

MINUTES

ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP

9.30AM ON WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2023



PRESENT	
Aunty Shelly Moore	Errolyn Strang
Aunty Shas Robinson	
Brendan Newtown	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Armando Reviglio - Chair	Trudy Costa – Lake Illawarra Management
Carla Yamine – City Centre Place maker	Jacinda Morando – Admin
Mark Rees – Community Transport Aboriginal Officer	Kristeen Sandercock – Minutes
Sam Crosby – Cultural Services Coordinator	

- 1 WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – Chair
- 2 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of LM Cr Gordon Bradbery, Cr Cath Blakey, Brad Anderson, Leanne Olive, Kathleen Cambourn, Dale Wright, Adam Towney, Ali Bradford
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – NIL
- 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 APRIL 2023 – AUNTY SHELLY MOORE
- 5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee
 - No new members have been recruited as yet
 - Both Shellharbour City Council and Wollongong City Council are asked to nominate 2 members each (one female and one male) from their LGAs
 - One workshop has been held recently – no representatives from Shellharbour City Council and Wollongong City Council were present
 - Policy states re-election of Aboriginal Community members takes place every 12 months
 - Aunty Shas has been a past member of the Committee, she enjoyed her term and hopes more representatives can be found for the committee
 - Importance of Aboriginal Community to be involved, to keep the committee on track, to involve the Aboriginal community for input and ideas using their cultural knowledgeBeaton Park Swim School Mascot name 'DjamaLang' – follow up continues (Dale)
- 6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE
This item has been deferred to the next meeting.
- 7 ABORIGINAL OUTREACH – COMMUNITY TRANSPORT
Mark Rees presented the various options available to the Aboriginal Community through Council's Community Transport area. The program is funded by the Federal Government under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) which assists people to live independently in their home. The NSW Government also provides funding under their Community Transport program. Transport can be provided for:

- Looking after Elders in the community
- Doctors' appointments
- Shopping
- Attending Funerals
- Hairdresser
- Lunch outings
- Catch up or Yarning Circle
- Petrol vouchers for Sorry business

At present a large part of the community are not accessing the service, but we are broadening the scope for them to be able to subject to funding. Residents need to be over 50 years of age and can apply through Community Transport and My Aged Care. Guidelines state we cannot provide transport for people registered under NDIS package or other Home Care Packages, however most people in the community are eligible to receive help with transport through Community Transport.

Taxi eTickets give residents an additional, flexible and convenient transport option including weekends and evenings. For a nominal fee of \$30 Community Transport will provide \$150 worth of eTickets. Only one eTicket can be used per taxi trip and any difference can be paid by cash or card. No change can be given on eTickets. If eligible you can apply for additional eTickets every 3 months.

Community Transport will be supporting NAIDOC week events as much as possible.

8 CULTURAL MIX UPDATE – SAM CROSBY AND CARLA YAMINE

At the last meeting Vimala Colless spoke about the city-wide Multicultural Festival to be held in October. The name for this event has been changed to "Culture Mix". Advertising and promotional material is now underway.

Carla is looking after **Programming**. Below are ideas they are asking guidance with:

- Looking for **Welcome to Country** ideas – it was agreed to ask an Elder. Armando advised under our protocol we refer the request to Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation or Aboriginal Land Council; they approach an appropriate Elder to conduct the Welcome to Country. It was put forward that for a major event like this requires an Elder from a Traditional Custodian group from Wollongong to conduct the Welcome to Country. Aunty Bev Armer, Aunty Lorraine Brown, and other unsung Elders could be used. It was agreed to make that request and come back to the Reference group with suggestions. The Reference group agreed that it would be appropriate to have a Smoking Ceremony.
- **Performances** – looking for performance-based participants for stage, roving performances and pop-up stage options. Tina McGhie is assisting with the project while the Aboriginal Community Development officer is being recruited. Dancing; the dance group under Darren Dunn who worked on the Nandhi Nagara project using students from schools could be looked at. It is very much a strong Festival message that the Aboriginal Community needs to be front and centre at the event with other cultures and communities.
- **Gumaraa** applied for a Council creative grant to work with homecare kids to give opportunities for them to perform. It was agreed to ask them to perform.

Communication on which groups will provide performances or workshops needs to be clear and they need to be from Dharawal Country. If participants are not from Dharawal Country, permission needs to be given for them to participate. Aunty Shelly clarified it's Wadi Wadi people from Dharawal Country, she suggested not enough respect is given to Traditional Custodians of this country, please make it respectful.

Reference Group members expressed the importance of using people from Illawarra community, not Nowra. Local jobs for local people. Elders consistently say we must showcase our local children and performers first. This is a community Arts Festival, and we should deliver performances from local artists/performers.

Local businesses will be offering food, artwork, clothing for sale, the Wollongong Art Gallery will stock Coomaditchie products for sale and will be open through the entire day.

Anyone interested in holding a stall at the festival needs to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) on Council's website under "Culture Mix" or they can contact Carla as soon as possible so planning can begin.

You can contact Carla Yamine on 4227 8129 if you have any questions or information.

Sam Crosby – Public Art

William Beach Reserve. Armando had sent photos of the design for William Beach Reserve to the Aboriginal Reference Group members prior to the meeting. Positive feedback was received. Reference Group Members agreed this project can move forward and a celebration will be held when the project opens.

Hooker Creek refurbishment. This is a place of healing, however, due to decay the jetties, deck and bridges have had to be removed. Designs will be transferred on to murals and the ground in consultation with Aunty Narelle and Aunty Lorraine. The handrail on the jetty will be refurbished and Aunty Noel Wellington has been commissioned to carve two new benches on the platform.

Yaroma at Figtree. Artwork was removed last week. Traditional Custodians Women's group will be brought together to talk about what can be done for this site; new planting, seating etc and they'll work with Council's design team to design new infrastructure on that site.

Hill 60. A viewing platform is to be created. Artworks have been on display for 3 years, however, they have failed to survive the harsh elements and eroded over time and have been removed. The designs will be refabricated into 3D and put back on the site.

You can contact Sam Crosby on 4227 8855 if you have any questions or information.

9 LAKE ILLAWARRA ESTUARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Trudy Costa updated the Reference Group meeting about the **Art trail around the Lake**. This is a collaboration between Shellharbour City Council and Wollongong City Council and will involve community groups and events and will be promoted on Council's website. Reference Group members can speak to Carla Yamine and Sam Crosby (numbers above) about the artworks or how we can source artwork for this project.

Lake Illawarra project – the implementation group meet quarterly. We are looking for new representatives from the Aboriginal Community and nominations can be put forward. If no nominations are received we will look at an EOJ process. The original terms of reference for the group are being reviewed and once finalised will be sent to the Reference group.

Application has been made for grants from the Environmental Protection Authority and Community Engagement Development. Various Consultants are working in this space and draft strategies will be emailed to the Reference Group members. What types of activities can we provide that would engage the community, provide opportunities for work and for sharing of Cultural heritage. The Coomaditchie Aunties had facilitated a carp fishing day, however, this has been postponed due to algae in Coomaditchie lake.

The committee has met with Headspace and one of their priority groups is Aboriginal Youth. Headspace want to partner with groups to collaborate and provide activities to support young people with mental health issues. The Natural areas team is working with Aboriginal Land Council on regeneration projects around the lake like community planting days, giving opportunities for the community to be involved.

An excellent Clean Up day was held, however, promotion of the event was only online. This hindered promotion compared to printing of posters and handouts.

Bushcare are starting to look at burning to cutback heavy growth – if you want to be part of or can contribute to any of the above projects please contact Trudy Costa on 4227 7033.

It was brought to the Reference Group's attention that a piece of Crown Land in Warrawong on edge of Lake Illawarra has become a free caravan & camping site. Between 20 – 30 plus vans at any one time have been seen on the site at any one time. The area is not a designated camping ground, there are no facilities on site and there are concerns about community safety. Armando to check with Parks & Beaches if there are free camping facilities with showers etc in the Illawarra.

10 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT (ACHAR)

Armando had sent details of this process to the Reference Group previously. The Developer runs the process, Wollongong City Council sends the Developer a list of Aboriginal Communities for them to liaise with. As such it is the Developer who conducts the consultation process not Council.

11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE

Kerry Hunt, Director for Community Services, is looking to change the role of the position to "Senior Aboriginal Advisor" role. A recruitment process will be developed to enable recruitment of the position.

Nandhi Nagara Launch – this was a spectacular and most successful event.

2023 NAIDOC Week Grants – the list of applicants was sent to the Reference Group for their comments after which the successful applicants were decided. Seven applications were successful.

The Regional NAIDOC Awards dinner is being hosted by Kiama Council this year and will be held on Saturday 29 July at The Pavilion. 105 tickets will be available for the Community. Other tickets will be kept for Elders.

12 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Please contact Armando (4227 7253) if you would like to add an item for discussion at the next meeting.

13 GENERAL BUSINESS

No general business was discussed

14 NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST 2023 at the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation followed by lunch and Yarning time.

The meeting concluded at 11.30am.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 11.00am on Wednesday 9 August 2023.

2023 – Future Meeting Schedule

Wednesday 9 August	Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation Lunch Yarning Time	11.00am – 12.00pm 12.00pm – 1.00pm 1.00pm – 2.30pm
Wednesday 11 October	Level 10 Committee Room 2 & 3	9.30am – 11.30am
Wednesday 14 December	Level 10 Committee Room 2 & 3	9.30am – 11.30am

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
5	Beaton Park Swim School Mascot name 'Djamalang' update	Dale Wright	