Annette Williams.

Following the previous meeting, the Group decided not to write a letter to Premier Buses as was recommended, and instead as part of their next working bee had a casual conversation with Premier and make a booking to see the manager Tony Ball. They talked about the issues which he was aware of. Some issues have been resolved already. Buses are being upgraded so fume issue may be resolved, remaining buses are being parked with exhaust away from graves. Issue of employees parking on the road rather than in the compound was also raised with the manager. Manager advised he has spoken with his staff about this and queried having a car park on the site. The group has written to the Traffic Committee in the past but not managed to get through the system as yet. Agreed need for signs to be put up for 2 parking spaces and Joel advised Council should support this issue and have a conversation with the Traffic Committee – chat with relevant officers.

Action:

Annette to provide Joel with copies of letter sent to Traffic Committee last year and Council's response.

- b. Illawarra Shoalhaven Branch of the National Trust – Meredith Hutton

National Trust is preparing an updated tree register and the local branch is contributing to this and requested that if anyone was aware of a tree of state significance to let them know.

Thirroul Railway Station platforms 2 and 3 are reported to be the oldest building on the Illawarra line. They are doing work to save these platforms as there is a report suggesting it be demolished – work to stabilise building is being quoted on.

Request to find out why the Bulli Miners Cottage is vacant.

Actions:

Bulli Miner's Cottage - follow up and report back to next meeting.

- c. Illawarra Historical Society and Museum – Marisa O'Connor:

They are updating and doing great things with the Museum.

Frank Andrews memorial needs desperate work to be done as you can't read the writing.

Joel advised there is a program underway looking to the Centenary of ANZAC where Council is committed to invest money with other partners. Council is applying for grant funds (Martin Parmenter).

- d. Engineers Australia – Engineering Heritage Australia Committee – Doug Boleyn:

They are involved in writing about the planning that is proposed in the Government in terms of heritage recognition.

- e. Port Kembla Heritage Park and Military Museum – Doug Boleyn:

Contributing towards the Centenary of ANZAC celebrations in 2014 - grants for display.

14 HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY

Joel referred to Item 14 in the Business Paper provided to committee.

This item to be held over for discussion at a future meeting.

15 DENMARK HOTEL - UPDATE

Joel referred to Item 15 in the Business Paper provided to committee.

There was a recent order to cease work – discussion occurred on this issue.

16 HERITAGE OFFICER'S REPORT

Joel referred to Item 16 in the Business Paper provided to committee.

16.6 Demolition of the Copper Smelter Stack at Port Kembla – Update

One of the conditions was that they were going to keep the base of the stack. There appears to be no compliance with this. Not aware of how they were going to retain the base. There is concern in relation to the heritage restoration/conservation of the base.

Action:

Renee to raise query with either Mike Dowd or Pier Panozzo.

17 OTHER MATTERS

Meeting dates for 2014 were discussed. Meetings are held bi-monthly on the second Wednesday. Due to the Christmas break there will be a meeting in February instead of January.

Meetings scheduled agreed for 2014:

- 12 February 2014;
- 12 March 2014;
- 14 May 2014;
- 30 July 2014 (later in month due to school holidays);
- 10 September 2014; and
- 12 November 2014.

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 5.15 pm on Wednesday 12 February 2014.

2014 – Future Meetings Schedule

Wednesday 12 February	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	5.15 pm
Wednesday 12 March	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	5.15 pm
Wednesday 14 May	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	5.15 pm
Wednesday 30 July	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	5.15 pm
Wednesday 10 September	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	5.15 pm
Wednesday 12 November	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	5.15 pm

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
7	<p>Heritage Festival 2014</p> <p>Sub-committee to meet at the Old Courthouse on Tuesday 26 November at 5.30 pm. Joel to bring data base.</p> <p>Joel to contact Holly Shalders from Destination Wollongong in relation to the sub-committee and first meeting.</p>	Joel Thomson	Completed
13	<p>Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Group</p> <p>Annette to provide Joel with copies of letters sent to Traffic Committee last year and Council's responses.</p>	Annette Williams	
13	<p>Bulli Miners Cottage</p> <p>Follow up and report back to next meeting.</p>	Renee Campbell /Joel Thompson	In progress
16	<p>Demolition of the Copper Smelter Stack at Port Kembla</p> <p>Renee to raise query with either Mike Dowd or Pier Panozzo as to the condition of keeping the base of the stack.</p>	Renee Campbell	