

MINUTES

ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP

11.00AM ON TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2021



PRESENT	
Aunt Shas Robinson	Michelle Moore
Aunt Bev Armer	
Leanne Olive	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Armando Reviglio – Chair	Paul Kaiserfeld
Scott Morgan	Tom McColl
Dale Wright	Kristeen Sandercock (Minutes)

- 1 WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – Chair
- 2 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Alison Bradford,
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Nil
- 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 AUGUST 2021 – LEANNE OLIVE
- 5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
Nil
- 6 VOLUNTEERING ILLAWARRA – ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Volunteering Illawarra is a branch of the Library & Community Services Division in Council. Coordinator, Paul Kaiserfeld, spoke to the Reference Group and provided updates about the community groups they work with and the services on offer to support the community's work.

- Federal Government have identified costs of Volunteer Services and are putting together packages to help with implementing or the start-up of Volunteer services where there are none in place currently. They are identifying the needs, what areas are lacking services, and looking at the implementation of online services.
- On a State and National level, there are 3 Community Groups they want to focus their priorities:
 - 1 Disability Groups
 - 2 Refugees
 - 3 Aboriginal Communities
- Paul will meet with anyone who's interested in providing information on the needs of local Aboriginal people in our area, or if you have any questions or would like more information about the proposed packages you can contact Paul. 4227 7772 or email pkaiserfeld@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
- Michelle Moore and Aunt Shas will pass on to their networks, Lorraine at Coomie, Elders Groups, Cheryl Davis need to be contacted as they work closely with the Aboriginal Community.
- Concerns that if the service is online only, there is a potential for massive gaps in the community.
- Scott will provide Paul with a list of all Aboriginal Groups.

7 SHELLHABOUR HOSPITAL UPDATE – ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Chris Colmer from ISLHD along with his team, presented a Power Point presentation showing the projected plan for the new Shellharbour Hospital to be built at Dunmore Road, Dunmore. This will be a 5 year process and include a Design with Country and a Clinical Services plan. Ophthalmology, Hips, Knees, Elective surgery, Mental Health and Recovery oriented facilities are some of the services to be provided at the new hospital for all residents of the Illawarra.

A Design Jam will be held on Tuesday 7 December from 10.30am – 12.00pm and 1.00pm – 2.30pm. As milestones are reached more events will be held. Names of people interested in attending the workshops will be sent to ISLH.

8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Current Community Engagement projects include:

- Hill 60 Master Plan – currently with Heritage NSW – Office of Heritage. Main aspects are the car park and trails. Michelle Moore will give Tome some contacts for his to follow up. A temporary fence has been erected so the 1st Artwork can be installed, there are 7 – 8 artworks overall.
- Fisherman's Beach – access is being repaired along with the boat ramp. Interpretive signage is to be installed and Tom is seeking feedback on stories and traditional uses of the Beach. Preference for Local artists to create the signage was noted.
- Mullet Creek – this area is undergoing an upgrade including the park, new plants, footpaths and road access. Interpretive signage with artwork is to be included and Dale would like feedback on what the area was specifically used for by Community back in the day, cultural knowledge etc. Dale will sit and talk with Community members individually to gain knowledge on this area.
- Stuart Park – Draft Master Plan is being put together. Seeking knowledge on the significance of the area for Aboriginal people. Members can contact Armando to provide more information.

9 NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR MT KEIRA & THE FIVE ISLANDS TO BE INVESTIGATED FOR DECLARATION AS AN ABORIGINAL PLACE UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974

Heritage NSW sent a notice. Joel Thompson, Council Heritage Officer, gathering a team together to look at the request and provide a reply on behalf of Wollongong City Council.

10 RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN UPDATE

This document has been fully endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and is a living document. The team did a great job, makes us more accountable, there is strength in the document and Council are highly invested in this Plan.

11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE

Kembla Grange Cemetery

- Design happening now. Workshop held in early November for ideas on layout and presentation.
- Teams excited to see what it looks like
- Online workshop to be held on 26 November and invitations have been sent out to attend
- An onsite visit is being arranged for Thursday 16 December 2021.

Stuart Park

- Proposed work will further impact on Aboriginal culture. Dale and Scott to visit the site and check on the excavation work.
- Aboriginal Land Council have insurance to cover people in attendance at the worksite.

2022 NAIDOC Awards Dinner

- The regional Awards Dinner is to be hosted by Wollongong City Council this year.
- Armando, Scott and Council's events team will organise the event. The team is looking for a venue with a large area so the attendance at the event is not limiting.

UCI Cycling Event – 2022

- The launch for this event is Friday 10 December 2021.
- This event will be broadcast globally, our Region will be on display for the world to see.
- Aboriginal community members will be involved with this event, Artwork etc.

Mount Keira

- Declaration of Aboriginal Place
- Licensee commitments and reference to other groups
- Mountain Biking removed from Mt Keira and Mt Kembla escarpments
- National Parks manage Mt Keira and have closed some trails recently
- There will be formalised trails between both Mountains.
- The Reference Group members do not want any trails anywhere on the mountain, disagree with formal trails

Towradgi Beach

- Beach precinct has been fenced off – shell midden has been found about 12 meters from the beach

Wollongong Art Gallery

- Repatriation of a Star/Shell Collection of artefacts was found by a community member, Council was contacted, and the collection was taken to the Art Gallery.
- Stone Tool collection has also been donated.
- Cultural protocol on what to do with both these donations is to be follow up.

NAIDOC Week Events

- Due to Covid 19 restrictions, many of the proposed NAIDOC week events did not go ahead in 2021. It is proposed that they be held in early 2022 if conditions have eased.

12 **USE OF ABORIGINAL FLAG IMAGE ON ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Aunty Shas and Michelle Moore agreed that both flags to be used

13 **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Figtree Birthing Tree – Heritage NSW

- Michelle has had discussions with Cheryl Davis.
- Elders don't believe it was a birthing tree. Mt Keira is the birthing tree
- Aunty Shas, Scott to talk with Cheryl Davis
- This is a huge issue as the tree was grafted and definitely the birthing tree.
- Scott to ask Cheryl to contact Auntie's Association requesting they put something in place showing information on how, why, when etc.
- A collective response to be formulated and presented formally to Council and to Heritage NSW.

14 **NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2022**

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 11.00am on Tuesday 22 February 2022.

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
	Request to remove existing art works	Carly Pascoe Aunty Shas	In progress