

MINUTES

ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP

2.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2015



PRESENT

Aunty Bev Armer

Uncle Richard Archibald

Leanne Olive

Jade Kennedy

Sharralyn Robinson

Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery

IN ATTENDANCE

Armando Reviglio

Jody Clark

Kristeen Sandercock (Minutes)

1 WELCOME

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – Armando Reviglio

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - NIL

4 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cr Jill Merrin, Tanya Buchanan, Sue Savage

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2014

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None arising

7 HILL 60 RESERVE PROJECT UPDATE

Renee Regal, a consultant with Niche consultancy, has been employed by Council to conduct community engagement activities to inform the draft Conservation Management Plan for Hill 60 which has been completed and is open for comment for a period of 28 days as per legislative requirements.

Key Outcomes were:

When asked who was consulted – the draft Conservation Management Plan Report was sent to all Aboriginal Reference Group Members. Wollongong City Council and Aboriginal Land Council also directed the consultant to contact Traditional Custodians. People contacted were Uncle Reuben Brown, Aunty Gwen Brown, Aunty Muriel Davis and Dootch Kennedy.

The Green Team worker will be assigned to work on the Hill – consideration will be given to Aboriginal workers as per the draft Conservation Management Plan.

Walking trails and signage are important items that need to be taken into account. There may be conflict about the stories told and by whom which will require further consultation with the traditional custodians to resolve.

8 PUBLIC SPACES – PUBLIC LIFE PROJECT

Bridget Jarvis, Sally Anderson and Rebecca Jardim from Strategic Planning presented information about the City Centre Plan. More information is available from Councils Webpage using this link:

<http://haveyoursaywollongong.com.au/wollongong-public-space-public-life> and the short link is:

www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/PSPL

The following points were acknowledged:

- There is no Aboriginal Cultural history recognised in the City or the Mall or along the Blue Mile development and this should be rectified.
- Toilets in parks are required throughout the City
- Focus Group of the Illawarra 200 Bi-Centenary Committee –will be shown the “Jumbulla – together wall” film which provides some history and context of the local Illawarra Aboriginal community.

A further report will be prepared and presented to Council at the end of the Financial Year.

Reference Group members agreed that it is imperative the above points are included in the Report.

9 OUTCOME OF EOI FOR NEW REFERENCE GROUP MEMBERS

We have received 4 applications to fill the 2 vacancies available on the Aboriginal Reference Group. It was agreed to accept Basilia McGaw and Derek Hardman. The other two applicants wanted to be accepted together and not as individuals, so given that only two individual positions are currently vacant and the Reference group is looking for a diversity of Aboriginal knowledge they recommended for them to apply next year. At this point all 10 positions are vacated and EOI for Reference Group membership will be done in line with the election of a new Council as per our Charter.

10 BALD HILL RESERVE UPGRADE

Lance Hazell – Project Manager for Bald Hill provided an update on this upgrade project, he has already had a meeting with Armando and Jody to discuss the way forward with this project. Lance will contact Derek Hardman CEO at the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council seeking confirmation and agreement for when site monitors need to be present at which stages of the work is being carried out. Artwork depicting the history of Bald Hill will be included as part of the development and there is an opportunity for Aboriginal Artists to be involved. Lance Hazell will attend the next Aboriginal Reference Group meeting to keep the group updated. After some discussion among Reference Group members it was highlighted there is little knowledge on the Aboriginal cultural history of Bald Hill.

11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE

- Reconciliation Week
Jody is organising an ‘event’ for Reconciliation week, the exact details are only to be released on the day but will involve local schools.
- NAIDOC Week
 - 1 An Elders lunch will be held at the Botanical Gardens. Lord Mayor and Councillors have been invited. Fred’s Bush Tucker will be catering. Entertainment will be provided by local artists.
 - 2 The NAIDOC Regional dinner will be held at the Nowra Entertainment Centre this year. A bus will be organised to provide transport. Feedback on how many people will be attending is needed.
 - 3 The Regional Family Fun Day preparations for this event are underway
 - 4 Aboriginal Art Award. At the previous Meeting John Monteleone spoke about this award and the Aboriginal Art exhibition to be held in NAIDOC Week. The process for selecting an Aboriginal Curator is now complete. The position was given to Tahjee Moar. Two Reference Group members voiced their concern that the Curator is not a local. John Monteleone had considered possible local Aboriginal community members (and had meetings with them) to undertake the Curator role but the successful person was found to have more suitable experience and qualifications that are required for the role. Jody advised that applications for the Aboriginal Art Award are now open, application forms were handed out to members to be distributed as needed.

Reference Group members voiced their concern on how the Artists will be identified as residing in the Illawarra? The Group would like to be kept up to date on this process.

- 5 A pamphlet has been compiled called "10 Most Asked Questions" asked at Wollongong City Council. Jody distributed some at the meeting.
- 6 Illawarra 200 Focus Group – some points put forward by them to remember were:
 - i. Not to be tokenistic – for the Aboriginal involvement of the commemoration activities
 - ii. There will be no re-enactment activities
 - iii. Be sensitive
 - iv. "Together Wall" will be shown to the Illawarra 200 Committee to make them aware of our Aboriginal Heritage. Jody will be in attendance.
 - v. Declared Places – success of Community members and businesses. It was suggested that representation of Aboriginal people could be in the form of a statue of an "anonymous" Aboriginal person.
 - vi. The question was raised "why are we using White methodology to commemorate our Heritage?" We should be able to determine for ourselves the way in which we want to represent our culture and heritage? Members agreed with these thoughts.
 - vii. Focus Group is members were:
Aunty Lorraine Brown, Aunty Narelle Brown, Basillia Gaw, Richard Davis, Tina McGee

12 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Due to insufficient member numbers at this meeting, this item will be postponed to next meeting.

13 GENERAL BUSINESS

Plan of Management – Sandon Point. The Lord Mayor advised that the Resolution had been adopted at Council Meeting on Monday 23 February 2015. Wollongong City Council will facilitate this process with Elders and the Community.

Parking spaces – Porter Street Wollongong. These spaces need to be re-marked as people are parking over 2 spots which means less people can park in the Street which already is a very busy place.

14 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 27 May 2015 – 2.00pm

The meeting concluded at 4.00pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 27 May 2015.

2015 – Future Meeting Schedule

Wednesday 27 May	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	2pm – 4pm
Wednesday 26 August	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	2pm – 4pm
Wednesday 25 November	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	2pm – 4pm

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
	CLOSED ACTIONS		
7	Executive summary of the 2000 Plan for Hill 60 to be presented at the next Aboriginal Reference Group in February 2015	Renee Regal	Completed