

# Minutes

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019, 2.10 pm to 4.05 pm</b>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Meeting Rooms Grose &amp; Megalong, Level 2, Council HQ 2-6 Civic Place, Katoomba</b>	
<b>Chair:</b>	Clr Chris Van der Kley	
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Clr Kerry Brown	
<b>Present:</b>	<b>Committee members:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suzanne Mitchell (SM)</li> <li>• Elizabeth Saxton (ES)</li> <li>• Ruth Longdin (RL)</li> <li>• Kevin Smith (KS)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clr Kerry Brown (KB)</li> <li>• Ron Powell (RP)</li> <li>• Juliana Swatko (JS)</li> </ul>	
<b>Observers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nick Rigby (NR), BMCC Branch Manager, Environment &amp; Culture</li> <li>• Nicole Castle (NC), BMCC Cultural Heritage Coordinator</li> <li>• Arianwen Roberts, Temporary Administrative Minute Taker</li> </ul>	
<b>Apologies</b>	Committee Members (absent):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Low (JL)</li> </ul>	
<b>Minutes</b>	Arianwen Roberts, Temporary Administrative Minute Taker (from Complete Recruitment Solutions)	
<b>TRIM File:</b>	F05752	

## Items for discussion:

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Meeting Commencement	2.10 p.m. Clr Chris Van der Kley chaired the meeting
2	Acknowledgement of Country	Clr Chris Van der Kley
3	Welcome and Apologies	Clr Chris Van der Kley welcomed the committee members.  <b>Apologies -</b> John Low
4	Confirmation of previous minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the previous minutes were received.</li> <li>• NR went through actions of previous meeting.</li> <li>• RP confirmed the previous minutes as “read” seconded by JS.</li> </ul> <p><b>MOTION 1</b> Previous Minutes confirmed as “read and agreed”</p> <p><b>Moved by Ron Powell</b> <b>Seconded by Juliana Swatko</b></p> <p>Discussion regarding matters arising from the minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A request for a budget for small heritage projects was noted.</li> <li>• Follow up discussion on Council’s approval of painting the building facade of the Paragon, Katoomba – RL noted that BMCC should have more liaison with the Heritage Council for minor works approvals for State Heritage Register items. RL said</li> </ul>

		<p>she had previously advised Council that a site inspection is needed to assess what works are being carried out, and whether they are all approved. RL also stated that she did not believe Council had accurate information on the nature and extent of works being done to the building, and that an inspection was the only way to verify. She stated that she had been asking for this to occur for months and expressed her frustration that it had not occurred. RL stated that she had heard noises coming from the building which sounded like intrusive work being carried out, such as the “striking of floorboards with a mattock”. It was noted that this agenda item has been tabled for discussion later in the meeting and discussion will continue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A query was raised on the status of the Development Application (DA) for the Imperial Hotel at Mount Victoria. NC noted that it was approved by an Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel (IHAP) in August 2018. The Chair provided a brief overview of IHAPs in assessing DA’s. SM requested a flow chart outlining the determining factors for a DA to be referred to an IHAP or the Council.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>ACTION:</u> NR to provide Committee with a flow chart that outlines the factors for a DA being referred to an IHAP or the Council for determination.</b></p>
5	Declaration of any conflicts of interest.	No conflicts of interest declared.
6.	Council’s Cultural Management Program	NR and NC gave an overview on Council’s Cultural Management Program.
6.1	Museum Advisory Program	NC noted that Gay Hendriksen, Council’s Museum Advisor, was unexpectedly unable to attend today’s meeting and would reschedule this presentation to the next meeting.
6.2	Heritage Inventory Project	<p>NC presented an update on the Heritage Inventory Project. A Heritage Specialist has completed almost 100 Conservation Management Statements in accordance with the NSW Heritage management guidelines and the principles of the Burra Charter, for high priority Council assets that are listed as heritage items in the LEP. This work has been undertaken as a part of Council’s Heritage Inventory Project, to improve Council’s management of assets with heritage values. NC referred to the list of assets provided previously to members, noting which CMS’s have been undertaken to date.</p> <p>ES raised a query that the list includes Woodford Academy which is not managed by Council. NC clarified that the listing in this instance refers to the reserve land at the back of the property that is managed by Council.</p>

		<p>RL raised concerns with several walking tracks noted on the list being in a state of neglect, including the Bonnie Doon Track, Mini Ha Ha and the Prince Henry Cliff Walk. There was discussion regarding who is responsible for maintaining heritage listed walking tracks and whether it is Council or National Parks. A comment was also raised regarding the presence of noxious weeds. RL expressed concern that promotional material about the Bonnie Doon Track and the Mini Ha Ha Track are connected and lead to Mini Ha Ha Falls. She advised that they are not connected as the text suggests. RL also raised concerns about weed growth on the Bonnie Doon Track.</p> <p>NR noted that Council's Natural Areas program strategically prioritises works for walking tracks that Council is responsible for, to buy better outcomes for high risk and high profile assets. Subsequent queries were raised regarding the prioritisation for allocation of funds. NR suggested that the relevant Program Leader from Natural Areas Management be invited to give a presentation at the next meeting.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION:</u> NR to arrange for the Natural Areas Management Program Leader to present to the Committee at the next meeting, including the Prince Henry Cliff Walk.</b></p> <p>NC continued to present on the Heritage Inventory Project, noting the heritage conservation policy guidance in the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Conservation Management Plan for Blue Mountains walking tracks.</p> <p>KS raised a query regarding the land ownership for the Hargrave track and access previously being blocked off. NR suggested that the best way to follow up this information would be for him to submit a Customer Service Request (CSR) that can be allocated to the appropriate Council staff member and responded to within a set timeframe. The link to lodging a CSR can be located on Council's website.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION:</u> CSR link to be circulated to Members.</b></p> <p>Discussion continued regarding the presentation. NR noted that the Inventory Project takes a strategic perspective as a tool to assist asset managers to better manage heritage values. The next stage of the project will include costings.</p>
6.3	Community Involvement in Heritage	<p>NR gave an overview that when the Council adopted the Committee's revised Terms of Reference in May 2018, the Council also resolved for an independent review of mechanisms for community involvement in heritage. Elton Consulting have been appointed to conduct the review and will come to the Committee to present preliminary findings and workshop ideas with the Committee, before preparing a report back to the Council.</p>

		<p>A query was raised as to whether other Council advisory committees, such as the Aboriginal Advisory Council, were also subject to the review. NC clarified that the review will focus on the ways in which Council involves the community in heritage, such as the Committee, Council's Museum program, Heritage advisory program, rather than solely a review of the Committee itself.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION:</u></b>  <b>NR to contact external consultant to arrange date for an out-of-session workshop with the Committee and confirm date with members.</b></p> <p>NR gave an overview that Council's Cultural Heritage Management Program is focusing on improving the processes for managing heritage items and Council assets, including how best to involve the Committee? NR suggested that an out-of-session meeting be organised with Committee members, using the Katoomba Falls Kiosk as a case study. There was an agreement among members that heritage advice was best sought initially at the early preliminary scoping phases and then ongoing throughout projects.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION:</u></b>  <b>NR to arrange an out-of-session meeting with the Committee and relevant Council staff members to discuss the Committee's views on heritage considerations for the Katoomba Falls Kiosk, moving forward. Date to be confirmed.</b></p>
6.4	OEH NSW Heritage Grants	<p>NC presented an update on the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Activation grants that Council is currently delivering for the Woodford Reserve Conservation and Interpretation Project and the Pulpit Hill Heritage Stabilisation and Interpretation Project. These grants focus on community interaction, interest and participation, for places that are accessible to the public.</p> <p>NC also noted that OEH currently have a new round of grant applications open for projects in 2019/20 and 2020/21, closing Friday 8 February. Council will be submitting a number of grant applications, including: Echo Point Aboriginal Community Interactions grant; a Stage 1 Local Planning Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study for the LGA; funding for continuation of the Heritage Advisory Program and a Local Heritage Fund grant.</p> <p>SM and RL both commented in support of a Local Heritage Fund, particularly for the main streets such as in Katoomba. Clr Van der Kley also noted support for a Local Heritage Fund and that he will be looking into looking into applying for matching funding this year.</p> <p>Cr Van der Kley further noted that the NSW Heritage Council should give more power back to Councils to enforce private</p>

		<p>owners, leases and proprietors to maintain and enhance their heritage properties especially facades in the main streets of heritage cities, e.g. Katoomba Street.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION:</u></b>  <b>Cr Van der Kley to liaise with NR and Will Langevad in Development &amp; Planning Services to draft a request for Council to play a role in enforcing appropriate maintenance of heritage facades in main streets.</b></p>
7	General Business	
7.1	Ritz Nursing Home, Leura	<p>This agenda item was proposed by ES, on behalf of the Blue Mountains National Trust branch, for concerns regarding the deteriorating condition of the heritage building.</p> <p>Discussion held noting that the building closed recently. Cr Van der Kley noted that the property has now been sold. Discussion continued on the sale of the property.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION:</u></b>  <b>Clr Van der Kley to submit a request to find out about the new ownership and what is now happening with the property.</b></p>
7.2	Renaissance Centre, Katoomba	<p>This agenda item was proposed by ES, who asked what was now happening with the building?</p> <p>Cr Van der Kley noted that someone had bought the property in Sydney after the last owner went bankrupt and it was now up for sale again. He noted that he would put in a request for this item as well.</p> <p><b><u>ACTION:</u></b>  <b>Clr Van der Kley to submit a request to find out about the current ownership and what is now happening with the property.</b></p> <p>Cr Van Der Kley re-iterated that the Council should write to the NSW Heritage Council regarding maintenance and repairs for significant heritage properties.</p> <p>ES raised the example of the main street success in Mudgee.</p> <p>Cr Brown commented on the Trocadero in Katoomba, a huge underutilised space that shouldn't be given up on. NR noted that Council's Heritage Advisor, Christo Aitken, had submitted an OEH grant application in recent years for the re-activation of the property that was unsuccessful.</p> <p>Cr Van Der Kley noted it would cost anywhere from \$5-\$10 million to fix up the Renaissance Centre and there are also ongoing debates about what to then do with it.</p>
7.3	Katoomba Falls Kiosk	<p>This agenda item was proposed by RL, who noted that this agenda item had already been addressed earlier in the</p>

		meeting, and that further discussion would be held at the out of session workshop, to be scheduled in March.
7.4	Explorer's Tree, Katoomba	<p>This agenda item was proposed by RL, who provided a summary of her historical research on the Explorers Tree, including research on the marked tree at Mount Blaxland. RL advised that the Katoomba marked tree had been erroneously memorialised, in part due to the Mount Blaxland site being lost for a prolonged period. She advised she had consulted with various experts regarding the Mount Blaxland site and the Katoomba marked tree, and had formed the view that the Katoomba tree could not have been alive in 1813, when it was alleged to have been marked.</p> <p>Image tabled dated 1886. Discussion.</p> <p>RL commented that the photograph of the tree in 1886 could not have been alive in 1813, based upon advice she had received from an archaeologist – heritage advisor, a botanist and an ecologist.</p> <p>Discussion held that it would be interesting to review the Explorers journals at the Mitchell library. RL noted that only the later 1913 versions had been digitised, available online.</p>
7.5	Paragon Update, Katoomba	<p>This agenda item was proposed by RL. It was noted that this agenda item had been addressed earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>Discussion. More communication requested with Heritage Council and BMCC. Report not yet received on status of Paragon. RL requested that it be minuted that there had been no confirmation as to whether the property had been inspected. Cr Brown noted this could be raised as a CSR.</p>
7.6	Imperial Hotel, Mt Victoria Update	<p>This agenda item was proposed by RL. It was noted that this agenda item had already been addressed earlier in the meeting. It was noted that the DA had been approved by IHAP in August, with details available on Council's website.</p>
7.7	Francis Smith Memorial, Springwood	<p>This agenda item was proposed by SM who noted that Committee members had requested repairs to improve the legibility of the plaque, which was difficult to read in aluminium. It was noted that the memorial at present has a laminated label.</p> <p>Discussion: Where did it come from? What is council's stance /procedure, re-doing it?</p> <p>Council staff obtained a quote for replacing the plaque for \$1,500.00. No current funding available. Council had applied for Community War Memorials grant funding which was unsuccessful. Will continue to seek grant funding.</p>

		KS noted a discretionary small fund was required for such repairs. NR noted that this was considered for internal bids for funding as a part of Council's budgetary process.
7.8	Facade Restoration: Staples Store, Lawson	<p>This agenda item was proposed by SM, who questioned what the scope of the current DA includes?</p> <p>NC noted that Council's website indicates the DA is currently on Public Exhibition, closing midnight January 30. The details of the DA would be available on the website.</p> <p>Discussion by RL and SM that the Gazette indicates extreme restoration. Questions among members raised: Current façade aluminium? Is original façade still there? Heritage? Who clad it and when?</p> <p>Clr Brown re-iterated that the DA closes at midnight so members can view details online.</p>
8	Other Items	
8.1	Hoylake sign, Leura	RP noted that the rock signage is in state of disrepair and would like to follow up on the sign being repaired. He noted that it is within the public street and understood Council would have a role in maintaining it. NR noted that submitting a CSR would be the most expedient way of requesting action rather than waiting until the next quarterly meeting.
8.2	Bulls Camp, Woodford	JS mentioned that since removing the shower head and posting no camping signs at Bulls Camp, has completely resolved the issues there.
	Next Meeting Dates	<p>The next quarterly meeting date had been scheduled for Wednesday 24 April. NR &amp; RP noted they are both unable to attend Wednesday 24 April meeting. The Chair agreed to reschedule.</p> <p>In regards to the out of session workshop, the Chair asked NR to check available dates with the Consultant and email details to Committee members.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> NR to reschedule next meeting date and schedule date for out of session workshop with consultant and members.</p>
	Meeting Closure	4.05 pm