

# MINUTES

## ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP



2.00PM ON WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2016

PRESENT	
Cr Gordon Bradbury	Uncle Richard Archibald
Aunty Bev Armer	Jade Kennedy
Leanne Olive	Sharralyn Robinson
Kristy Blackburn	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Armando Reviglio – Chair	Jody Clark – Community Worker
Claire Knight – Minutes	

- 1 WELCOME – Chair.
- 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – Chair.
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Nil.
- 4 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cr Jill Merrin and Sue Savage.
- 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2016 – Confirmed.

### 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Regional Steering Committee for the NAIDOC Awards Dinner has asked all the Councils Reference Groups for feedback on whether they support having posthumous awards. Aunty Bev and Leanne would like to see that happen but will defer the final decision to the Regional Steering Committee.

Correction to the Minutes that under item 9 it is noted that Uncle Dick Henry has been passed away for some time and his name should not be listed to be contacted. The correct names for the following groups are Wadi Coomaditchie Aboriginal Corporation and Wodi Wodi Elders Corporation.

### 7 LAKE ILLAWARRA UPDATE

Kristy Blackburn introduced herself. She is an Environmental Strategy Officer for Wollongong City Council. The Lake Illawarra Authority (LAA) was disbanded in 2014 by the State Government who handed over management to Wollongong and Shellharbour City Councils through the establishment of the Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee (LIEMC) comprised of 20 people. The LIEMC includes elected officials from Councils, State Government agency representatives and independent scientific advisors as well as community and Aboriginal representatives to oversee the development of Estuary management.

Aboriginal input into the plan is needed and Kristy has been in discussions with Jody Clark and Shellharbour City Council (SCC) requesting input from the Aboriginal Community as to the Lake's cultural value, use, future needs, existing and potential pressures and threats and any other information or ideas that can be exchanged to assist with the management plan. They are looking at the entire lake, not just the foreshore, which includes water pollution issues.

Uncle Richard asked out of 20 people, how many were Aboriginal representatives and it was established one (Blaine Henry), which the Reference Group felt was not enough as one representative can't know the entire needs of any area that size. Kristy said she could not change committee numbers but could consult regularly with the Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG). In addition, Jody suggested the wealth of views and advice garnered by a separate committee of Aboriginal people could then be fed back into the Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee as an information exchange. Jody's suggestion for another consultation group of Aboriginal people was supported by the Reference Group members. Cr Bradbury suggested that the LIEMC could also come to the ARG to consult a couple of times a year. Aunty Bev said LIEMC's Aboriginal representative should also consult the Elders and the ARG, all of which was agreeable to Kristy.

Uncle Richard mentioned that Blaine's parents were heavily involved with the Lake's history and would have plans outlining points of significance. Sharralyn agreed that there were existing plans with Land Council which map out the location of significant cultural sites that need to be preserved. Kristy then asked the ARG members if they would like to join the LIEMC's mailing list and the sheet was handed around and filled in by those interested.

## 8 BALD HILL UPDATE

Felicity Skoberne presented an update of the Bald Hill Art Project and advised that Project 3 – Lower Car Park Plaza Pavement was put out for Expression of Interest (EOI) to complete the art works however there was no EOI submitted from any local Aboriginal Community artists.

Chris Edwards, who was the successful EOI applicant for Project 1, is an Aboriginal artist/designer from outside the LGA. He has spoken to Aunty Lorraine and Uncle Richard about the concepts of the proposed art works. They have given input and both are happy for him to proceed with those works. A question was asked about whether Council's EOI invitation process could be designed better so as not to miss any local artists ie: like Uncle Vic. It was explained that as the EOI deadlines had passed, and Chris was the only submission we received, just a small "tweaking" of his design was possible now. It was mentioned that Chris was very amendable to feedback and collaboration and very willing to work together with our local Aboriginal Community. Jade conveyed his regret that it wouldn't be a piece from a local Aboriginal artist and Cr Bradbury said there should be a pre-existing portfolio of local Aboriginal artists and artwork to draw upon when these opportunities arose for the local Aboriginal art community.

Felicity mentioned our governance rules do not allow Council to source specific artists and that transparency required the process to involve open Expression of Interest. It was strongly encouraged that a portfolio of local artists contact details and works be established for the next opportunity. Jody thought that maybe there were no local EOI applicants because the location did not have specific Aboriginal culture significance to the Traditional Custodians of the area.

## 9 NAIDOC WEEK SMALL GRANTS

The Reference Group members supported the suggested recommended amounts as contained in the attached table.

## 10 MT KEIRA SUMMIT PARK COMMUNITY VISION

Renee Campbell outlined that Council has commissioned a leading tourism and recreation consulting company, TRC Tourism, to work with the community to develop a vision for Mt Keira Summit Park. They have consulted a variety of stakeholders including Aboriginal groups, etc and the draft Vision is now on exhibition to the public for feedback. The draft Vision outlines the Planning Principles, Objectives, Key Elements, and Opportunities, Design Considerations and Implementation ideas and concepts. A proposed spatial network of interpretive signs on tracks and trails in the State Conservation Area would be strengthened by the use of Aboriginal language to identify key landscape features and the consistent use of Aboriginal interpretation across the park would reflect the Aboriginal Community's values of the park and links to the Illawarra Escarpment. Jade queried whether the education element should be the work of Council. Renee said it would be shared by stakeholders.

Jade expressed concern that profit would come at the cost of conservation and enquired about geotechnical stability testing for the areas included in the Vision and requested Council open an avenue for people to express their concerns, bearing in mind that those with the knowledge aren't academic enough to write formal submissions. Jody suggested capturing concerns via an oral recording would be an efficient way to get mass feedback from such a knowledge base. Jade pointed out that those who are constantly sought out for such knowledge should be paid as consultants just like any other consultant on the project.

**Action:** Sharralyn asked if the Draft Visioning document could please be emailed to both her home and work email addresses.

Jade said the requests for feedback and knowledge about the Vision still results in Council dictating to him how to interact with the site. His feedback and suggestions are:

- The summit is sacred and fragile and shouldn't be subject to high volumes of traffic or commercial development.
- Instead of building a café/restaurant, drive a coffee van up there to keep the delicate summit being overdeveloped unnecessarily.
- Aboriginal Community and Elders when consulted should be paid for their consultations as they are imparting cultural knowledge specific to that site not an opinion.

Jody suggested a way to avoid confusion when conducting community consultations is to make it clear whether the consultant scope is about is about 'paid work' ie "site work'.

## 11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE

- Jody has been attending the Regional NAIDOC Awards Dinner Steering Committee.
- Jody has circulated the flyers for Reconciliation Week Shared Stories event on 3 June 2016. Jade queried where the image of the young person on the flyer came from as he recognised the person, it was confirmed that the image had gained the appropriate approval to be used. To date 680 tickets for the 10.30am show were already sold.
- The Family Fun Day run by Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation will be held on Friday 8 July 2016.
- The Lord Mayors Elders NAIDOC luncheon will be held on 29 June 2016 at the Towri Building in the Botanic Garden. Attendance is by invitation.
- Tyla Walker-Hockey the Elise Dixon trainee has been of wonderful assistance to Jody in preparation for Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week activities. She is a very keen learner and has brought some good ideas as well.
- Jody has followed up that Elders do have input into what the Illawarra 200 Southern Stars production shows contain.

- The designated Aboriginal space at Kembla Grange Cemetery is progressing and during June/July (weather permitting) a new road should be completed which will allow access for an onsite meeting of the working group to further progress this work.

## 12 GENERAL BUSINESS

Sharralyn suggested if there are posthumous awards given out at the NAIDOC Awards Dinner that a memorabilia tent for deceased families with a warning sign is placed there.

Jade wanted membership of the ARG revised due to continual no-shows without apologies and as the other members agreed, Geoff Mayer has advised that he will stand down if another nominee wants to attend and Derek Hardman has advised he has resigned from the ARG. As per our charter membership EOI for the whole Reference Group would have been called for in August 2016 but in light of the impending decision as to Council merging or not that may or may not occur.

**Action:** Sharralyn mentioned that the Blue Dreaming Public Art work needs maintenance follow up.

## 13 NEXT MEETING

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 24 August 2016.

## 14 CLOSE

The meeting concluded at 4.05pm.

2016 – Future Meeting Schedule		
Wednesday 24 August 2016	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	2pm – 4pm

## ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
1/16	Maintenance follow up for Blue Dreaming Public art work	Armando	
2/16	Draft Visioning document to be emailed to both Sharralyn's home and work email addresses	Claire	Sent with these minutes.

## NAIDOC Small Grants 2016

Organisation	Event	Date	Amount Requested	Suggested	Recommended
Careways Community Inc.	Break the ICE Indigenous Cultural Exchange. Community day at Koonawarra Community Centre catering lunch. Approx 150 people.	6/7/16	\$3,500	\$1,000	\$1,000
Illawarra Aboriginal Corporations (IAC)	Annual NAIDOC Family Fun Day. Rides, stalls, arts, craft and entertainment. Approx. 2000 people.	8/7/16	\$6,000	\$3,010	\$3,010
Illawarra Koori Men's Group	Annual NAIDOC Family and Community Bowls Day. Approx 120 people.	7/7/16	\$990	\$990	\$990
Keiraview Children's Centre	NAIDOC Week excursion to the UOW Discovery Centre. Approx 26 people.	7/7/16	\$600	\$0.00 (Deemed a school type of event therefore ineligible as per Financial Assistance Policy. Schools not eligible to apply)	Agreed
Noogaleek Children's Centre	Family activity session with music, drama and cultural stories whilst walking through a new garden.	5/7/16	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$1000
<b>Total requested</b>			<b>\$12,590</b>		
<b>Total available</b>					<b>\$6,000</b>

The above recommendations were made at Council's Aboriginal Reference Group meeting on 25 May 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 David Farmer  
 General Manager  
 Wollongong City Council

Date \_\_\_\_\_