

MINUTES

WOLLONGONG HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5:15 PM ON WEDNESDAY 31 JULY 2013



PRESENT	
Councillor John Dorahy (Chair)	Ben Meek
Carol Herben	Sharralyn Robinson
Mitchell Gordon	Alana Hansell
Annette Williams	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Renee Campbell – WCC Manager Environmental Strategy and Planning	David Green, WCC – Land Use Planning Manager
Joel Thompson – Strategic Project Officer - Heritage	Mark Sleigh – General Manager, Destination Wollongong

1 WELCOME

2 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Councillor Vicki Curran, Meredith Hutton, Douglas Boleyn, and Marisa O'Connor.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY was provided by Chair, Councillor John Dorahy.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Carol Herben advised she had a non-pecuniary research interest in Item 9 – Waterfall General (Garrawarra) Cemetery.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2013

Recommendation: The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2013 be confirmed as a true and accurate record. Moved by Carol Herben and seconded by Sharralyn Robinson.

6 HERITAGE TOURISM DISCUSSION

Joel introduced Mark Sleigh to the committee members and advised that Mark had been invited by the Committee to attend the meeting to provide a snapshot of what his role involves and the direction of his role in Wollongong.

Mark spoke about Destination Wollongong and heritage tourism opportunities and the commencement of a strong relationship between Destination Wollongong and heritage.

Issues raised and discussed with Mark Sleigh included:

- Aboriginal products;
- The concept of a tourist heritage coal mine;
- Trying to dovetail tourism and heritage functions – improving how we view and sell our own heritage;
- Displaying of brochures for customers at the Destination Wollongong office – tourists put money into the community;
- Promotion of family history, military history etc.;

- Policies created at Destination Wollongong as to providing information / pamphlets to customer;
- Destination Wollongong role in supporting / marketing of major events e.g. sporting and music;
- Increase in day trippers in the last 12 months;
- Transition to digital path, interactive events calendar on the website – Destination Wollongong will speak with customers as they come in and are happy to print off papers as required;
- Overseas visitors and Chinese market;
- Aboriginal heritage in the Illawarra – rich in Aboriginal culture e.g. Throsby Track, Sandon Point, Hill 60;
- Item in Wollongong Heritage Action Plan – Wollongong tourism and promotions strategy;
- Regional Museum feasibility assessment;
- Destination Wollongong launching new website in September and one of the items is heritage;
- In 1999 the Historical Society had a 30 minute video made titled “Grand City of Wollongong” but this can only be seen at the Museum – suggestion made that something to go on-line regarding the history of Wollongong;
- Destination Wollongong have provided a video presentation which includes one minute on the heritage of Wollongong, full video is three minutes long;
- Discussion as to the roles, the community, strategy and promotion and Destination Wollongong.

Joel advised he can distribute Mark’s details to the committee members for the provision of any comments / feedback. Mark advised that he was more than happy to come back to future meetings, where possible.

Joel requested members to think about how to continue the momentum of heritage promotion and how the Committee can support Destination Wollongong.

Councillor Dorahy thanked Mark Sleigh for his time.

7 REVIEW OF WHAC CHARTER

At the May WHAC meeting the members were advised that the Committee Charter was being reviewed in line with a new Council template and members were invited to provide comment on the existing Charter so that this feedback and input could be considered in finalising the Charter.

Joel thanked Ben and Doug for their input.

Joel detailed some of the changes and advised that the new Charter had a different look but there were only minor changes to the context.

Recommendation: The revised Wollongong Heritage Advisory Committee Charter be accepted.

Moved by Carol Herben and seconded by Sharralyn Robinson.

8 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Group – Annette Williams:

- a. The Premier Bus development site next door and the excavation which has occurred – the issues are almost resolved but unfortunately not finished. Now that the buses can park down in the excavated area they can reverse into position and the exhaust pipes are blowing onto the graves.

It is still an operational cemetery and it is a Council issue and asked that Council’s Property Division take this up with the bus company. Issue is also about cleaning of monuments, their age and the speeding up of deterioration.

Since Premier has been at the site no one can park on or near the cemetery – there is no access and have to park down the street.

They have written to the Traffic Committee but this has yet to be placed on their agenda. They were requesting a couple of spaces but now are looking to put up a landscape plan and would like to have a car parking facility so that one or two cars can park at the site.

Discussion occurred in relation to these issues.

Action: Annette advised she would arrange a letter to the Property Division of Council to request a meeting and would cc Joel into letter as he wishes to be invited to the meeting. Also needs to involve Traffic Section.

Action: Renee advised this matter worthy of discussion with Property Division to work through the issues. Proposed a three way conversation between Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Group, Premier and Council following receipt of letter from cemetery group.

- b. Annette advised she is doing research on convicts and asked if anyone has any information to let her know. Annette is going to a seminar in December and will be presenting “Convict Sites in the Illawarra”.

Old Court House Management Committee – Ben Meek:

- a. Open day on Sunday 1 September – this will be the 155th anniversary of the opening of the Court House and there are to be public displays.
- b. They have combined their website with the National Trust and this is almost ready to be launched. Website will provide information as to what is going on at the Court House, the organisations that use it, how to book it for use etc.

Illawarra Shoalhaven Branch of the National Trust – Ben Meek:

- a. House inspections happening in August, one is 29 Campbell Street which is owned by Mrs Devlin.
- b. They will be holding their Christmas function at the Railway Institute Building, Thirroul.

The Information was received and noted.

9 WATERFALL GENERAL (GARRAWARRA) CEMETERY CMP AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Joel referred to the update contained in his report.

Members are requested to provide feedback on the report to Joel.

Actions:

1. Members are to review and provide comment and feedback on the draft Conservation Management Plan and future management options to Council’s Heritage Officer for consideration.
2. A further report be provided to the Committee during the community consultation stage.

10 LOCAL HERITAGE GRANTS 2013-2014

Joel referred to the update contained in his report.

Joel provided information to the members on each application and these were discussed.

All members present agreed to allocate grants to all eligible recipients and to further discuss those that require clarification. Joel to chase up this additional information.

Joel to liaise with applicant in relation to conservation of headstone.

Moved by Ben Meek and Seconded by Carol Herben.

Action: Joel to chase up additional information on applications that require clarification, finalise grant allocations to eligible projects and report back to next WHAC meeting.

11 HERITAGE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.1 Wollongong City Centre Heritage Trail Launch – Feedback:

Joel provided update as per his report. Suggestion made that volunteers be trained to take tours around in sections.

Joel requested that Committee members think about the formation of a sub-committee to work on next year's Heritage Festival.

11.2 NSW Planning Act Review – White Paper:

Joel provided update as per his report.

11.3 Heritage Website Content Update:

Joel provided update as per his report.

11.4 Crown Street and Inner City Building Façade Rejuvenation Program:

Joel provided update as per his report.

11.5 Application for Funding from NSW Heritage Grants 2013-2014 – Gleniffer Brae:

Joel provided update as per his report.

Heritage Officer's report was received and noted.

12 OTHER MATTERS

1. Mitchell Gordon requested an updates in relation to:

a. Plaque at Woonona Beach, Collins Point:

Joel advised he has received feedback from Property and Recreation and they were seeking a quote as to the cost of replacing tiles. No further update has been received and Joel will chase up for next meeting.

Action: Joel to report back to next meeting.

b. Bulli Miners Cottage:

Query as to any update on the progression of use and Joel advised no. Need to resolve whose responsibility and then work out where to. Council has to determine what the future use of the building is to be – maintenance of the building is an issue.

c. Seaview Guest House:

DA has been approved. Council has its hands tied on this issue. There were conditions on the consent relating to heritage issues. Council has raised concerns in response. As the DA has been approved RMS can demolish the property when they choose to do so.

2. Membership to National Trust:

Alana advised her membership came through.

Alana also advised she is hoping to start a social history for the area, commencing with Fountaindale Grand Manor in the Highlands. Also in March 2014 hopes to start further heritage studies.

3. Coast Care Project at Sandon Point:

Sharralyn advised this is now over and been acquitted. The Land Council has a green tour "Berrimuar" which means green land. They are doing contract work and they will be seeking more contract work for conservation work to protect and conserve culture.

Sharralyn requested Joel check if there is anyone looking after the Yarramar Birthing Tree site in Moreton Bay Park at Figtree.

Action: Joel to check if anyone is looking after the Yarramar Birthing Tree and to find out about the regular maintenance schedule.

Carol Herben:

1. Query if decision has been made in relation to the Thirroul Railway development proposal. Response: Council has not heard as yet. Council put in a submission indicating concerns and issues.
2. How far has Council got with the Conservation Management Plan for 11 Market Street – Illawarra Museum. Response: This is still on the agenda but has not commenced.

Ben Meek:

1. What is happening in relation to Gleniffer Brae? Response: Negotiations are occurring with the Conservatorium of Music and until these are finalised we don't know what their use of the site will be and we can't move on.
2. Sub-Committee for Heritage Festival – request for everyone to bring their ideas to the next meeting so as to get things started.

Discussion occurred to the 2014 Heritage Festival and the Bicentenary in 2015.

Action: Joel to provide an update on the Bicentenary 2015 committee and find out if there are any Aboriginal representatives on the committee.

Councillor John Dorahy:

1. With the upcoming Federal election we can have a look at those options to try and encourage promises from the Federal representative for heritage funding or how to go about this. Can start with the Bicentenary but for all things heritage. John advised he would speak with Stephen Jones and Sharon Bird and Concetta Fierravanti-Wells.

The meeting concluded at 7:25 p.m.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 5.15 p.m. on Wednesday 11 September 2013.

2013 – Future Meetings Schedule

Wednesday 13 February	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	5.15 pm
Wednesday 13 March	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	5.15 pm
Wednesday 8 May	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	5.15 pm
Wednesday 10 July	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	5.15 pm
Wednesday 11 September	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	5.15 pm
Wednesday 13 November	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	5.15 pm

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
8a	<p>Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Letter from Group to be sent to Property Division of Council requesting meeting. Copy of letter to be provided to Joel Thompson. Following receipt of letter from Group discussion to occur between Group, Property Division and Pioneer to work through issues. 	<p>Annette Williams</p> <p>Renee Campbell</p>	<p>No letter received. Annette will provide update at meeting.</p>
9	<p>Waterfall General (Garrawarra) Cemetery CMP and Engagement Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members to review and provide comment and feedback to Joel Thompson. Further report to be provided to Committee during community consultation stage. 	<p>All</p> <p>Joel Thompson</p>	<p>Project on exhibition and listed as Item 8 on the Agenda for November meeting. See Business Paper.</p>
10	<p>Local Heritage Grants 2013-2014</p> <p>Obtain additional information to clarify some applications and finalise grant application – report back to WHAC.</p>	<p>Joel Thompson</p>	<p>See Item 9 for November meeting.</p>
12.1.a	<p>Plaque at Woonona Beach, Collins Point</p> <p>Joel to provide update at next meeting.</p>	<p>Joel</p>	<p>Update is provided in Heritage Officer's Report for November meeting – Item 16.</p>
12.3	<p>Yarramar Birthing Tree</p> <p>Joel to find out if anyone is looking after the Yarramar Birth Tree and about the regular maintenance schedule.</p>	<p>Joel</p>	<p>Update is provided in Heritage Officer's Report for November meeting – Item 16.</p>
12	<p>Bicentenary 2015</p> <p>Joel to provide update.</p>	<p>Joel</p>	<p>Update is provided in Heritage Officer's Report for November meeting – Item 16.</p>