

# MINUTES

## ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP



11.00AM ON TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 2020 – ONLINE

PRESENT	
Lord Mayor Cr Gordon Bradbery	
Aunty Sharralyn Robinson – Phone	
Leanne Olive – Level 1 Community Room	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Armando Reviglio (Chair)	Scott Morgan – Level 1 Community Room
Alison Bradford – Community Development & Engagement Manager	Kristeen Sandercock – Minutes

### 1 WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Aunty Bev Armer, Sue Savage

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – NIL

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 MARCH 2020 – LORD MAYOR & AUNTY SHARRALYN

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Signage Project – Scott will update this item in his report later in the meeting.
- Botanical Garden Coffee Table Book – Armando to follow up with the Botanic Gardens

6 RECREATIONAL SPACES FOR DOGS – UPDATE

Off-Leash dog parks policy was last reviewed in 2018. Members asked if there's a list of breeds of dogs not permitted to be off-leash, if so, can we have a copy?

McCauleys Beach still off-leash even though the Aboriginal Community have been requesting for over 20 years for this to be changed due to burial site and cultural significance of the area. Lord Mayor suggested a submission be entered to Council for the next review on this Policy.

7 REVIEW OF ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Due to Covid 19, Council extended all current Reference Groups from August 2020 until August 2021 when a new Expression of Interest process will be undertaken.

Questions to consider – how can we make this group more meaningful for the Aboriginal Community? Suggestions included:

- Improve the EOI process, engagement and assessment for membership
- Yarning Circles – ask questions, encourage the Aboriginal community to be involved
- Elders could be provided with a questionnaire, this can be brought to the Meeting to provide more insight
- More suitable time and place for the meeting to be held, help with transport etc to encourage Community to be involved
- Provide 2 opportunities per year, to sit with Elders and ask questions, inform them about issues, ask for their contributions
- Open Community forum – offer Council staff an opportunity to meet with Elders
- 10 Aboriginal Community members, not representatives from an organisation. Encourage board members to be a community representative.
- Discuss at RAP meetings

All members agreed these were good suggestions.

## 8 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE

Scott spoke about the following items he is working on in this role:

- Enjoying his role and the work and relationships he's been able to build on
- Working on ideas to increase community interest in the Aboriginal Reference Group
- Aboriginal designated space at the at Kembla Grange Cemetery – onsite meeting held last month, concerns around excessive water flow and flooding on the proposed area allocated to the Aboriginal community. Aunty Shaz again expressed concern with the area that's been allocated, this is not the original area chosen a few years ago.
- Onsite meeting with John Chilby (Council's Operations Manager for Crematoriums & Cemeteries) in October to discuss the design and process for this specific space. Suggested consultation with Community regarding the area to include a Cultural presence to the space.

### Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Database

Scott is developing a database for Aboriginal cultural tourism (ie Dance, Art, performance, food etc) suppliers who can provide such services in Wollongong from our local Aboriginal community. This will further develop and promote businesses to the community as well as creating awareness, participation and involvement. A "register your interest" form is available for completion and should be returned by end of September. Artists, Performers, Trainers, Speakers, Cultural information, Food and Catering, the Arts, are examples of business who can register. Once created the database will go to several media platforms and Council's website.

Please note that it is not Council's role to determine who is chosen for events. The database will serve as a point of contact and information only. Following suggestions were made to be included on the website:

- Disclaimer by WCC be included on the Database website
- Due Diligence on Council's behalf as the information in on Council's website
- Suggested item be added against each provider – "is there a cost associated with your business"  Yes  No

Scott to meet with Council database staff to progress the specifics of this project.

**Engagement Framework** – this is in draft form with Council's marketing team. Aboriginal community feedback will be open from September to November and it is anticipated the document will be available by the end of this year.

### Language and Signage

This can be a sensitive issue and we need to get this right for language and the Aboriginal community with respect for the community. Translating to English is the difficulty. Council want to ensure we are culturally appropriate and will work through this with Community in the LGA. There are legislative requirements around language which need to be considered. We are working towards developing a consistent approach across Council as to language and signage used.

A question was raised if we have some understanding of local Aboriginal seasons? No – there is a book by Francis Bodkin but this is not agreed to by our local Aboriginal community as to being correct.

It was suggested the importance is to refer to local Flora, Fauna and Landscape as opposed to the seasons.

### Public Art within CBD

Council is embarking on an Aboriginal Public Art project over the next 2 years. Scott has designed an engagement consultation plan with the Aboriginal community for Council's Cultural Development team (who are overseeing the project) to guide the themes and possible location/s of the artwork, as there may be more than one artwork commissioned. Council want to make sure that the artworks incorporate the stories of our local Aboriginal Community as appropriate to the location of where the artwork or artworks are located.

### Welcome to Country

The Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation (IAC) has developed its own Welcome to Country Protocol for IAC. Scott will follow up to get a copy for next meeting.

## 9 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED AT THE NEXT MEETING

No items suggested – members can email Armando or Scott at any time if they have an item to be discussed.

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

West Dapto Review names. 4 Aboriginal names will be sent to the Geographical Naming Board. Information to be provided at the next meeting.

Library – 5 rooms on Level 1 in the Library were renamed, each representing the 5 Islands. Acknowledgement of Country will be placed in the entrance of the Library. Playgroups at the library are reciting an Acknowledgement of Country for little people at the commencement of their group each week.

Here is the land  
Here is the sky  
Here are my friends  
And here am I.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples  
We acknowledge you today.  
With kindness and friendship,  
Together we learn and play.

Thank you Elders past, present and future  
For letting us all share  
The Dharawal Land that you love,  
We promise to take care.

The Reference group felt this was a very age appropriate Acknowledgement of Country for the children.

11 NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2020 – 11.00AM TO 1.00PM

The meeting concluded at 12.15PM.

---

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 11.00AM on TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2020.

2020 – Future Meeting Schedule		
Tuesday 24 November	Level 10 Committee Room 2 + Virtual	11am – 1pm

### ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
6	Send Dogs off leash Policy to Aunty Sharralyn Robinson	Armando Reviglio	