

MINUTES

ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP

2.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 2018



PRESENT	
Lord Mayor Cr Gordon Bradbery	Aunty Bev Armer
Cr Vicky King	Aunty Sharralyn Robinson
Uncle Richard Archibald	Leanne Olive

IN ATTENDANCE	
Armando Reviglio (Chair)	
Kristeen Sandercock (Minutes)	

- 1 WELCOME – Chair
- 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – Chair
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Nil
- 4 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Sue Savage, Jody Clark, Kristy Blackburn
- 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 AUGUST 2017 – ACCEPTED
- 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
 - 1 'No Fishing' sign at Coomaditchie Lagoon. Fisheries NSW and Department of Primary Industries have been contacted but we are waiting for them to reply. Armando will follow up with them so this matter can be resolved.
 - 2 Tables and Chairs have been removed from the concrete area in front of the Coomaditchie Lagoon. This too will be followed up.
- 7 DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - 7.1 Aboriginal Reference Group Charter – 4 members from the previous Reference Group; Aunty Bev Armer, Uncle Richard Archibald, Aunty Sharralyn Robinson and Leanne Olive elected to remain on the Reference Group. Armando explained that under the new Charter 3 local Aboriginal organisations are to nominate a representative.
Aboriginal Land Council – representative is Alan Ingham
Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service – representative is Kane Ellis
Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation – representative is William Henri
Scott Winch is also a new member as a community representative.
There are 4 names we have for the “reserve” list.
 - 7.2 Tramway Interpretive Signage – Felicity Skoberne & Joel Thompson spoke about the renewal of the sea wall and pathway from the Harbour to North Beach. The sea wall was falling down due to erosion and so the wall has been renewed and the pathway on top of the wall made wider. The decision was made to place Signage which represents the Aboriginal Heritage of the area. Copy of the 'suggested' sign to be placed along the Tramway was handed out and much discussion took place around the use of the words “The Tharawal of Illawarra” relating to the Aboriginal people of the Illawarra.

Members unanimously disagreed with the words 'The Tharawal of the Illawarra' as not a true representation of the Indigenous tribes of the Illawarra and questioned who had come with that name. Felicity advised the Consultant archaeologist had researched the language for this area and to their knowledge this was correct. Uncle Richard advised that local knowledge had been written in a log by Uncle Dickie Henry which details photos and middens information and he requested the Consultant research this log/work book so that the correct information is sourced and used in the signage. The Reference Library would have the history and information needed. 22,000 years is not a correct period of time and suggestion was made that the words "since dreamtime" or "tens of thousands of years ago" be used.

A unanimous decision by the Reference Group was presented to Joel and Felicity, requesting the words be changed to "Country Dharawal People" and this acknowledges the Wadi, Wadi, Korewal Elouera Jerrungarugh, Wodi Wodi and other Traditional Custodians. It was agreed that Aunty Sharralyn Robinson would work together with Joel and Felicity on the statement for the signage and that Aboriginal Language is to be used underneath the photos of shells, fish species etc. instead of English. There should be a good representation of the rock shelf species detailed. Timeline is short as the Tramway is due to be opened in May 2018. Further signage around the LGA is being sought.

Joel also advised State Government is reviewing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Legislation and is being reviewed. Draft legislation is now out and the system proposed shifts away from "objects" to significant cultural and archaeological evidence. The Office of Environment & Heritage open day will be held in Nowra on 28 March 2018 (Joel will send out the links to the open day information).

Wollongong City Council is preparing a submission based around previous information used locally – if anyone would like more information Joel he is happy to speak with you.

- 7.3 Lake Illawarra Committee Update – Kristy Blackburn was unable to attend the meeting but prepared a handout detailing the updates as at March 2018 (attached to Minutes). Armando advised that Paul Knight is now being nominated a representative on this Committee as the Illawarra Aboriginal Lands Council representative. The Reference Group nominated Aunty Sharralyn Robinson as the representative from the Wollongong Aboriginal Reference Group.
- 7.4. Bulli Miners Entry Sign – This item has been deferred to the next Meeting to be held in May 2018.
- 7.5 Councillor Mithra Cox request to attend this Reference Group Meeting – the Charter states that a person who is not a Reference Group Member can request to attend a Meeting and the request needs to be brought before the meeting to seek approval. The Reference Group members agreed to this request.
- 7.6 Wollongong Reconciliation Symposium (extra item added to Agenda) – Tracy Kirk-Downey is bringing together a Reconciliation Conference to enable pre-schools to put in place a meaningful "Reconciliation Action Plan". Templates are available and Armando and Jody will be looking at these. It was felt this symposium was needed in the local LGA to enable pre-schools, early childhood services etc. to be inclusive of Aboriginal children and their families as well as promoting reconciliation awareness.

8 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE

- 1 Kiama Council will be hosting the Regional NAIDOC awards Dinner which will be held at The Pavilion on the 28 July.
- 2 Reconciliation Week – Council is in discussion with IPAC to use the Town Hall for "Telling Stories" similar to last year.
- 3 Aboriginal Cultural Tourism – we are putting together an information leaflet detailing Aboriginal people or organisations locally who provide performance/entertainment, food and art. They will also be given to Destination Wollongong who coordinates the Volunteers and the information given to passengers when the Cruise Ships come in to Port Kembla.

Cr King left the meeting.

9 WELCOME TO COUNTRY LIST UPDATE AND PROPOSED GUIDELINES

More names are to be added to this list. Uncle Richard's name to be considered at the next meeting when more reference members are present to discuss. Item deferred to next meeting.

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 1 Reconciliation Walk at Bellambi. Uncle Richard requested financial help as they receive no funding of help from the Government. This event is very well attended by the community each year and extra funds would help immensely. A suggestion was to apply for the “Good Neighbourhood Community Scheme” grants currently on offer through the Community Development branch of Council. Armando to look at his areas budget to see if it can partner with him to provide financial assistance as part of Reconciliation Week activities for this valuable community reconciliation project .
- 2 NAIDOC Week Grant applications will be presented at the next Meeting in May 2018.

The meeting concluded at 3.30pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 23 May 2018.

2018 – Future Meeting Schedule		
Wednesday 23 May	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	2pm – 4pm
Wednesday 22 August	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	2pm – 4pm
Wednesday 28 November	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	2pm – 4pm

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
7.4	Bulli Miners Entry Sign	Jody Clark	Follow up for next meeting