

MINUTES

WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2020



PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

David Green – Land Use Planning Manager WCC	Carly Boag – Heritage Officer WCC
Joel Thompson – Coordinator Heritage WCC	Chris Stewart – City Strategy Manager
Martha Tyndall – Community Land Management Officer WCC	Jenny McConchie – Local Studies Librarian

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

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Lorraine Neate.

INTRODUCTION

Councillor Martin requested that all present adhere to the Skype Meeting ground rules.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 October 2020

The Reference Group resolved that *the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28 October 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record subject to some minor amendments.*

Moved by Fiona Reynolds and seconded by Meredith Hutton.

6 MT KEMBLA HISTORY AND HERITAGE

A video prepared by Georgina Element was circulated to the Membership prior to the meeting.

Georgina gave an overview of the challenges facing the Mt Kembla Community and the ongoing conservation of the Kembla Heights Conservation Area.

The membership discussed the roles of the major landowners and land managers in the area including Sydney Water, National Parks, South 32 and Wollongong City Council.

It was noted that the National Trust has a scheduled meeting with NSW Heritage, and the status of the 2011 Kembla Heights state heritage nomination will be put on the agenda for discussion.

The Reference Group moved to form sub-committee to explore ways of supporting heritage conservation in Mt Kembla. The sub-committee consists of the following members:

- *Georgina Element;*
- *Meredith Hutton*
- *Ann Martin*

Moved by Cr Martin and seconded by Meredith Hutton.

7 CITY CENTRE

Council's Heritage Staff gave an update on the progress of the City Centre Planning Review including recent Council resolution.

The Reference Group noted the information.

8 CHANGES TO STATE HERITAGE EXEMPTION PROCEDURES

Council's Heritage Staff gave an update on the new NSW Heritage Standard Exemption procedures that come into force from the 2 December 2020.

The Reference Group noted the information.

9 HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2021

The membership discussed opportunities for the 2021 Heritage Festival, following the cancellation of the 2020 events due to the Covid-19 global pandemic.

The Membership are encouraged to liaise with their communities and forward any ideas to Council's Heritage Staff for investigation.

The following ideas were suggested for consideration:

- Walking tour of Kembla Heights and Mt Kembla, with open homes and local guides;
- Recital using the organ at the Wollongong Town Hall;
- Walking on Aboriginal Country opportunities led by the local Aboriginal Community.

The Reference Group noted the information.

Cr Martin left the meeting due to prior commitments and David Green chaired the meeting for the remainder of the Agenda items.

10 FUTURE MEETING DATES 2021

The membership discussed potential meeting dates for 2021.

It was noted that Wednesdays are problematic for Lorraine Neate.

Members were requested to provide their availabilities for the suggested 2021 dates.

The Reference Group noted the information.

11 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUP

Sharrlyn Robinson: Illawarra Aboriginal Land Council

Raised ongoing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage concerns regarding the Corrimal Coke Works Planning Proposal.

Fiona Reynolds: Illawarra/Shoalhaven Branch National Trust

Fiona noted that herself and Meredith Hutton are sitting on the West Dapto Suburb Naming Committee and will continue to provide input into the process.

Raised ongoing concerns regarding the Corrimal Coke Works Planning Proposal.

Georgina Element: Kembla Jottings

Georgina raised the possible decommissioning of the Powerhouse 1 Building at the Port Kembla Steel Works and requested an update on the heritage status of the building under the Three Ports SEPP.

Council Staff were requested to follow up on the Status of the Powerhouse 1 Building.

Meredith Hutton: NSW National Trust

Meredith advised that the National Trust Properties that had been closed during COVID-19 due to social distancing requirements and restrictions are now being opened.

Meredith also noted that the National Trust awards are now available to be viewed online, including the acceptance speech for Resin Brewery.

John Shipp: Illawarra Museum

John advised that the museum will reopen on the 9th of January.

Jenny McConchie: Local Studies Library

Jenny gave an updated on behalf of the Local Studies Library and Friends of the Library. The Local History Prize was presented in October after a strong amount of entries for 2020. The Prize will continue to operate in 2021 with the focus for this year being on primary school age children.

The Local Studies Section has also been digitising the Industrial Archaeology research collection of the late Brian Rodgers, which was kindly gifted to the Library.

12 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

Council staff provided a brief overview of the information contained within the Heritage Staff report. The membership discussed the following items:

10.1 Resin Brewery National Trust Award

The update provided in the business paper was noted.

10.2 Blue Mile Tour Update

The update provided in the business paper was noted.

The membership extended their thanks to Stuart Barnes from Destination Wollongong for his continuing in the development of the Tours as a positive cultural heritage tourism opportunity.

10.3 “Seacroft House” – Restoration Australia

The update provided in the business paper was noted.

The Reference Group received and noted the information.

11 OTHER MATTERS

Views to the Escarpment – The membership discussed the importance of strong controls to protect significant views to the Illawarra Escarpment. It was noted that as part of the Corrimal Coke Works Planning Proposal process, key views will continue to be considered.

Succession Plantings – The membership discussed the need for succession plantings for significant avenues of plantings in the city and along the foreshore. Council’s Heritage Staff noted that particularly along the foreshore plans were in place to reinforce and replace plantings of Norfolk Pines.

David Green thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.03 pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting in February 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 check status of Powerhouse 1 Building at Port Kembla Steel Works	Council Staff	No new information has been obtained
4	Council Staff to follow up on State Heritage Nomination of Kembla Heights Village	Council Staff	Completed – Joel chased up with Heritage NSW in email of March 2020 and again in March 2021 – no response received to date.