

# MINUTES

## WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH 2021



### PRESENT

Councillor Ann Martin	Fiona Reynolds
Meredith Hutton	Georgina Element
Doug Boleyn	Sharralyn Robinson
John Shipp	Martin Gorrick
Lorraine Neate	

### IN ATTENDANCE

David Green – Land Use Planning Manager WCC	Chris Stewart – City Strategy Manager WCC
Joel Thompson – Coordinator Heritage WCC	Hilary Powell – Local Studies Librarian WCC
Denese Thornton – Administration Officer WCC	

#### 1 WELCOME

Councillor Martin opened the meeting at 5:15 pm and welcomed all present remotely via Skype, due to the Covid19 Pandemic social distancing requirements.

#### 2 APOLOGIES

Carly Boag.

#### 3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Councillor Martin provided an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed all Aboriginal people present.

#### 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil declarations of interest.

#### 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2020

The Reference Group recommend that *the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 25 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record subject to minor amendments.*

Moved by John Schipp and seconded by Fiona Reynolds.

#### 6 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT – WOLLONGONG CITY CENTRE HERITAGE STUDY

Council's Heritage staff provided a brief overview of the draft report, noting that this report contains confidential information not to be shared outside of the membership until public reporting. Council's Heritage staff have encouraged the membership to review the draft report and provide feedback and comments.

The membership discussed a desire to see more considered and consistent heritage interpretation outcomes for inner city archaeological sites and suggested the need for clearer controls and policies to be put in place to require positive interpretation outcomes. Council staff noted the comments.

Doug Boleyn enquired about the inclusion of the “Belmore” on Cliff Road. Council staff noted the comments and advised that this site is outside the boundary of the Study Area.

*The Reference Group noted the information.*

#### 7 14 ACACIA AVENUE GWYNNEVILLE

Council’s Heritage Staff gave an update on the draft Planning Proposal to progress the heritage listing of 14 Acacia Avenue Gwynneville, pending the outcome of an independent Heritage Assessment.

The membership noted some concern regarding the use of Interim Heritage Orders due to their impact on property owners.

***The Reference Group recommend that Council prepare and exhibit a draft Planning Proposal to progress the heritage listing of 14 Acacia Avenue Gwynneville subject to the recommendations of and following the finalisation of an Independent Heritage Assessment.***

Moved by Meredith Hutton and seconded by John Shipp

#### 8 ILLAWARRA ESCARPMENT MOUNTAIN BIKING STRATEGY

Council’s Heritage Staff gave an update on the progress of the Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Biking Strategy.

The Membership are encouraged to review the information on the consultation page, including the draft concept plans that have been set up by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to assist in providing an understanding of the project and purpose of the current targeted consultation.

The membership noted their concerns in relation to the potential impacts on Aboriginal and other sensitive cultural and environmental areas. It was noted that it appears some of the proposed tracks are located within the Kembla Heights State Heritage nominated areas.

Council Heritage Staff informed the membership that the focus has moved away from Mt Keira and Mt Kembla, and that NPWS are currently consulting with residential groups (currently with Mt Kembla residents) to clarify local issues and to obtain resident comments, noting that the Strategy is still in the early stages of development.

*The Reference Group noted the information.*

#### 9 5 FORDS ROAD THIRROUL

Council Heritage Staff noted that Councillor Martin and Council staff have received a number of enquiries regarding this property following its recent sale.

The property is not heritage listed and had not previously been nominated as a potential heritage site. The newspaper article provided to the membership provides some information about the property and its history. The property has been added to the list of items to be reviewed for potential heritage listing as part of Stage 2 of the Heritage Schedule Review Council’s Heritage Staff will continue to monitor the site for any receipt of formal development enquiries in relation to the site.

The membership discussed the contemporary architecture of the house and size of the property.

*The Reference Group noted the information.*

## 10 SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

### 10.1 Kembla Heights Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee noted that they have not met as yet. Council Heritage Staff will e-mail items for discussion.

The group was advised that the State Heritage nomination for Kembla Heights is now currently being considered by NSW Heritage and is due to a determination in 2021/22. Georgina extended her thanks to the Reference Group and Council's Heritage Staff for their continued support in this process. The membership congratulated Georgina on the impactful video that accompanied this nomination.

### 10.2 Heritage Grants Sub-Committee

The following Reference Group members offered their nomination to form a sub-committee to assess the 2021/22 Heritage Grant Applications:

- Meredith Hutton
- Fiona Reynolds
- Doug Boelyn

## 11 STREAM HILL UPDATE

Council's Heritage Staff noted that there is no formal update available for this meeting due to key staff currently on leave, however progress on works will be provided at the next Reference Group meeting.

The membership discussed the need for ongoing maintenance works to be carried out on the site. Meredith and Fiona advised of their involvement in the West Dapto naming committee and noted that the name "Stream Hill" has been nominated for this section of Kembla Grange.

*The Reference Group noted the information.*

## 12 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

### Meredith Hutton: NSW National Trust

Meredith advised that the National Trust is celebrating 75 years, with a wide variety of events planned as part of this year's Heritage Festival.

Members can visit the webpage for additional information on specific events.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/75years-calendar/>

### Sharralyn Robinson: Illawarra Aboriginal Land Council

Sharralyn advised that she continues to promote our rich culture and history within the Illawarra to local school student and teacher groups. Sharralyn raised the issue of lack of maintenance at the birthing tree at Figtree.

Council Heritage Staff to follow up the regular maintenance of this area and requested the dates of the upcoming group tours to ensure maintenance works have been undertaken.

### **Georgina Element: Wollongong Heritage Collections Group**

Georgina raised the issue of a permanent home for the Mt Kembla Collection and the wish for a better funded regional museum. Councillor Martin noted the concern, however advised that a regional museum is not being considered at this time.

### **John Shipp: Garrawarra Cemetery**

John advised that the Museum has copies of Carol Herben's book on the Garrawarra Cemetery "Forgotten Souls" and advised that Memorial Gardens have digitised the listings and that they are now searchable via their website.

### **Lorraine Neate: Illawarra Museum**

Lorraine extended an invitation to the presentation of the Charles Throsby Smith tea service to the Illawarra Museum, to the Membership. The Lord Mayor, Gordon Bradbery will be accepting the service on behalf of the Museum on 10 April, 2pm at the Market Square rotunda. Lorraine advised that the tea service was originally presented to Charles Throsby Smith in 1855 and was believed to be lost.

### **Fiona Reynold: National Trust (Illawarra/Shoalhaven Branch)**

Fiona provided a brief update of her and Meredith's involvement in the West Dapto Suburb naming committee and advised that "Stream Hill" has been recommended as one of the suburb names.

Fiona stated that the Trust has been involved with providing submissions on a number of local development proposals including 'Little Milton', the heritage listed Magnolia on Bourke Street and 'Marlene Court' among other matters.

Fiona advised of the Trusts involvement with the preparation of background information for a WWII Military Infrastructure Study across the South Coast.

Fiona also brought to the members attention the Mercury Article regarding the proposed additions to the Clifton School of Arts building.

<https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/7187067/clifton-school-of-arts-to-expand-100-years-later-than-planned/>

### **Martin Gorrick: Thirroul Village Committee**

Martin raised the approach for precincts and "special character areas" in the City Centre and enquired about the strategic approach of listed areas.

Martin extended his thanks to Fiona and Meredith for input and promotion of the Northern Illawarra Walk.

**6:15pm - Councillor Martin left the meeting, previously providing her apology due to a conflicting meeting. David Green also noted that he also had to leave the meeting.**

### **Hilary Powell: Local Studies Library**

Hilary advised of four events the Library will be conducting as part of the 2021 Heritage Festival, including a film screening, book talks and a show & tell event.

The Illawarra Stories Collection now has over 120 fully transcribed/searchable items available.

### 13 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

No written report was prepared for this item.

### 14 HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP MEETING DATES

Council's Heritage staff will circulate a list of proposed meeting dates for consideration and response.

*The Reference Group noted the information.*

### 15 OTHER MATTERS

#### **Electricity Substations**

Fiona enquired regarding the recent removal of the older decorative substation located on the corner of Smith and Corrimal Streets, Wollongong. The Members discussed the loss of similar industrial architecture across the State. It was requested that Council Staff consider an investigation into the height significance of the remaining group of sub-stations within the LGA as a local heritage item.

Council's Heritage staff will forward a copy of the Archival Report of the substation to members for their information.

#### **Bulli Miners Cottage**

Heritage staff advised that the proposal is currently under Council's consideration for funding.

#### **Former Coach House, Flinders Street Wollongong**

Sharralyn raised the current disrepair and poor condition of the Former Coach House Building. Council's Heritage staff provided a brief background and their attempts to engage with the property owner.

Council's Heritage staff advised that a request for Regulation and Enforcement Division and Council's Graffiti Team will be lodged to investigate the current concerns.

Joel Thompson thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 6:37pm.

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Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting (rescheduled for) August 2021.

### ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Who	Status
1	Site visit to the former Corrimal Coke Works be organised for the Reference Group Members.	Heritage Staff	Carried over – on hold due to Covid19
2	Council's Heritage Staff to reschedule meeting on site at Garrawarra with NSW Department of Infrastructure	Heritage Staff	Carried over – on hold due to Covid19
3	Council Staff to put in request to the Regulation and Enforcement Division and Council's Graffiti Team in regards to the former Coach House Building	Council Staff	Submitted request 12 April 2021 CR0058344
4	Circulate copy of Archival Recording for Electricity Substation	Council Staff	Circulated in email on 31 March 2021