

Heritage Reference Group (HRG)

Date	Wednesday, 13 April 2021	Time	10am-12 noon
Venue	Yalawanyi Ganya and Zoom	Note-taker	Sue Calvin
Present	Cr Bell, Lillian Cullen, Sue Calvin, Janine Roberts, Penny Teerman, Judith Glover and Anne Shannon (Tea Gardens Hawks Nest FRG), Ian Herford, Ken Beeton (Manning Wallamba FHS), Helen Duggan and Anne Masters (Great Lakes HS), Mike Parsons, Kevin Carter (Bulahdelah HS), Pauline Ibbetson and Brian Eastoe (Stroud HS), Kathie Bell, Rob Griffiths and Donna Hudson		
Apologies	Cr Roberts, Barbara Waters, Jenny Cherry (Tinonee HS)		

Meeting items

	Key points/actions	Who
1	Acknowledgement of Country	Sue
2	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Acknowledgement of the resignation of Ian Herford and recognition of his contribution to heritage across the MidCoast</p>	Cr Bell
3	Actions from previous meeting	Sue
4	<p>Updates on heritage projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bight Cemetery - Janine provided comments on potential corrections needed to the CMP based on the Council report (attached). Mike raised concern about the timeliness of this project and communication with the families and community <i>Action</i> - provide the feedback to Dan Aldridge • Rates books - Great Lakes and Manning rates books have been packed and stored with Grace in Newcastle. Gloucester books are still stored in the Gloucester office. Thanks to Janine and Penny for assisting with packing the books <i>Action</i> - Sue to send the list of books to HRG members • Local Heritage Fund - 2020-2021 grants are progressing with reporting due in May. Applications are being submitted for 2021-2022 • Funding opportunities - seeking advice on any grant opportunities. Agreed that Maritime grants can be difficult – offer expertise rather than funds. War memorial grants are consistent source of funding <i>Action</i> - advise if any war memorials should be considered for funding 	<p>Sue</p> <p>Sue</p> <p>All</p>



	Key points/actions	Who
5	<p>Review – Donna and Rob discussed how the HRG operates, what works well and what could be improved. The comments have been consolidated in the attachment. They are draft and will be discussed further at the next HRG meeting</p> <p>Action – place HRG review on the next agenda</p>	<p>Rob/ Donna</p> <p>Sue</p>
6	<p>General business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage tours – Janine Roberts has applied for a grant to facilitate the heritage tours for the MidCoast. It involves establishing up to 10 walks on an application for mobile devices. Janine was thanked for applying for the grant • Carrington Cemetery – access to the cemetery has been inhibited by the adjoining landowner. Concern that a DA was approved with no acknowledgement of access to the cemetery noted on plans. Heritage advice on the DA was provided. Janine is meeting with the AA Company to discuss access and will report back to the group. Information will be provided to Cr Bell to progress the issue with Council <p>Action – Janine to provide update and information to Cr Bell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tahlee House – deferred to next meeting <p>Action – place Tahlee House on next agenda</p>	<p>Janine</p> <p>Sue</p>
7	Heritage happenings – refer to attachment:	
8	Meeting closed	Cr Bell

Next meeting

Date	July 2021 (TBC)	Time	10am-12noon
Venue	Yalawanyi Ganya and Zoom	Note-taker	Sue Calvin

Heritage happenings

The following provides an overview of heritage events, research or activities occurring across the MidCoast

Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Family Research Group

- it is proposed to merge with the Myall Lakes Historical Society, potential name change to Tea Gardens and Myall Lakes Historical Society
- News of the Area (NOTA) is a local paper servicing the Myall Lakes area. It is now available on Trove (available through the National Library of Australia)
- recently organised drone footage of the Tea Gardens cemetery to achieve a better image for the proposed sign
- Dave Benson's book on the Australian Agricultural Company is now complete

Great Lakes Historical Society

- having difficulty securing funding for establishing a military display in the building next door
- group visits to the museum are starting to return
- there has been requests for historic photographs by the Hotel, new boat sheds, Forster Bowling Club and a new coffee shop

Stroud Historical Society

- the new walking map has been completed and being printed

Mike Parsons (Harrington)

- Harrington maritime walkway is complete and being well received. Funding was achieved through grants and the Chamber of Commerce
- working towards the establishment of a Maritime Historical Society at Harrington

Manning Wallamba Family History Society

- the Society is open for business after closure due to Covid-19
- currently have around 80 members

Cundletown and Lower Manning Historical Society

- running breakfasts once a month as a fundraiser for the museum
- sought funding from the Maritime Museum for restoration of the milk boat
- new display on exhibition from June till August

Ian Herford

- enjoyed his time on both this Group and the former Strategic Heritage Advisory Committee
- advised that he will still be working on the historic rates books



Manning Valley Historical Society

- “A Night at the Flix” was held at Wingham High School on 16 April 2021 where historic stories, photographs and slides are shown
- The Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival will be on 5 June 2021

Bulahdelah Historical Society

- the Teddy Bear’s Picnic was a great success with over 300 bears attending
- the Big 4 caravan park advertises the museum, resulting in more Saturday morning visitors
- tours with the museum are commencing again
- “Man in the Stocks” was located in a roadside rest area on Wallaroo State Forest near the southern end of the Bucketts Way, originally part of the Pacific Highway before it was re-routed. They are currently with the Museum for restoration and work needs to be undertaken to determine their future
- Dr Cameron is undertaking mapping and research on the horse-drawn tramway near Smiths Lake

Heritage Reference Group Review

At the Heritage Reference Group (HRG) meeting on 13 April 2021, we discussed how the HRG operates, what works well and what could be improved. The following table outlines these discussions. Further discussions will occur at the next HRG meeting in July 2021 to review the Terms of Reference and discuss the recommendations. These are draft comments until the review is completed.

	Challenges	Opportunities	Recommendations/Actions
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MidCoast area is too big – makes it difficult to progress ideas and projects Feel there is a disconnect between what the HRG discuss and ensuring Councillors are aware of the heritage issues. Suggestion that a S355 Committee would be beneficial Previous Committees established actions for members to follow up (eg State listing of properties, research in heritage items, halls research) – need a similar approach for this Committee to establish desired outcomes for the HRG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having representation of all Historical Societies and Family Research Groups has been beneficial in terms of sharing ideas and networking Strength/opportunities from working together as a group Enabling 2 people to represent the Historical Societies and Family Research Groups has been beneficial for travel and sharing ideas Community representation (6) provides a different perspective and has worked well Councillor representation is important to progress key matters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRG members to review the Terms of Reference (TOR) to see if it meets the expectations of the Group Use smaller groups to progress some of the heritage issues and report back to HRG Work together to establish a program of actions for the HRG to achieve priority heritage outcomes
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single issues can take over the meetings (eg Bight Cemetery) Difficult to comment on heritage matters specific to a location, as may be unaware of the history and issues Development applications are not discussed at the meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition that learnings from the Bight Cemetery will be applied across the MidCoast Heritage happenings was a useful agenda item to hear what is going on across the MidCoast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake better management of the meeting to meet agenda commitments Retain Heritage happenings on the agenda
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings aren't frequent enough to follow through on actions and outcomes Two hours is not enough time to discuss all heritage matters, especially when some have travelled long distances to attend It can be difficult to participate in Zoom meetings as you are unaware who is speaking and when to contribute to the discussion Zoom attendance would be difficult when meetings are in the regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having meetings in different locations provided a great opportunity to see how other Historical Societies operate and get to know the region Zoom provides the opportunity to participate when unable to travel for the meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotate meetings (one in Yalawanyi Ganya followed by one in region) Meetings every 3 months, with extra meetings undertaken when required (as permitted in the TOR) 3-hour meetings
Future HRG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern that the HRG will have to reform after the election 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consensus that we should request to remain as a Reference Group for continuity and fill current vacancies (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through review, inform newly elected Council of the preference to retain the Reference Group and fill vacancies (3)

Bight Cemetery comments (Janine Roberts)

The final CMP still needs all of the amendments coming out of the Council Resolution in Dec 2020 to be added in:

- a) Missing headstones and plaques need to be added and graded
- b) MCC needs to correct in all paragraphs that they are not the “owners” but rather the Crown Cemetery Operators Sec 7.5
- c) Appendix B was supposed to be deleted
- d) Two new guidelines were added into the CMP and not discussed at Council:
 - * Formalising vehicular paths and walking tracks. The proposed track goes over/near the known unmarked Parson graves – GPR needs to be done to ensure the tracks are not going over other graves. Anecdotally there are stories from Wingham Museum and members of the public that the areas marked red on the map below have burials.
 - * Buffer zones – the ‘inner’ northern boundary needs to be expanded as there are possible graves in that area.

The map (right) is a rough estimate based on the stories I was told.

