

MINUTES

WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2020



PRESENT

Councillor Ann Martin	Lorraine Neate
Meredith Hutton	John Shipp
Martin Gorrick	Fiona Reynolds
Sharralyn Robinson	Georgina Element

IN ATTENDANCE

David Green – Land Use Planning Manager WCC	Carly Boag – Heritage Officer WCC
Joel Thompson – Coordinator Heritage WCC	Linda Davis – Director Environment and Planning WCC
Stuart Barnes – Destination Wollongong	

1 WELCOME

Councillor Martin opened the meeting at 5:15 pm and welcomed all present remotely via Skype, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic social distancing requirements.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Councillor Cox, Councillor Martin Doug Boleyn and Chris Stewart.

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 Aboriginal people present.

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29 April 2020

The Reference Group resolved that *the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 April 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

Moved by John Shipp and seconded by Fiona Reynolds.

6 RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

The membership discussed the information provided on the progress of the Reconciliation Action Plan being developed by Council, including the adoption of a vision statement through ongoing operational workshops, which Council's Heritage Staff have been involved in.

Sharralyn Robinson noted that she was invited by Council to be a member of the steering committee for the project.

The membership discussed the importance of strengthening the related actions in the Wollongong Heritage Strategy and Implementation Plan 2019-2022, to ensure that the budget and funding can be more easily secured for important community actions.

Stuart Barnes noted that Destination Wollongong has a Reconciliation Action Plan that has been endorsed by Reconciliation Australia, with a focus on promoting cultural tourism and supporting local businesses.

The Reference Group noted the information.

7 BULLI RAILWAY GUESTHOUSE RESTORATION AND ADAPTIVE REUSE PROJECT

Joel Thompson gave a presentation on the restoration and adaptive reuse of the Former Bulli Railway Guesthouse into a microbrewery and restaurant.

The membership discussed the importance of local community groups, residents and organisations including the Illawarra/Shoalhaven Branch of the National Trust who lobbied Woolworths and Council to prevent demolition of the building.

It was noted that there are no minimum care requirements for Local Heritage items under the Local Environment Plan or the NSW Heritage Act 1977. Council's Heritage Staff noted that this issue was a concern in the community, and has been raised numerous times with various State Government Departments, including at the Local Government Conference.

An action was discussed for Council's Heritage Staff to explore options with Council's Media Team to promote the outcome on social media, as a positive example of heritage conservation in the LGA and to draft a letter of appreciation from the Membership and the Chair to the Owners of the site and Borst & Co Architects.

See Action 4.

8 FUTURE 2020 MEETING DATES

It was noted that due to the postponement of the 2020 Local Government Elections, the Reference Group will continue to meet in its current format until the rescheduled elections.

Suggested future meeting dates for October and December 2020 were discussed.

The proposed meeting date for the 28th of October was considered generally acceptable, however a more suitable date in December is to be given further consideration via email.

See Action 5.

9 STREAM HILL UPDATE

Council's Heritage Staff gave a brief update on the progression of works at Stream Hill.

It was noted that the broken windows and doors have now been boarded up by Council Works Division, in order to secure the property from the elements and prevent further deterioration or vandal attack. Preliminary pest control measures have also now been undertaken.

A further update will be sought from Property Division for the next Reference Group meeting in August.

The membership noted the update.

10 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

John Ship: Illawarra Museum & Historical Society

John noted that the Museum has been closed due to COVID-19 and would likely reopen in August. John advised that maintenance, repairs and backend organisation have been undertaken during the closure.

Martin Gorrick: Thirroul Village Committee

Martin advised that the Thirroul Village Committee had considered the potential impacts of the Thirroul Plaza Development on the amenity of the Illawarra Escarpment.

Council's Heritage Staff noted that whilst the Group cannot discuss individual development applications, the impact of this development on views to the Escarpment from the Township was recognised as a key assessment issue within the DCP Planning controls and is being considered in the assessment.

Fiona Reynolds: Illawarra/Shoalhaven Branch National Trust

Fiona noted that the local branch of the National Trust has commented on various planning projects and development applications including:

- Thirroul Plaza Redevelopment
- Helensburgh Town Centre Plan
- Affordable Housing Options Paper
- Marlene Court Development
- City Centre Planning Review

Georgina Element: Kembla Jottings

Georgina raised various issues that have been circulating social media to inform the Membership and for discussion including development adjacent to Pendlebury Rest Park and the sale of land containing a heritage listed Fig Tree at 6-8 Grandview Parade Lake Heights.

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 for the School Holidays subject to NSW Health Regulations.

The 75th Anniversary celebration of the National Trust has also been postponed until 2021.

Sharralyn Robinson: Illawarra Aboriginal Land Council

Sharralyn noted the Land Council had not been meeting due to COVID-19.

Sharralyn invited the membership to attend the Illawarra Cultural Centre Art Exhibition from 1st July and asked the membership to extend the invitation to their networks.

Sharralyn brought the groups attention to recent art programs undertaken with Council support, including the Year 12 Poetry Class boxes displayed in Corrimal Park and the Screen-printing artworks interpreting the Bellambi Point Midden site located in Globe Lane.

Stuart Barnes: Destination Wollongong/Inside Industry

Stuart Barnes on behalf of Destination Wollongong gave an update on the potential progression of a project to establish regular Blue Mile and Port Kembla Heritage Tours. Trials of the Blue Mile Tours will be run in August and the launch is expected for September.

Stuart also gave an update on behalf of Inside Industry, including exploring opportunities for public access to Lindenfel's in Port Kembla and the Galloway Steam Engine.

The consideration of the Southern Gateway Centre at Bulli Tops by Destination Wollongong as an exhibition and market space was also raised.

11 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

Council staff provided a brief overview of the information contained within the Heritage Staff report including the following items:

11.1 Corrimal Coke Works Updated

The update provided in the business paper was noted.

11.2 Bulli Miners Cottage Update

The update provided in the business paper was noted.

11.3 Wollongong Public School WWII Archaeological Finds

The update provided in the business paper was noted.

11.4 Boilers Point – BMX Activity – Site Disturbance

The update provided in the business paper was noted.

11.5 Hill 60 Project Update

The update provided in the business paper was noted.

12 OTHER MATTERS

Removal Norfolk Island Pines – Council Staff advised that Council has removed two Norfolk Island Pines, in Andrew Lysaght Park and Stuart Park respectively, due to their long declining health following years of monitoring. Council Staff advised that succession planting has been undertaken along the Blue Mile.

Garrwarra Cemetery – The membership were advised of the death of John Herben (husband to Carol Herben who passed away in January) and extended their sympathies and acknowledgment of the significant research they had completed on the Garrwarra Cemetery

The membership requested that Garrawarra Cemetery be placed on the Agenda for the August meeting for further discussion.

Former Coach House, Finders Street Wollongong – Council Staff noted that no response had been received to the letter to the owners dated 18th June 2020. Several contacts were discussed for follow up on possible information relating to the site.

The Reference Group received and noted the information.

Councillor Ann Martin thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting on 26 August 2020.

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's Heritage Staff to explore options with Council's Media Team to promote the Bulli Guesthouse on social media and to draft a letter of appreciation from the Membership and the Chair to the Owners of the site and Borst & Co Architects.	Heritage Staff	Completed 23 August
4	Council's Heritage Staff to circulate link to the Corrimal Coke Work business paper for the Council for meeting 29 June 2020 and subsequent minutes.	Heritage Staff	Completed 23 August 2020 - circulated with update in August Business Paper Item 11.1
5	Council's Heritage Staff to proposed date for December meeting	Heritage Staff	Carried Over for discussion at August meeting