

PRESENT

Members:

Councillor Trevor Sargeant (Chairperson)
Phil Bowman - Camden Haven Historical Society
Brian Buckett - Douglas Vale Conservation Group
Veronica Heath - Friends of Port Macquarie Historic Courthouse
Sandra Taylor - Mid North Coast Maritime Museum
Rex Toomey - Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society
Debbie Sommers - Port Macquarie Historical Society
Representative from St Thomas' Church
Jeannette Rainbow - Wauchope District Historical Society
Julie Witchard - National Parks & Wildlife Service (Historic Roto House)
Stephen Booker - Heritage Advisor

Other Attendees:

Lesley Atkinson - Director of Community & Cultural Development
Kelly O'Brien - Aboriginal Community & Development Liaison Officer
Jeff Stonehouse - Reference Librarian - Local Studies

The Meeting opened at 2.35 pm.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

CONSENSUS:

That the apologies received from Councillor Lisa Intemann, Amanda Smith (NPWS Roto House), Ian Cupit (Douglas Vale Conservation Group) and Ray Cooper (Wauchope Historical Society) and Nanette Lewis (St Thomas Church) be accepted.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS:

That the Minutes of the Heritage & Museums Sub-Committee Meeting held on 13 November 2012 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

06 REVIEW OF SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Sub-Committee considered the meeting days, times & frequency and unanimously agreed that the meeting would continue to be held on the second Tuesday of the month, bi-annually at 2.30 pm in the Council Offices, and that it would be reviewed at the September Meeting.

Consequently, the meeting dates for the next six (6) months are as follows:

Tuesday, 14 May 2013 at 2.30 pm

Tuesday, 9 July 2013 at 2.30 pm

Tuesday, 10 September 2013 at 2.30 pm.

The Chairperson encouraged Sub-Committee members to continue meeting, communicating and working together in the interim periods between meetings

The Chairperson called for comment regarding the Sub-Committee Charter. It was agreed the Charter was general enough to enable the Sub-Committee to fulfil a valuable role in advising Council regarding Heritage matters.

The Chairperson also sought feedback regarding whether the membership was inclusive enough, and members of the Sub-Committee requested that a senior representative from the Tourism Industry be invited to attend meetings and join the Sub-Committee.

CONSENSUS:

1. That the membership and meeting times of the Heritage & Museums Sub-Committee be confirmed, with a review to be carried out at the September 2013 Meeting. The Meeting dates for the next six (6) months being 14 May 2013, 9 July 2013 and 10 September 2013 at 2.30 pm at the Council offices.
 2. That the Tourism Association be invited to send a representative to the bi-monthly Meetings of the Heritage & Museums Sub-Committee.
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07 UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S MUSEUMS CURATOR POSITION

Sub-Committee members expressed concern at the lack of consultation regarding the loss of the Regional Museum's Curator position and queried whether there would be a two way process between the Sub-Committee and Council moving forward.

Councillor Sargeant responded to concerns of the Sub-Committee members regarding the level of interest/commitment that Council has towards Heritage, noting that Council was planning a workshop in the near future to discuss the resourcing of Heritage matters, and that Sub-Committee members would be advised of a date shortly.

CONSENSUS:

1. That the Sub-Committee note the information regarding the Museum's Curator position at Council.
 2. That a date be set for a Workshop to be held to discuss the resourcing of heritage matters.
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08 2013 HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The Director Community & Cultural Development reported that thanks to a great effort by the group, all information had been collected and used to create the 2013 Heritage Festival promotional booklet, which was with printers at the time of the meeting.

Sub-Committee members were reminded to make sure they arranged individual promotion for their events.

Jeanette Rainbow advised that she was going to promote the Festival on Community Radio.

Councillor Sargeant suggested Facebook also as an effective way to promote the event and asked members to consider this as a part of the marketing for future events.

Members of the Sub-Committee expressed great satisfaction with the support received from Ms Kath O'Neale, a casual Project Officer that Council provided to assist Sub-Committee members in the collection of materials and liaising with Council's Communications Team to create the final document to go to the printers.

The Sub-Committee requested that a letter of appreciation for her assistance in the development of the Heritage Festival booklet be sent to Kath O'Neale.

CONSENSUS:

1. That the information regarding the 2013 Heritage Festival be noted.
 2. That a letter expressing the Sub-Committee's appreciation for the co-ordinating role provided by Ms Kath O'Neil be sent by Council.
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09 BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 2021

There was much discussion regarding the proposal for the Bicentenary Celebrations. It was noted that there were a number of important celebrations coming up in the intervening years until the important Bicentenary (such as 2015 WW1, 2016 Memorial Trees Laurieton, 2018, naming of Port Macquarie), with the group agreeing on the important date of 17/18 April 2021 being explored with a wider range of community groups. The general concept of a calendar of events to be developed for 2021 was supported, as was the call of EOI for community members to be involved on the planning of celebrations.

It was agreed that the first task of the Committee would be to map out all the important dates in the lead-up to the event.

The following dates were also clarified for inclusion in Item 09 Bicentenary Celebrations 2021.

- 2015 Herons Creek Timber mill Bicentenary
- 2015 Centenary of Anzacs
- 2015 Centenary of Wauchope and Kendall Railway
- 2016 Hastings Co-Op Centenary
- 2018 Bicentenary of John Oxley exploration of the Hastings Valley and naming of Port Macquarie.

CONSENSUS:

1. That a report be put to Council with the Sub-Committee's recommendations regarding the Bicentenary Celebrations.
 2. That a letter be sent to the community groups advising of proposed focus on 17/18/21 as the proposed date.
 3. That Council call for EOI's in creating a Committee to plan 2021 Bicentenary celebrations.
 4. That Council consider developing a Reserve with an annual contribution towards the celebrations proposed for 2021.
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10 HERITAGE ADVISOR'S REPORT

The Heritage Advisor provided the following report in relation to the last two (2) months:

February 2013:

- Met with Council staff to discuss possible residential additions to the LEP, including approx 50 residences, preliminary assessment to develop a listing of residences that could supply local listings 1915-35/40.
 - Reviewed the physical state of memorials in the Cemetery & 2nd Burial Ground. A conservation proposal for repair & remediation in the general cemetery was prepared.
 - Hamilton Green - accessibility issue reviewed and report created, resolution finally achieved, DA being prepared.
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- Grantham - residence associated with the Oxide Mine, seeking to rationalise boundaries.
 - Foreshore Plan of Management - comments provided to Council from a heritage perspective.
 - Section 60 application being prepared and an application to Office of Heritage to upgrade the front entrance to the Gordon St entrance to the cemetery.

March 2013:

- DAs reviewed:
 1. Meeting with Jesse Dick re Heritage management of the historical residential and hospitality resource of Port Macquarie.
 2. DA 2013/52 - Comboyne Church adaptive reuse as a dwelling
 3. Grantham Boundary Adjustment
 4. DA/CC 2013/0049 21 - Old Butter Factory Road, Telegraph Point. Proposed New Shed
 5. DA 2012/0582 - Outdoor Dining to the open area west of the Garrison Building
- 1,000 convict bricks inspected which have been at the depot for long period of time, 300 set aside for the Courthouse forecourt

Questions raised by Sub-Committee members:

1. Council is commencing some repairs at the Laurieton School of Arts Hall (dry rot on the verandah) and the Heritage Adviser was requested to inspect these works. He was also requested to have a look at the Stage to determine the works that had been carried out there.
2. The question was asked regarding the brass name plates in the footpath near Kooloonbung Creek. The Sub-Committee was advised that these would be pulled up when the footpath is replaced as part of the demolition of the old Foodworks store and then put into the new footpath.

CONSENSUS:

That the information in the Heritage Advisor's March 2013 report to the Sub-Committee be noted.

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Sub Committee members were asked if there was any newsworthy items they wished to share with the groups. Most indicated their main focus at present was the Heritage Festival.

The Port Macquarie & District Family History Society advised they would be attending the Seniors Expo on 18 March, and their Family History Expo will be held in the Panthers Auditorium on 18 May 2013.

The Wauchope Historical Society advised that they would be vacating their premises due to changes the owner of Timbertown is seeking to make. The Historical Society is seeking Council owned land on the Corner of Blackbutt Drive.

The next Meeting to be held on 14 May 2013 at 2.30 pm in the Council's Function Room

The Meeting closed at 4.05 pm.