
PRESENT

Members:

Councillor Rob Turner (Chair)
Councillor Geoff Hawkins (Deputy Chair)
Acting General Manager (Jeffery Sharp)
Acting Director Strategy and Growth (Liesa Davies)
Glasshouse Venue Manager (Pam Milne)
Beric Henderson (Community Representative)
Brian Barker (Community Representative)
Chris Denny (Community Representative)
Debbie Sommers (Community Representative)
Marie Van Gend (Community Representative)
Skye Petho (Community Representative)
Stacey Morgan (Community Representative)
Wendy Haynes (Community Representative)
Willhemina Wahlin (Community Representative)

Other Attendees:

Patricia Johnson and Bruce Hardy (Port Macquarie-Handa Sister City Working Group)
Project Officer - Public Art (Denis Juelicher)
Acting Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development (Amanda Hatton)
Destination and Cultural Development Manager (Jane Ellis)

The meeting opened at 9:02am.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

Nil.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS:

That the Minutes of the Cultural Steering Group Meeting held on 5 August 2020 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Amanda Hatton (Acting Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development) provided an update on the Artwalk event, explaining that planning was going well with the event booklet currently being finalised ready for publication shortly.

The Longest Footpath Gallery has 86 locations confirmed across the region with 68 locations confirmed in Port Macquarie, 9 in Wauchope and 9 across Laurieton and Dunbogan. 44 satellite events are programmed to take place across the region, in addition, an Artists Markets is planned for each region over the course of the week.

Amanda highlighted the importance of continuing to communicate that the event is not the one night only event in Port Macquarie, but spread throughout the region in a COVID safe program for the period of 1 - 8 October .

CONSENSUS:

That the Business Arising Schedule be noted with no new additions.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

CONSENSUS:

That standing orders be suspended to allow Item 09 to be brought forward and considered next to allow guests to present to the meeting.

09 UPDATE FROM THE HANDA SISTER CITY WORKING GROUP

Members of the Handa Sister City Working Group Patricia Johnson and Bruce Hardy presented an update to the CSG. Due to COVID restrictions on travel, the Group have been focussing their energy on developing their aims and outcomes which include the facilitation of positive and mutually agreeable relationships between Port Macquarie and Handa, planning and delivering meaningful exchange experiences, providing support for Japanese students attending CSU, assisting private travellers from Handa and helping to build trade relationships with local business owners and the Chamber of Commerce.

Special mention was made of a recent donation of \$10,000 to the Billabong Zoo from the Citizens of Handa - this was from Handa fundraising activities in late 2019 at the time of our bushfires.. Unfortunately Patricia and Bruce believe the intended visit by Handa Higashi High School students in March 2021 is unlikely to take place.

A future update will be provided to CSG in 6 - 9 months' time.

CONSENSUS:

That the Cultural Steering Group note the information presented by Handa Working Group members in relation to the Handa Sister City Relationship.

06 PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS UPDATE

Amanda Hatton (Acting Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development) updated the Group on the revised plans for delivery of Council's Community Bushfire Recovery Thank you, Countdown to Christmas event and Australia Day celebrations. Revised formats due to COVID-19 include a combined Thank You and Christmas event which will incorporate a series of 'Gratitude Murals' unveiled across the region, a 90 minute online program of local entertainers including Aboriginal elements and a recorded lighting of the Christmas tree.

Planning for Australia Day celebrations is ongoing. A survey conducted at last year's event revealed that participants would like to see a wider variety of activities offered closer to home across the region. After consideration of this feedback, along with the need for a greater dispersal of people across the region to ensure COVID-19 safe events, Council's Community Grants will be open for application on 7 September and will now incorporate a funding stream for community groups wanting to deliver Australia Day activities. Funding for Bicentenary events and Cultural activities will also be included in this round of Council's community grants. A further update on Australia Day planning will be provided at a future CSG meeting once Community Grant applications have been received and assessed.

CONSENSUS:

That the Cultural Steering Group note plans to redefine the way we deliver Council's Community Bushfire Recovery Thank You, Countdown to Christmas event and Australia Day celebrations, as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions relating to public gatherings.

07 WAUCHOPE BICENTENARY SCULPTURE TRAIL

Public Art Project Officer, Denis Juelicher, provided a presentation on the Wauchope Bicentenary Sculpture Trail; financed through the NSW Stronger Country Communities Fund. The Trail includes 6 sites along Rocks River Reserve in Wauchope and on completion will include an accompanying brochure and digital app. The project reference group made up of local expertise and representation, selected a diverse range of artworks that will create a highly unique destination for locals and visitors alike.

Denis explained that conversations in relation to Council's internal processes around the commission, installation and ongoing maintenance of public artworks were continuing to ensure a successful outcome for the project.

Denis explained that a number of the commissioned artists will be working locally to gather stories and ideas to inform their artworks and will also share their skills and experience with the community via workshops and demonstrations as part of the project.

CONSENSUS:

That the Cultural Steering Group note the update and endorse the professional process undertaken to progress the Wauchope Bicentenary Sculpture Trail as a key cultural and tourism asset for our region.

08 DRAFT PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

Amanda Hatton (Acting Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development) and Jane Ellis (Destination and Cultural Development Manager) provided an update on the initial draft Public Art Master Plan. Once complete, the Master Plan will complete the suite of public art planning documents that will inform future delivery of the regions public art projects.

Jane Ellis explained that the draft Master Plan outlined further detail of Council's public art objectives and overarching themes, and that it will also contain information on how Council will fund and resource future artworks. Jane advised that a number of internal Council discussions were required to discuss how future funding is secured to procure new, and maintain existing public artworks.

The Master Plan will also include a list of identified priority sites and locations for future artworks and Jane suggested next steps would be for CSG members to identify some sites and locations for discussion at the next meeting.

CONSENSUS:

That the Cultural Steering Group note the update on the Draft Public Art Master Plan progress and consider further at the next meeting.

Item 09 Update from the Handa Sister City Working Group, has been addressed previously within the meeting.

10 CULTURAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

CONSENSUS:

Due to time constraints, that Agenda item 10 Cultural Plan Implementation Update be deferred to the 7 October CSG meeting.

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

11.01 GLASSHOUSE PERFORMANCE SPACES

Glasshouse Venue Manager, Pam Milne, informed members that the Glasshouse performance spaces are now open, albeit with reduced capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions, and that all levels of the regional gallery are now open with exhibitions.

11.02 CONSTABLE'S COTTAGE

Acting Director Strategy and Growth, Liesa Davies, reported that members of the Town Centre Master Plan Sub-Committee, Council staff and CSG member Debbie Sommers met with Heritage Cultural Precinct Community Group representatives to discuss their objectives relating to the Constable's Cottage. All present agreed this was an important heritage site and efforts should be made to preserve it. The Group undertook to develop further information on making application for it to be listed on the NSW Heritage Register and undertook to provide further detail, including a possible request for funding to the Town Centre Master Plan Sub-Committee. Further updates on this will be provided to CSG as appropriate.

11.03 GLADSTONE GALLERY EXHIBITION

Brian Barker invited CSG members to visit an exhibition he is featured in at Gladstone Gallery during September.

The meeting closed at 9:45am.