

MINUTES

ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP

2.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2014



PRESENT	
Aunty Bev Armer	Uncle Richard Archibald
Lord Mayor Cr Gordon Bradbery	Cr Jill Merrin
Leanne Olive	Jade Kennedy
Renée Regal – Niche Environment and Heritage	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Armando Reviglio – Chair	Sue Savage – Community & Cultural Development Manager
Jody Clark – Aboriginal Community Worker	Kristeen Sandercock – Minutes

1 WELCOME

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – Chair Armando Reviglio

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Nil

4 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Uncle Reuben Brown, Sharralyn Robinson, Tanya Buchanan

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2014 – MINUTES ACCEPTED

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- I. Bi-Centenary Update – on Agenda to discuss later
- II. Free Bus – Contact number has been passed on to Leanne – she has had no response as yet. Suggestion was made to write a letter to Minister of Transport.
- III. New Member – on Agenda to discuss later

7 PUBLIC SPACES PUBLIC LIFE PROJECT

It has been decided to defer this Agenda item until the next meeting in February 2015 when more information will be available.

8 HILL 60 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Renée Regal from Niche Consultants provided an update on the Management Plan consultation to date. Aunty Murial Davis and Uncle Jim Davis did a plan in 2000 which the Consultants have seen and they have been speaking to Derek Hardman the new CEO at the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council who will bring some information together. They have also spoken with James Davis (grandson of Murial Davis). Renee has made attempts to meet with Uncle Reuben Brown but as yet have not been able to do so, she will continue to seek his input.

Purpose of the Management Plan is to ask what types of activities people would like to see happen to Hill 60, as well as listing the Culture and Heritage of the area.

The Group asked that the following points be carried out:

- I. Cultural recognition needs to be done before Stakeholder consultation
- II. A review of Aunty Muriel and Uncle Jim Davis recommendations in the 2000 Plan should be done
- III. Copy of 2000 Plan to be sent to all Aboriginal Reference Group Members
- IV. Visit to the Site

The Group recommended nothing more to happen until more consultation has been carried out as mentioned above.

A briefing and Executive summary is to be prepared and presented at the next meeting of the Reference Group in February 2015.

9 ABORIGINAL ART EVENTS

John Monteleone spoke about the Indigenous Art Events to be held at the Wollongong Art Gallery in 2015 as listed below:

Murrumul	January to February
Spring Theory	June to August
Richard Bell	October to November
Shimmer	December 2015 to March 2016 (Funding is being sought for this show)

The Wollongong Indigenous Arts Festival will be held in June/July. A week-long festival will be held to promote Indigenous Art and Culture across all mediums strengthening the work of people in the Community. Art Practitioners of all sorts will participate to celebrate local Aboriginal Art and Culture. It is intended to have Talks, Seminars, Indigenous writer's resident project, Book launch, Black Wallaby Indigenous Writers night. Local and South Coast Artists only will have the opportunity to compete for prizes worth \$30,000.00 with the main prize being \$5,000.00.

An Indigenous Curator is required to run the Arts Festival and will be paid for their services. John asked the Reference Group if they have any suggestions for suitable people for this role and if so that they can be given to Jody so she can pass on to John.

Aunty Bev thanked John for his work with the Wollongong Indigenous Women's Exhibition which all went to plan and was a big success.

10 ILLAWARRA 200 UPDATE

Jody met with the Indigenous community in regard to the Logo and input has been passed on to the Bicentenary (Illawarra 200) Committee. Footprints (white dots) were added along the escarpment outline to look like a track and the look of the Flame tree flowers has been changed to look less like the Southern Cross stars.

Aunty Bev has stepped down from the Committee and Sharralyn Robinson is now the Aboriginal Community representative as put forward by this Reference Group. It has been suggested that a focus group of about 5 to 6 people come together for informal conversation and to talk about any issues relating to this project.

The Bicentenary is not likely to be a time of celebration by the majority of the Aboriginal Community given the negative significance of what it means for Aboriginal people. The Lord Mayor reminded the Reference Group the Bicentenary it is not a Celebration but rather 2015 will be a focus on who was here first and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in our local area.

It was acknowledged that the Aboriginal people have been here a lot longer than 200 years and Aboriginal Heritage should be shown and acknowledged.

The Reference Group supported the idea of a Focus Group and recommended the following names for consideration:

Barbara Brennan	Aunty Lorraine Brown	Aunty Narelle Brown
Uncle Gerald Brown	Darrell Brown	Richard Campbell
Uncle Vic Chapman	Kathie Clapham	Aunty Rhonda Cruse
Aunty Muriel Davis	Richard Davis	Jody Edwards
Basillia Gaw	Derek Hardman	Steven Henri
June Lowe	Tina McGee	

Jody will choose 5 to 6 people from this list and try to hold the focus group meeting before the end of December 2014.

May 2015 will see the launch of Illawarra 200 which will coincide with Reconciliation Week. It is planned to have a "flash mob" in the Wollongong Mall of around 20 Aboriginal people incorporating the broader community to participate in the event. An Elders lunch is also planned for NAIDOC Week 2015 to be held at the Botanic Gardens which the Lord Mayor will attend.

11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE

Does any Reference Group member know who Harry Baggott is? Council has a park at Coomaditchie named after him? No members could answer who he was, Jody will make contact with Joel Thompson (Heritage Officer for WCC) to see what information he can offer.

The playground at Harry Baggott Park is next on the list for maintenance work to be carried out. \$60,000.00 is available and a consultation will be held on Monday 1 December 2014 at the Park. Parents will be asked to come and give feedback and children will be asked what type of play activities they would like to do. No fences will be erected as it gives a false sense of security. Suggestion was made to move the park from its current location to in front of the tennis courts where it is reasonably flat, however, this area is also used as an alternate driveway. It is probable the relocation will put a large strain on the budget and may not be feasible.

The Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council and Eddie De Gabriel are scoping if the back area of land near Coomaditchie (owned by the Land Council) can be utilised for footy fields. It would be a good idea if it became a home ground for Indigenous sporting teams.

A question was raised if the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council is receiving payments from the Portuguese Club to use the park for football near Primbee? It appears that Aboriginal Community does not have access to it until the lease runs out and it is unclear when that date is? Jody will follow up with Derek Hardman.

A Graffiti Removal Day was held at Coomaditchie on the 26 October 2014. A suggestion was made that a graffiti prevention mural be created on the walls to alleviate the graffiti problem, as this property is owned by the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council it is something they may want to consider doing. The Community should have input on these matters.

12 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

A request has been made to add Uncle Richard and Aunty Joyce Donovan to the "Welcome to Country" list – decision was made to roll this over to the next meeting when more Reference Group Members are in attendance.

13 GENERAL BUSINESS

1. An Expression of Interest for Membership to the Aboriginal Reference Group has been advertised for a 6 week period – closes on the 1 December 2014. Information about the EOI was also sent to the Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group to pass on this information. We will advise of applications and who will be accepted onto the Aboriginal Reference Group at the next Aboriginal Reference Group meeting to be held in February 2015.

Kathy Clapham has had to tender her resignation from the Reference Group due to other commitments. Armando thanked Kathy for her input whilst a member of the Aboriginal Reference Group.

Uncle Reuben Brown has missed a number of Meetings. It was agreed to send a letter to him asking does he wish to still attend future Aboriginal Reference Group Meetings.

2. Uncle Richard mentioned that the trees in Chounding Crescent Bellambi have been poisoned and branches have died. He is concerned that someone will be injured by the falling branches while walking in the street. Can Council trim or remove the trees so people are not hurt.
3. What is the Fire Management Policy for our LGA – trimming of trees and scrub to prevent bushfires.
4. Wild Rumpus – Social change 101. This is a business idea which will be monitored.

14 NEXT MEETING & CLOSE

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 February 2015. Armando thanked Members for their efforts this year and offered Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year.

The meeting concluded at 3.50pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 25 February 2015.

2015 – Future Meeting Schedule		
Wednesday 25 February	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	2pm – 4pm
Wednesday 27 May	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	2pm – 4pm
Wednesday 26 August	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	2pm – 4pm
Wednesday 25 November	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	2pm – 4pm

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
8	Executive summary of the 2000 Plan for Hill 60 to be presented at the next aboriginal Reference Group in February 2015.	Jody Clark Laruen Ackerly	In progress
Closed Actions			
12	Expression of Interest for new Member to be advertised	Jody Clark	Completed
12	Wollongong Free Bus – who is responsible for its management?	Armando Reviglio	Completed