

MINUTES

ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP



11.00AM ON TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2020

PRESENT	
Lord Mayor Cr Gordon Bradbery	
Aunty Sharralyn Robinson	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Armando Reviglio – Chair	Scott Morgan – Engagement Officer
Beck Simon – Community Development worker	Kristeen Sandercock – Minutes

PLEASE NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ONLY – NO QUORUM

1 WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Aunty Bev Armer, Leanne Olive, Alison Bradford, Sue Savage. Chair acknowledged with sadness the passing of Cr Vicky King since we last met and acknowledged the contribution made by her to this Group.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – NIL

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2019.

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 5 – Aboriginal Signage Project – Scott advised Aunty Barb Nicholson is working on this project with Aunty Sharralyn.

Item 7 – Botanic Gardens Turns 50 – to date no further information is available regarding the proposed Coffee Table book.

Matters rising from previous Minutes are to be deferred until the next meeting as there is no Quorum.

6 WEST DAPTO REVIEW

Council made decision to divide 3 large suburbs, Kembla Grange, Huntley and Avondale, into 2 suburbs each. Map with proposed boundaries is currently on exhibition for Community input including suggestions for suburb names, with priority for Aboriginal names to be used. Suggestions to be shortlisted by 2 working groups, 1 an Aboriginal working group, then sent to Geographical Names Board. Sheryl Davis, Shelley Moore, KEJ, Wadi Wadi and Wodi Wodi, Coomaditchie and Uncle Richard Davis have been contacted to engage on this project. Thanks to Aunty Shaz for contacting Aunty Barb and asking her to be involved and sharing information with her.

7 LIBRARY LOCAL STUDIES PROPOSAL – ABORIGINAL NAMES

Karen Rowe-Nurse from Wollongong Central Library talked about bringing Indigenous art and culture into the Library space. The Library is a welcoming place for Aboriginal people and Karen is working in collaboration with the Aunties from Coomaditchie to create an Indigenous Local Studies area in the Library around The Five Islands Story (handout attached to Minutes).

- More artwork, appropriate language and a review of Aboriginal collections of work are to be added
- Aboriginal artwork on poles in the Library telling the story of The Five Islands (copy attached to Minutes)

- Changing names of the study rooms to local Aboriginal names for the girls in story (Anglicised names) Mimosa, Wilga, Lilli Pilli, Wattle, Clematis.
- Interpretive signage, Hill 60 and Mount Keira enhances the Library's approach.
- Indigenous collection could also be gathered and collected and digitalised as its own collection. Aunty Shaz to share her collection of photos with the Library.

Reference group member Aunty Shaz expressed her positive response for these names to be used in the Library and she thought it was a wonderful initiative that showed cultural respect and would act as an inclusionary demonstration by the Library that it is a welcoming place for the Aboriginal community.

8 LAKE ILLAWARRA COMMITTEE UPDATE

Attached to the Minutes is the latest update provided by Kristy Blackburn. Points to note:

- 209 Submissions were received
- Small scale dredging to support the functionality of recreational infrastructure, jetties, ramps
- Investigation into feasibility of larger scale dredging, costs and outcomes
- Shellharbour residents are calling for dredging of the Lake
- Illegal dumping of domestic waste is prevalent at the Power Station
- Cost of the CMP has increased from \$37m to \$72M
- Illawarra Land Council is locally involved in repatriation of burials on Windang side of bridge near the dunes
- Lake is moving north; Council has spent money supporting the infrastructure along the edge of the Lake.
- Coastal erosion to be taken into consideration
- Both Councils acknowledge the cultural significance of Lake Windang and have Cultural people who know what's there involved in this project.
- Submissions in Reply report was presented on 26 February 2020. Happy with consultation and submissions received.
- Both Councils will meet next week to review the Submissions in Reply report with final draft to be prepared by 6/7 April 2020. Report to be sent to the State Minister for certification.
- Once certified by State Minister it becomes "final" – expected midway through 2020.
- Our Report is the first in NSW to be submitted to the State Minister.

Kristy announced that she has resigned from her position and her last day at Council will be on 1 April 2020. The Lord Mayor expressed his grateful thanks to Kristy for her input and work on this project. Kristy has done an outstanding job. Armando supported the Lord Mayor's words and expressed thanks to Kristy on behalf of the Aboriginal Reference group for her commitment and inclusivity of Aboriginal Culture and people and wished Kristy all the best for the future as she leaves Council.

9 ABORIGINAL PUBLIC ART PROJECT – WOLLONGONG CBD

Council's Cultural Development team is planning for a major Aboriginal Artwork/s to be placed in the Wollongong CBD area as part of its public art program. Scott Morgan has been meeting with Cultural Development to discuss an Engagement process with the Aboriginal Community for the themes and possible location/s of the Artwork/s and an Aboriginal artist/s to do the work. They need to have local knowledge on how to present artwork, the location of artwork, sketch, design on small scale taken to large scale.

It was noted that Council has developed Aboriginal Artwork before like at the public toilet at Coomaditchie which has mosaic art and Uncle Vic's ceramics displayed at the tree at Figtree.

Scott will update the Group at the next meeting.

10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE

Aboriginal Cemetery Project. Beck, Armando, Aunty Shaz & John Chilby (Council's Operations Manager, Crematorium & Cemeteries) continue to meet about developing the Aboriginal Cemetery designated space at Kembla Grange Memorial Garden. Local Aboriginal Land Council at La Perouse also have an area set aside by Waverly Council. They gave up Land claim, title and deeds for 125 plots valued at \$18,000.00 per plot.

Aunty Shaz put forward that a partnership with Council needs to be formed to address the financial burden placed on the Aboriginal Community when it comes to burying their loved ones and that Council should waive its fees. The Aboriginal Cemetery Working Group will continue to meet to progress how the space can be culturally appropriate when operational and what factors need to be considered for that to occur.

Reconciliation Conference – this has been postponed until October.

Saltwater Festival at Bundaleer – proposed Festival set down on 28 April 2020 will probably be postponed due to Coronavirus.

NAIDOC Week Grants – applications are now open. Please let your contacts know.

Intellectual Property Rights – in relation to the Aboriginal Signage project, Scott has noted this to be addressed in the project.

11 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

It is the Chair's understanding that as a result of a community member's complaint about the choice of who conducted a Welcome to Country recently (that was arranged by the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation – IAC) the IAC board will be discussing the complaint at their board meeting in relation to their Welcome to Country protocol and list of suitable persons.

12 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Beck will be undertaking an evaluation of the Aboriginal Reference Group as to the frequency, structure and type of meetings, membership of the group etc, with a view to suggested changes to increase it being mutually beneficial for the Aboriginal membership of the group who attend and Council to achieve the aims of the Reference Group as listed in its Charter.

13 GENERAL BUSINESS

Reconciliation Walk – 29 May 2020. We are forging ahead with this at present. Currently the proposed route is starting at Bellambi Point and walking to Bellambi Public School. Spread the word among your contacts.

Aboriginal Engagement Framework & Aboriginal Signage Framework – Scott advised this is in draft form, it will be submitted to management for approval and will be referred to the Reference Group. There is a big gap in the way we have worked in the past. The framework outlines Council's responsibilities on what's required, protocols covering all aspects of making it more culturally appropriate as to how Council engages better with our Aboriginal community. Compliments to Scott for working on this project.

14 NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2020

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 11.00am on Wednesday 27 May 2020.

Wednesday 27 May	Level 10 Committee Room 2	11am – 1pm
Wednesday 26 August	Level 10 Committee Room 2	11am – 1pm