

MINUTES

ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP

11:00AM ON WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST 2023



PRESENT	
Brendan Newton	Aunty Shelly Moore
Errollyn Strang	Leanne Olive
Aunty Shas Robinson	Brad Anderson
Kathleen Cambourn	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Sue Savage – Chair	Emma Bedwin – Engagement Coordinator
Jacinda Marando – Minute Taker	Carla Yamine – City Centre Placemaker
Alison Bradford – Community Development + Engagement Manager	Trudy Costa – Environmental Project Officer, Lake Illawarra Management
Dale Wright – Community Engagement Officer	

1 WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

- 2 **APOLOGIES** – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Lord Mayor Gordon Bradberry, Cr Cath Blakey, Armando Reviglio & Adam Towney

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Nil

- 4 **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** – Confirmation of Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 14 June 2023 confirmed by Aunty Shelly Moore.

- 5 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES** – Lake Illawarra Management to be continued at next meeting on Wednesday 11 October 2023.

6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE –

Dale Wright, Community Engagement Officer, presented three projects:

Kembla Community Visioning – The Kembla Community Vision Plan is a project that Council will be working on for the next 2 years. The plan aims to bring together the different views, values, and aspirations for the Mount Kembla Heights area. The plan will list actions to achieve the community's vision. These actions will most likely belong to Council, as well as other organisations, agencies, and major landholders in the area such as South 32. Various engagement activities have been undertaken with the communities of Mount Kembla and Kembla Heights.

Feedback is being sought from the Aboriginal community.

Feedback from the Aboriginal Reference Group:

- Walking tracks
- Mt Kembla is a site of significance for local Aboriginal people, and this should be noted.
- A plaque or memorial recognising Aboriginal heritage should be placed on site.
- A mountain bike track should not be developed.
- A memorial in honour of the mine history and miners who lost their lives.
- Miners' cottage to be preserved.

- Create a 'roadmap' of places of significance.
- Provide video information (played on loop) explaining the history of significance along walking tracks.

Hill 60 – A meeting was held on Tuesday 1 August 2023 with Aboriginal stakeholders to discuss the Hill 60 accessibility and viewing area upgrades, and to begin discussions about the content for the signs and artwork. Wollongong Council has received funding to complete upgrades such as toilets, car parking, and creating better views. The upgrade is to take place at the Marine Rescue headland area which overlooks Five Islands and Port Kembla Harbour. The viewing area will incorporate interpretive artwork celebrating the site's rich Aboriginal heritage as well as recognising the site's military significance. Some of the works include:

- Installation of high-quality concrete pavements for an accessible footpath and the viewing area.
- Pavement art about the heritage of Hill 60.
- Installation of corrosion resistant safety balustrading, with heritage signage.
- Landscaping and tree planting.

So far, we have heard feedback about sharing stories on interpretive signs and in pavement art to recognise the significance of Hill 60. This includes families living on the hill and being forcibly removed, recognising local Aboriginal people who fought and died for their country in world wars, and recognising and celebrating the fishing culture. It was also suggested that a yarning circle be included in a future stage of works. The idea was to create a special place for local schools and groups to be able to utilise as part of outdoor programs. Aboriginal stakeholder engagement will continue over the coming months.

Feedback from the Aboriginal Reference Group:

Add a statue or memorial at Hill 60 in honour of the Aboriginal soldiers that went to war, in conjunction with Aboriginal culture and artwork.

West Dapto – Council has received funding from the State Government to master plan two shopping areas at West Dapto: Fowlers Village Centre and Marshall Mount Town Centre.

Feedback from the Aboriginal Reference Group:

An overlapping map of the archaeological map should be included in the master planning process.

7 CULTURE MIX UPDATE –

Sam Crosby and Carla Yamine have been working on the feedback and recommendations noted at the Aboriginal Reference Group meeting held on Wednesday 14 June 2023 regarding the performers for Culture Mix.

The ARG supported the following:

- Welcome to Country – Uncle Richard Davis (aka: Mackie).
- Smoking Ceremony – Uncle Peter Button - Uncle Peter is also speaking with Layne Brown about him being a part of this.
- Gumaraa are working with young people to develop a performance for the festival.
- Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts Aboriginal dancers Bridget Benham, Hayley Crisp and Bonnie Peterlin.
- Matty Walker – solo performance.
- Yuin Djaadjawan Dancers – Sharon Mason.
- Yuin Prodikal -1 MC – Warren Foster.

8 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE –

Ali Bradford provided the Community Development worker update.

Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards Ceremony – hosted by Kiama Council on Saturday 29 July at 5pm at The Pavilion. This NAIDOC Awards Ceremony celebrates achievements and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Wollongong, Kiama, Shellharbour, and Shoalhaven. The event was a wonderful evening with 200 people in attendance celebrating and honouring our Elders and the achievements of Aboriginal people and organisations across the Illawarra Region. Photos from the evening were shared with the group and can be viewed via the Kiama Council website. The full list of award winners is listed below:

- Young Achiever of the Year – Emma McMahon
- Young Achiever of the Year – Amelia Wall

- Organisation/Project of the year – Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation
- Community Volunteer of the Year – Korin Koutsomihalis
- Community Representative of the Year – Richard Ardler
- Outstanding Contribution to Reconciliation – Tullimbar Public School
- Aboriginal Elder of the Year – Uncle Tom Brown
- Aboriginal Elder of the Year – Aunty Annette Lonesborough

NAIDOC Week Grants – small grants were provided to not-for-profit organisations hosting community events around NAIDOC Week. The purpose of the grants was to strengthen community wellbeing through participation in an event that celebrates the achievements and culture of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Grants were provided to:

- Berkeley Community Centre – Post NAIDOC Community Connection BBQ
- Warrawong Residents Forum – Warrawong NAIDOC Day
- Illawarra Film Society – NAIDOC Week Special Event as part of the Illawarra Film Society 2023 Program
- CareWays Community Ltd – NAIDOC at Koonawarra Family Fun Day
- Merrigong Theatre Company – Story Telling and Cultural Activity
- Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre – BNC NAIDOC Celebration “For Our Elders”
- Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council – Sandon Point Aboriginal Tent Embassy (SPATE) NAIDOC Day

The Warrawong NAIDOC Day was cancelled due to adverse wet weather conditions; however, it has been rescheduled for the school holidays on Tuesday 26 September 2023.

Lord Mayor Elder’s NAIDOC Luncheon – Wednesday 19 July at the Wollongong Art Gallery, BlueScope Gallery. The luncheon was an opportunity for Aboriginal Elders to be acknowledged and celebrated.

Wadi Wadi Mixed Tribe dance group trip Macedonia – as requested by Aunty Shas, a project will be undertaken by our Library Local History section to record the story as part of the Illawarra Stories program.

9 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED AT THE NEXT MEETING –

- Update from the Engagement Team about the West Dapto archaeological survey.

Please contact Armando Reviglio on 4227 7253 if you would like to add any items for discussion at the next meeting.

10 GENERAL BUSINESS – Nil

11 NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2023 AT WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL.

The meeting concluded at 12:13pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 9:30am on Wednesday 11 October 2023.

2023 – Future Meeting Schedule		
Wednesday 11 October	Level 10 Committee Room 2 & 3	9.30am – 11.30am
Wednesday 13 December	Level 10 Committee Room 2 & 3	9.30am – 11.30am

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
9	Update from the Engagement Team about the West Dapto archaeological survey at next meeting 11 October 2023	Emma Bedwin/ Dale Wright	