

Meeting notes

Heritage Reference Group (HRG)

Date	Wednesday, 4 December 2019	Time	10am-12 noon
Venue	Wingham Memorial Town Hall	Note-taker	Sue Calvin
Present	Cr Bell, Lillian Cullen, Sue Calvin, Penny Teerman, Janine Roberts, Kathie Bell, Robyn Greenaway (Manning Valley HS), Anne Shannon and Judith Glover (Tea Gardens Hawks Nest FRG), Kevin Carter (Bulahdelah HS), Ian Herford, Ken Beeton (Manning Wallamba FHS), Barbara Waters, Helen Duggan and Anne Masters (Great Lakes HS), Jenny Cherry (Tinonee HS) Guests prior to meeting – Eric Richardson OAM, Mave Richardson OAM, Mayor David West, Paul De Szell, Richard Pamplin		
Apologies	Margaret Love (Cundletown HS), Mike Parsons, Pauline Ibbetson (Stroud HS), Jenny Richards (Gloucester HS), Cr Roberts		

Meeting items

Item	Key points/actions	Who
	Farewell Morning Tea Morning tea was held for Eric Richardson OAM to thank Eric for his years of promoting and encouraging heritage. Eric recently resigned from the Heritage Reference Group. Mayor David West provided a letter of thanks.	
1	Acknowledgement of Country	Mayor West
2	Welcome	Cr Bell
3	Actions from previous meeting Membership of Barrington Coast - HRG recommended that Historical Societies be exempt. To be discussed with Economic Development	Sue
4	Heritage happenings - Refer to attachment	
5	Succession planning A general discussion on the problems facing the Historical Societies. Many have difficulty finding volunteers to run the museums resulting in the opening hours being reduced. The exceptions are the Great Lakes and Wingham Museums which are open every day. Some volunteers have come through the New Start program or been appointed to do community service through the courts. Attracting volunteers is important. <i>Action: investigate if a heritage volunteer page could be established on the MidCoast website with links to the museums</i>	Sue

Item	Key points/actions	Who
6	<p>Heritage tourism</p> <p>Janine presented information on a grant application to establish a walking tour application, for 10 tours. Examples where this application had been used were the Dictionary of Sydney (http://home.dictionaryofsydney.org/) and Northern Territories A Tale of Four Cities.</p> <p>Costs were \$2,000 for access to the application and \$1,500/year for maintenance (applied for 3 years). This was a total cost of \$6,500. There was support for investigating further how funds could be provided to progress this project.</p> <p><i>Action: Paul De Szell recommended discussing with Economic Development funding opportunities</i></p>	Sue and Janine
7	<p>General business:</p> <p>Heritage plaques - agreement to adopt a consistent approach to heritage markers in the future along the lines of the plaques used in Wingham</p> <p>Rates books update – Penny provided an overview of the process (refer attachment). Currently 4 volunteers undertake this work. Concerns were raised about how this project will continue when Council moves to Biripi Way</p> <p><i>Action:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with Records about future access to the heritage rates books • Review with Records the extent of heritage books provided at each MidCoast office location and the future intent for these documents <p>Priority sites for SHI – Sue outlined a recent gap analysis undertaken for sites heritage listed in the Local Environmental Plans. It was found that many had limited information included on the register – the exception was those listed in Great Lakes. Funding has been provided to improve historical information on 60 priority sites. Priority was given to those at risk which included heritage sites in town centres, smaller churches and showgrounds. The proposed 60+ will be forwarded to the group to have a look at and provide comments by end January 2020.</p> <p><i>Action: Review the 60+ priority sites identified for further research and provide any comments by end January 2020</i></p> <p>Chairperson updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel remuneration – GM advised this was not possible • Computers – GM is investigating potential options 	<p>Sue Sue</p> <p>All</p>

Next meeting

Date	4 March 2020	Time	10am-12noon
Venue	Tea Gardens - TBA	Note-taker	Sue Calvin

Pixie O'Harris Exhibition

The Pixie O'Harris exhibition will open on 25 January at 2pm at the Taree Art Gallery. This is a collection of long-lost paintings by the much loved illustrator of many famous children's stories, including The Babes in the Wood, Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood and the Pixie O'Harris Nursery Rhyme Book.

Pixie decorated Children's Hospital wards across NSW to provide pleasure for children in hospitals. Twenty-five pictures were commissioned for the Taree Hospital. Over the years, many of the paintings were placed in storage. Penny Teerman and Janine Roberts have found the paintings and worked with volunteers and the Art Gallery to restore them ready for exhibition. ABC have covered the story leading to the exhibition.

Pixie O'Harris passed away in 1991. Many of her family are travelling to Taree to attend the exhibition.



Carrington Cemetery

Carrington cemetery is of great interest as it is on the original settlement of the Australian Agricultural Society granted to them in 1826. It contains graves dating back to 1837 and is an important local cemetery that is privately owned.

The Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Family Research Group have collated information on the headstones, inscriptions and burials at the cemetery. The records can be viewed on their website.



MidCoast Stories present at NSW Heritage Advisors Seminar on 2 December 2019

Janine Roberts and Penny Teerman were invited to present to the NSW Heritage Advisors on the Heritage Near Me funded project – MidCoast Stories. They were the only community group invited to present on their successful project. The Heritage Advisors appreciated the presentation, with many catching up with Janine and Penny after the presentation to discuss the project.



Wingham Museum

In association with the successful Scottish Festival held in May each year, the Manning Valley Historical Society is investigating how Wingham can be acknowledged as a Scottish town.

After the success of the Night at the Museum tours, the Museum have been contacted by U3A. A day performance for U3A is planned for March 2020.



Naming of historical wharves at Tea Gardens

Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress Association have been working with the local community to name three historic wharves at Tea Gardens. The names were to be a tribute to the early working boats who serviced the Tea Gardens area. The three names chosen are the "Salamander" and "Ability" after droghers which transported timber in this area, and "Yalinbah" after a vessel which transported supplies and passengers around the lakes and rivers - it was also known as the Yally. Work is being undertaken with Council to consult with the community on the names and forward register the names with the NSW Naming Board. A local Art group will produce plaques to be affixed to each wharf.

Tinonee Museum

Work is nearing completion on a new outdoor display shed at the Tinonee Museum. This will add to the great outdoor displays currently available at the Museum.

Manning Wallamba Family History Society

A quarterly newsletter known as The Fig Tree is produced each year – the November edition is out and can be viewed at <http://manningwallambafhs.com.au/newsletters/>.

A Bunnings BBQ was undertaken recently by this group, which raised \$1,000 for the Lions Bushfire Appeal.

Bulahdelah Museum

The museum recently hosted a bus trip from Valley Industries which was successful. They also participated in the Bulahdelah Show with an exhibit on how cameras have changed over time.

A newly established caravan park contacted the museum to organise historic photographs to be placed in their facilities. This was a positive exercise as it will showcase the local history and encourage people to visit the museum.

Congratulations to Kevin Carter who was made a Life Member of the Bulahdelah Historical Society after 30 years of service as the President – well done!

Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Family Research Group – NOTA on Trove

News of the Area, also known as NOTA is a local paper servicing the Myall Lakes area. The Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Family Research Group wanted to make the original copies of the paper accessible for the whole community by placing them on Trove - an Australian online library database aggregator. Trove is available through the National Library of Australia.

Knowing the historical importance of these papers, the Family Research Group sought funding (grant and community fundraising) to have the papers published on Trove. Papers from 1970-1984 are now available on Trove at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/title/1501>. This is the first stage complete. The second stage involves publishing papers from 1984 till 1999, which is likely to commence in March 2020.

Great Lakes Museum

Currently working with Crown Lands and Council to get building approval for a new building that will house a military exhibition.

A Southern Cross University student is developing a passport for people visiting the museum. This will encourage people to visit different sections of the museum.

Rate and Valuation Book Update (Penny Teerman HRG 4 December 2019)

Following the discovery of old Rate and Valuation Books in a Council storage area in 2013, members of the then Greater Taree City Council Strategic Heritage Advisory Committee, initiated a project to transcribe the data in order to make it readily available to anyone wishing to research the social history of the areas covered being:

- Taree Municipal Council 1885 – 1950
- Wingham Municipal Council 1889 – 1953 (but with gaps as many Books are missing)
- Manning Shire Council Ridings A, B & C – 1907 – 1937

This is an on-going project with a few dedicated volunteers, where attention to detail is critical and some knowledge of local history and land tenure a decided asset.

With the permission of MidCoast Council the data is being progressively uploaded to the MidCoast Stories website where it is freely available and fully searchable.

The screenshot displays the 'Rate and Valuation Books' section of the MidCoast Stories website. It includes a navigation bar at the top, a main heading, and a subtitle explaining the historical value of the books. Three circular icons represent the Taree Municipal Council, Wingham Municipal Council, and Manning Shire Council. To the right, a table titled 'TAREE RATE BOOKS 1885 - 1950' lists various rate books with columns for Year, Title, and Description. Below the table, there are three maps showing the locations of the rate books: Taree, Wingham, and Manning Shire.

Far from being just names and payments, rate books give a rare glimpse of a moment in time, with the older books including occupiers' and owners' occupations. Maps and short tutorials have been provided to demonstrate the use of this resource.

To date, available data from Taree Municipal Council has been uploaded with Wingham Municipal Council nearly completed. Manning Shire data transcription has commenced and will be completed as time permits.

With MidCoast Council making preparations for a move to new premises, it may be that consideration is being given to off-site storage of some records. Given the scale of this project and the effort already expended, it is imperative that the Manning Shire Rate Books remain on-site and accessible to allow the volunteers time to complete the project.