

Blue Mountains Heritage Advisory Committee: Minutes

Date:	Thursday 20 February 2020	Time:	1pm to 4pm
Location:	Grose and Megalong Rooms, 2 Civic Place, Katoomba		
Chair:	Councillor Van der Kley	Deputy Chair:	Councillor Kerry Brown
Present:	<u>Committee Members:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Chris Van der Kley • Cr Kerry Brown • Juliana Swatko • Elizabeth Saxton • Suzanne Mitchell • Ron Powell • John Low • Elizabeth Burgess • Jan Koperberg • Rod Stowe • David Payne • Ross Ingram 	<u>Observers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Barrett, BMCC Manager City Planning • Sara Reilly, BMCC Senior Heritage Planner • Senthil Kasiannan, BMCC Heritage Planner • Tan Vo, Manager Property & Commercial Services • Rachelle Schubert, BMCC Administration Officer • Philip Hammon, BMACHO 	
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Smith • Ruth Longdin • Christo Aitken, BMCC Heritage Advisor • Mark Jarvis, Katoomba Chamber of Commerce 		
TRIM File:	F05752 – 20/33264		

Speaker	Comments	Actions:
Item 1 – Meeting Commencement		
Chair	Cr Van der Kley opened the meeting at 1.03pm.	
Item 2 – Acknowledgement of Country		

Speaker	Comments	Actions:
Item 3 – Welcome and Apologies		
Chair	Apologies were accepted from Kevin Smith, Ruth Longdin, Christo Aitken and Mark Jarvis.	
Item 4 – Confirmation of Previous Minutes		
Chair	<p>The Heritage Advisory Committee confirmed the minutes from the previous meeting, subject to the amendment of <i>Item 10.2 Update on outcomes from Council Meeting - 1.g</i> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzanne Mitchell queried whether the historic path on Pulpit Hill was heritage listed and Kim Barrett advised that the site as a whole, is locally listed. <p>Moved by Jan Koperberg and seconded by Rod Stowe</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ACTION: Committee to review advice provided by Gary Parsons. 2. ACTION: Kim Barrett to follow up on status of media release advising of new member appointments.
Item 5 – Declaration of any Conflicts of Interest		
Chair	No declarations were made.	
Item 6 – Update on Leura Mall		
Tan Vo	<p>Tan Vo provided an update on the following heritage assets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 170-174 Leura Mall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received DA consent last year, currently working towards construction certificate and reviewing financial and risk assessments. Objective is how to best repair and conserve. • Confidential briefing session for Council to be held on options for costs of works, before report goes before Council at the March meeting. • Ron Powell queried the basic plan of maintenance on urgent works required, given years of neglect. • Tan Vo noted the necessity for an holistic approach. • Cr Brown noted previous requests for thermal imaging on termites at the urgent suggestion from building surveyors in 2015 as a preventative measure, and suggested that this work should occur notwithstanding cost issues. • Ron Powell queried the appointment of a Place Manager in respect to Leura Mall, and Tan Vo confirmed that the position was being recruited. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. ACTION: Committee to receive a copy of the 170-174 Leura Mall report when available.

Speaker	Comments	Actions:
	<p>2. Athol House, Lawson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works to secure against weather conditions as an interim measure, however a working group is to be formed moving forward. • Elizabeth Burgess queried whether thought had been given to uses for the place, and Tan Vo confirmed that the current focus is on conservation. • Ron Powell noted that immediate installation of acrow props may be required to secure the verandah. • Tan Vo noted works required including, boarding windows, fixing timber cladding, patching holes, clearing the site, fixing fencing, assessing the roof, as well as temporary measures to prevent water damage. • Elizabeth Burgess noted external improvements required to present the site better given its prominent highway position. • Ron Powell noted the site was previously the subject of a working group of the Heritage Advisory Committee, and that one success was the removal of a tree causing damage at the front. 	
	<p>3. Katoomba Falls Kiosk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tan Vo advised that the removal of asbestos commenced last week, and conservation works are now being finalised. A working group will be formed to determine the strategic objective for the site to optimise use and highlight local businesses and local community. • After review the Conservation Management Plan, Elizabeth Burgess noted listing a potential use of the site as a kiosk was good, but found the focus on the building interesting and queried whether consideration had been given to the surrounding landscape, parking and outdoor weather proofed seating. • Kim Barrett advised of the kiosk's inclusion within the Katoomba Falls Reserve inventory sheet as a result of the heritage review, and Tan Vo noted that this contributes to the holistic assessment of the site as a whole. • Kim Barrett noted that there would be a separate DA and future process for the change of use. • Rod Stowe queried the timeframe for the working group's recommendations being made to Council, and Tan Vo advised that a process report would most likely be provided within the following three months. • The Heritage Advisory Committee discussed previous research undertaken on the property. 	<p>4. ACTION: Committee to provide previous research and any further information to the HAC Admin email.</p>

Speaker	Comments	Actions:
	<p>4. Solitary Restaurant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tan Vo noted that whilst the tenant had planned a small DA for improvements, the intention is to now do a holistic DA for the whole operation. • Suzanne Mitchell queried whether the site was still currently closed, and Tan Vo confirmed. • Ron Powell queried the availability of a Conservation Management Plan, and Sara Reilly advised that the tenant had prepared a fabric assessment. • Ron Powell noted that a query regarding the replacement of the guttering was made a few years prior, however the significance was unclear. 	<p>5. ACTION: Kim Barrett and Sara Reilly to confirm whether a Conservation Management Plan has been/ is being prepared.</p>
Item 7 – Project Ideas for 2020		
Kim Barrett	<p>The Heritage Advisory Committee discussed developing a program to identify key projects for the upcoming year, with a focus on adding value to the Blue Mountains from a heritage perspective. Possible key projects include:</p> <p>1. Chelmsford Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Barrett discussed the proximity of Chelmsford Bridge in relation to where the landslip occurred, and its uniqueness from an engineering point of view, particularly with respect to its reinforcing. • Suzanne Mitchell noted that whilst the landslip may not have specifically impacted the bridge, it has affected the surrounding area. • Sara Reilly advised that further background information had been sought from Engineering Australia, who suggested listing on the Australian Engineering Heritage Register. • Kim Barrett noted the intention to prioritise the site for State Heritage Listing, and the opportunity to get an emergency focus on this given the current activity around the site. • John Low noted, opened in 1913, the bridge was designed by architects in an almost art nouveau style as an integral part of the sweeping curves of roads around the swimming pools through to Leura Mall, and was known as a whole as Chelmsford Drive. • Ron Powell queried the bridge's material, noted Phillip Hammon's research on concrete reservoirs, and that Phillip had a good knowledge of industrial heritage and had made contact with a concrete association and engineers with a heritage interest. • Suzanne Mitchell queried the timeframe, with Kim Barrett confirming within the next few months for the fast tracking of the listing. 	<p>6. ACTION: John Low to circulate the Chelmsford Bridge article to the Committee.</p> <p>7. ACTION: Ron Powell to contact Mike Clark, Principal Works Engineer and member of Engineering Heritage Australia.</p> <p>8. ACTION: Rod Stowe to contact the Director of Heritage Conservation at the National Trust with respect to industrial heritage.</p> <p>9. ACTION: Ross Ingram to confirm whether Blue Mountains Historical Society has a file on Chelmsford Bridge.</p> <p>10. ACTION: Jan Koperberg to confirm any relevant information with local historian, Ian Jack's wife.</p> <p>11. ACTION: Committee to provide any</p>

Speaker	Comments	Actions:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Reilly noted that much work had been undertaken on Leura Cascades and noted it is a whole cultural landscape. • David Payne noted his interest in being involved. • The Heritage Advisory Committee discussed the listing of individual items versus the site as a whole, and likely timeframes for achieving State Heritage listing. • Sara Reilly noted the increased need for a comparative analysis for Chelmsford Bridge • Ron Powell noted that Christo Aitken had sought recommendations on stone for the cascades, and suggested that this would be a great opportunity to raise Council's conservation works as well as the profile of Chelmsford Bridge, within the community. 	further information to the HAC admin email.
Sara Reilly	<p>2. HoWS App</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Barrett provided an onscreen demonstration of the app, noting the 200 word limit, possibility of nominating up to 25 sites and including links within the text. • The Heritage Advisory Committee discussed work undertaken by Ruth Longdin and the Katoomba Chamber of Commerce. • Sara Reilly noted the clustering of many sites, suggested the app may work well with a focus around villages, and using this as a possible prompt for tourists to explore further. • Elizabeth Burgess queried whether the BMACHO heritage trail was considered, and Jan Koperberg the list included only Commercial groups who decided to participate. • Kim Barrett noted that thematic selection would be ideal, and Sara Reilly noted that private properties and businesses may require exclusion or consultation to ensure no conflicts. 	12. ACTION: List of possible sites to be circulated to Committee to provide feedback.
Kim Barrett	<p>3. Heritage Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Barrett noted that the Heritage Forum is a priority project in itself. 	
Kim Barrett	<p>4. Memorials & plaques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Heritage Advisory Committee discussed inventorying memorials and plaques and possible inclusion of public art. • Elizabeth Burgess queried the existence of a pro forma, suggested that this could be provided to historians or used in a call out to the community as part of an engagement exercise. • Cr Van der Kley suggested placing a request for submissions via the Blue Mountains Gazette, and Sara Reilly suggested receiving submissions through the Have your say link on Council's website. • Kim Barrett noted a final audit may be required to ensure all items are captured. 	13. ACTION: John Low to provide list of time capsules to Kim Barrett.

Speaker	Comments	Actions:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Low suggested additional inclusion of time capsules in the inventory. • Elizabeth Saxton queried the definition of public art. • Ron Powell queried graphic standards for new plaques and development of different ones for the different villages, with Kim Barrett suggesting this may be developed by the Place Manager and Sara Reilly noting that this could be appended to the existing public domain technical manual. 	
	<p>5. Climate controlled storage in local history museums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Burgess praised the inclusion of emergency preparedness in the local strategic planning statement, particularly with respect to climate controlled collection storage in local history museums. • Kim Barrett noted that Councillors were briefed and reached general consensus of agreement, however noted the challenge is to find the space. <p>The Heritage Advisory Committee discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Keeping disaster planning at the forefront of Council thinking, particularly with large facilities such as libraries and museums; b. Objects and materials at risk during natural disasters; and c. Providing greater visibility to the public. 	<p>14. ACTION: Committee to advise on any additional priority projects they wish to nominate.</p>
Item 8 – Explorers Tree		
Kim Barrett	<p>Kim Barrett provided an update on the Explorers Tree, with particular regard to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed route for the duplication of the Great Western Highway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular attendance at meetings with RMS, however given the exact route is still vague, it is unknown whether the new interpretation area falls within the corridor, and if so, relocation of the tree here does not make sense. 2. Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMS' determination that removal of the tree is not an emergency, and Council's liability given it is a local heritage item. • Considerations being given to whether stabilising provisions are required, and whether relocation is required from a safety perspective regardless of the highway duplication. 3. The corridor's impact on Pulpit Hill as a whole <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the road corridor on the site as a whole, further to the tree itself. 	<p>15. ACTION: Kim Barrett to confirm the wording for the Pulpit Hill signs was sent to Elizabeth Saxton.</p> <p>16. ACTION: Sara Reilly to discuss possibility of directional signage at the upcoming meeting with other Councils regarding the HoWS app.</p>

Speaker	Comments	Actions:
	<p>The Heritage Advisory Committee discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Rod Stowe queried the proposed timeframe. b. Expected response from the Community regarding options. c. General consensus that a complete interpretative study was required given the argument concerning whether or not it is a marked tree by Lawson, and Suzanne Mitchell noted that Ruth Longdin, John Low and herself had discussed and would like to be involved. d. Kim Barrett noted that it was proposed that RMS pay for the removal, however removal would make it easier for the road upgrade to proceed. e. Elizabeth Burgess suggested the podcast episode Carving up the Country on marked trees may be of interest. f. John Low noted that whatever the public perception of the tree now, it was significant historically and it does have symbolic value, and so should have a memorial or similar. g. Suzanne Mitchell queried the number of visitors to the tree, and Elizabeth Burgess suggested visitor attendance was more likely due to its proximity to the Six Foot Track. h. John Low noted the story around the convict buried there, and suggested that be included in the interpretation of the site. i. Juliana Swatko noted that a cast of the tree could be made given its poor condition, Cr Van der Kley similarly suggested that a 3D footprint of the tree could be an option, and Kim Barrett advised that GML had offered to do some photogrammetry. j. Cr Van der Kley noted that whatever the option, it needs to be feasible, desirable and cost effective. k. Elizabeth Burgess queried the possibility for directional signage to be included as part of the HoWS app, and Sara Reilly advised that this would be raised at the upcoming meeting with other Councils already involved. 	
Item 9 – General Business		
9.1 National Trust Awards		
	<p>Kim Barrett noted that Elizabeth Burgess had requested the nomination of Woodford Reserve and confirmed that this had been raised with the Director Environment and Planning Services and was proceeding as a good example of building upon an existing heritage item acknowledge the associated Aboriginal history and cultural value.</p>	
9.2 Proposed Meeting Dates		

Speaker	Comments	Actions:
		17. ACTION: Proposed meeting dates to be circulated for confirmation.
9.3 Objective Connect		
		18. ACTION: Committee to contact Tamwyn Daley with any issues or concerns regarding Objective Connect.
9.4 Heritage Review Update		
	<p>Sara Reilly provided an update on the Heritage Review, noting its progression through Stage 1 and Stage 2 exhibitions, and current aims to have Council endorsement at the March or April meeting.</p> <p>The Heritage Advisory Committee discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Elizabeth Burgess queried whether Council had heard anything regarding Woodford's Memorial Park footbridge, and Sara Reilly confirmed receipt of a letter, a response made by Council and that community consultation has not yet commenced. Kim Barrett further confirmed that Council's position had not changed in its support of retaining the footbridge. b. Suzanne Mitchell noted that previous out of session meetings were held specifically for the purpose of the heritage review. Sara Reilly advised that the review is now being finalised and that all information is available on the Council website. c. Kim Barrett noted a key element of the review was to look at the interiors of public buildings. d. Elizabeth Saxton queried whether Council had followed up with the Department of Planning in regards to Council being able to enforce minimum standards of maintenance and repair for local heritage items. Cr Van der Kley advised a letter was issued as well as it being raised at the local government conference. Rod Stowe noted that the National Trust were advised by the Department of Planning that neither the proposal regarding supporting local government powers nor the one regarding long standing DAs was supported. e. Elizabeth Burgess queried whether Council had the power to enforce a notice of completion. Kim Barrett advised that case law suggested that this was almost never supported, and Elizabeth Burgess further queried whether the changes in legislation made mid last year would affect this. 	<p>19. ACTION: Councillors to be kept informed as to the situation of Woodford's Memorial Park footbridge.</p> <p>20. ACTION: Sara Reilly to provide Elizabeth Burgess with the letter Council received regarding Woodford's Memorial Park footbridge.</p> <p>21. ACTION: Sara Reilly to provide Committee with link to Council's Have Your Say page containing information to the Heritage Review.</p> <p>22. ACTION: Letters to and advice from Department of Planning in regards to maintaining local government powers and long standing DAs.</p> <p>23. ACTION: Kim Barrett to look into the changes in legislation Elizabeth Burgess raised.</p> <p>24. ACTION: Kim Barrett to confirm with Will Langevad whether the Minister should be written to if all other avenues are exhausted.</p>

Speaker	Comments	Actions:
Item 10 – Blue Mountains Heritage Forum		
Kim Barrett	<p>Cr Brown chaired the remainder of the meeting following Cr Van der Kley's departure at 3.11pm.</p> <p>Kim Barrett provided an update following discussions with Council's Communications team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft flyer was circulated, noting that this must align with Council branding; • Registrations can be administered through Council's website and Eventbrite; • A trail map or brochure indicating included sites can be prepared in-house can inform content for other advertising, for example through BMACHO. 	
	<p>The Heritage Advisory Committee discussed:</p> <p>1. Promotion and advertising</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. General consensus on the look of the flyer, however made the following suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ size of Australian Heritage Festival text be reduced, and draw focus instead to it being the Blue Mountains Heritage Forum ○ Cr Brown noted the emphasis on people enjoying built heritage, with the focus on use. ○ Incorporation of National Trust guidelines as part of the festival ○ Inclusion on wording explaining further what the forum is, and who it is for, e.g. shortened version of words provided by Ron Powell via email to Kim Barrett. b. Draft wording of letters proposed by Ron Powell to be sent by Council to businesses inviting participation to have static displays. c. Cr Brown highlighted the focus on seeing the positives of heritage, and how successful businesses are making heritage work as the point of difference. d. Elizabeth Burgess noted that it is about "Celebrating the potential of our built heritage" e. Sara Reilly noted the inclusion of the photographic competition was a good way to bring in other types of people, and noted that this could be run alongside the colouring-in competition from Councils website. f. Promotion of the event itself, as well as the individual competitions. General consensus was to advertise the week prior to Easter. g. Elizabeth Burgess queried how the photographic competition would be displayed at the event, and Sara Reilly suggested this would be via digital slideshow. h. Julianna Swatko agreed to judge the photographic competition and Jan Koperberg agreed to judge the children's colouring competition. i. Prizes and possible sponsorship, and possibility of having separate age groups for the competitions. 	<p>25. ACTION: Sara Reilly to circulate to Committee images for colouring-in competition for feedback.</p> <p>26. ACTION: Heritage team to settle on parameters for the photographic competition and circulate basic content for advice.</p>

Speaker	Comments	Actions:
	<p>2. Program for the event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Possibility of repeated sessions in morning and afternoon, A & B schedule. b. Intention to stop at larger sites for longer amounts of time, then walk past other sites, using the Cultural Centre as the base for the day. c. Ron Powell queried the possibility of having enough material to inform self-guided tours. d. Resourcing options for the tours, with Suzanne Mitchell and Jan Koperberg agreeing to run tours. Rod Stowe also confirmed the National Trust could provide two guides. e. Timing of the tours, most likely two sessions of two hours, aim to have six guides in total. f. Wording for the guide itself g. Possible inclusion of the Savoy and possibly other shop interiors. h. Limiting group size, planning for back up guides and staggering start times of multiple groups. Attendees to indicate at registration which events they will attend. i. Suggest attendees enjoy lunch supporting the local economy, then meet back at Cultural Centre for announcement of competition winners. 	<p>27. ACTION: Kim Barrett to look into the Cr Brown's request for whipper snipping along the proposed trail.</p> <p>28. ACTION: Working group to be formed to progress the Heritage Forum – confirm sites, agree on trail, and sources used to inform tour guides spiel.</p> <p>29. ACTION: Rod Stowe to provide contact details for National Trust guides participating.</p>
	<p>3. Speakers for the talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Kim Barrett noted that whilst there are options for talk topics, it would be beneficial to have a thematic focus and have speakers outside of Council. b. Elizabeth Burgess suggested possibly a Local historian, particularly on adaptive reuse. c. Other options including builders working with heritage, paint chip analysis. 	<p>30. ACTION: Heritage team to identify gaps and seek further assistance from the Committee if required.</p>

Speaker	Comments	Actions:
	<p>4. Static displays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sara Reilly noted that Council is contacting John Merriman regarding what he has in Springwood library to curate something. b. How to determine parameters around what businesses are able to exhibit, for example businesses would need a heritage building, and detail how it is utilised, including advantages from the history and heritage of the property, possibly suggest inclusion of before and after photos. c. Possible creation of a template for businesses to complete to be printed and displayed in the background. d. Advertising within the gazette and separate promotion of fringe events, possibly via a link on Council's website indicating that the following events are also occurring. e. Jan Koperberg noted that space is reserved in the March April BMACHO newsletter to advertise the Heritage Forum. f. Inclusion of a disclaimer with regard to any businesses unable to be included, and invitation to make contact if interested in participating in the future. 	<p>31. ACTION: Phil Hammon and Ron Powell to create the template with parameters, send to Heritage team for review and further consideration of how to present.</p> <p>32. ACTION: Council to register the event with National Trust.</p> <p>33. ACTION: Jan Koperberg to send reminder for when the wording for the BMACHO newsletter is due, and email address to submit.</p>
Chair	<p>Next Meeting Date and Times to be confirmed. Meeting closed at 4.27pm.</p>	