



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Working Group

Tuesday, 17 August 2021 – 6pm

Microsoft Teams

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MINUTES

Welcome to Country – Deborah Lennis

Introductions

COMMUNITY:

Allan Barnes – Member

Ben Bowen – Member

Janelle Scott – Member

Katrina Thorpe – Member

Derek Wilson – Member

Shane Hinton – Member

Pam Touma – Member

Jenny Thomsen – Member

Karyn Virgin – Presenter (joined 6:30pm – Left 7:08pm)

STAFF:

Deborah Lennis – Cultural Advisor & Facilitator

Joshua Staines – Aboriginal Programs Officer

APOLOGIES:

Robert (Bob) Webb – Member

Cathie Craigie – Member

Nardi Simpson – Member

Simon Watts – Staff

preamble

Disclosure of interest - nil

Confirmation of previous minutes and actions – no minutes, due to the facilitator moving offices and then been WFH with half the notes in the office within a box after the move. They will be sent out with current minutes.

Guest Speakers

1. Aboriginal Programs - Joshua Staines
 - NAIDOC –
 - AbSec Family Fun Day @ Steel Park – had approx. 40 stalls – Postponed until September, however unlikely... Council support for the event included – Portaloos, Covid Marshalls, Walking Tours, Elders Food...
 - Koori Kids Disco – under 12's – Postponed, possibly a Christmas event....80 tickets given.
 - Blak Tech – in partnership with Shared Path Org – Postponed- program designed for young peoples to see if tech is where they want to be placed – learn about coding, graphic design etc.
 - Headspace - Youth Weaving Program – started before lockdown and continued for 9 weeks...currently in review...councils support was connections....
 - Wararua Bunga at Gunawirra –
 - mum's & bub's program which is still running
 - online yoga program..... currently on-hold as they only have done a few sessions
 - art program – Blak Douglas – can't film to do as online program.....currently on hold
 - Koori Hoops – Basketball Club Program (After Dark) over from Glebe to Marrickville.... full wrap-around program with mentors (eg: Luke Richardson)....currently on hold due to Covid restrictions..... support from council could include Elders as mentors (Fridays AM), monetary,
 - Inner West Fest – the Aboriginal perspective is showcased throughout the Fest through images projected the Town Halls,
 - Baludarri (Balmain) went ahead
 - Gulgadya (Leichhardt) went ahead
 - Midjuburri (Marrickville) – currently pushed-backed dates....Sept, this will depend on the lockdown status
 - Djarrawunang (Ashfield) – on hold, will see outcomes from Covid
 - Inner West PAAC – updated: by Derek Wilson as ACLO at Inner West PAC
 - Currently no plans for meeting – possibly could be online
 - IWPAC RAP – currently reviewing and hoping to make sure it continues
 - Current issues –
 - Police recording of Aboriginality – currently a survey is out, (has been sent to community), closes 31st August.....Facilitator to resend throughout committee and community
 - Working with some disengaged young peoples - did didge making & walking tour of La Perouse...outcomes –
 - several participants worked within properties with the Police to clean-up yards etc...comments
 - participants were unaware they help DV community members
 - terrific outcomes for both participants & community as they could feel good about themselves by helping others and also good that other are willing to help

- Fishing equipment has been purchased and they take these kids fishing Mondays PM's with mentors (eg: Joe Brown)....comments
 - Plenty of great places to take the kids to fish in the area
 - Great way for them to get together and chat with their peers as well
- Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) – the Sydney Branch is always looking for volunteers....it has a range of peoples on the committee.....last week meeting was on-line and didn't attend...however tries to attend most of them
- Aboriginal Workers Circle (AWC)- 1st Tuesday monthly – 10am-12pm (Zoom meetings currently).....it is a support group for Aboriginal staff within the area and community.....good way to network and see what is going on across area for the Aboriginal community across all ages.....if want to join please let either Joshua or Deborah know and they can put you in touch with the facilitator.....looking at possible training in –
 - 'Didarri' – deep listening
 - Trauma – response & care
- RUOKAY mural – “Stronger Together” – will be located in Peace Park (cnr King & Alice St Newtown).....it is to celebrate successful LGBTQI community members and will be on the pillars within the park.
 - Comment – problem with word successful....this year Council celebrated IWD with the caption “ordinary people can do extraordinary things”, this is a good sentiment for cohesive community
- Stepping on – in conjunction with SLHD & Seniors Team....the program is about falls prevention and would be good to the lead-up to the Elders Olympics....some sessions are with a trainer, whilst other are at home...would like to see a team from Council go to the Elders Olympics.....to be discussed at our next meeting
- Banga Gili Newsletter – the Early Childhood Reconciliation Program, which was ran for all 14 Council's Early Childhood Centres during Reconciliation Week.....outcomes
 - Some of the Centre are leading the way in Aboriginal educational outcomes, whilst others gain experience.
 - a quarterly newsletter – 'Banga Gili' aim of newsletter is to help link contacts, important information, and resources.
 - Challenges – needs an editor
 - Feel free to send anything you feel is important to add for the centres to Joshua - joshua.staines@innerwest.nsw.gov.au attention- inclusion into Banga Gili
- Steel Park EOI – these are finished and hasn't had a reply from the Properties Team on the successful applicant....use will depend on the organisation that has use of the building...
 - Comment – this building was originally designed for community use and this change that the community can't book and use for small gatherings was never told to this committee...not happy if it is given to a non-Aboriginal business over community.....

2. Umwelt Pty Ltd – Karyn Virgin Principal Heritage Consultant.¹

Items for discussion and action

3. Umwelt Pty Ltd – Callan Park – questionnaire due 31st Aug 2021

The report will build on information gather by some of the committee members & talks with MLALC's Site/Heritage Officer

- Raised walkways – to help stop erosion and keep community from walking across culturally sensitive areas
- Geo-fabric & planting – around rock shelters
 - Other viable options – please let them know
- Barricades – still possible to climb
- Most of the top area is one big 'midden site'
- Currently – used heavily

Community questions/information

- *Would you use sonar for ground search?* Doubt it however often if their possibility of structures
- *Loss of area?* Nothing is for certain, however now being part of Greater Sydney Parklands there is a better chance it won't go developers
- *Kendrick Park, Marrickville* – the former MACC worked on getting things on the Heritage area & did other things to get the locals to take their minds off the area as unused/reuse.
- *Prior use* – was a family site
- *Needed* –
 - Awareness & signage
 - Community Survey
 - Callan Park Master Plan input
 - Aboriginal heritage & history first & foremost

4. Community Business –

a. Other council updates –

- i. Healthy Aging & Cultural Strategy & Naming Policy – out on public exhibition and close on the 19th September 2021
- ii. Briefing Note – Council Resolution 'Change of Street Names' –

Recommendations:

1. Use the words that the Committee has already approved during the Ward Names approval (2018)
2. Not to reuse the words more than twice throughout the LGA
3. Write a 'Naming Policy' with thoughts around sensitivity of language, respect of Traditional Owners and what is being named, ease of translation-possible look at the flora & fauna per Ward

b. Community update –

- i. Wayfinding Artworks (1 per ward) – the last was placed in Damun during Reconciliation Week, we will look at an official opening possible early next year.

¹ Umwelt Pty Ltd – Environmental & Social Consultants – presentations sent to members

- ii. Fox Lane – what is happening and will they go up into the lane? – Deborah to investigate and get back at next meeting
- iii. Police & Lockdown – Fines are and will be handed out, no reasons tolerated...apparently the mob are doing the right thing so not many handed out to the community.
 - 1. The Police have a survey out – closes 31st August 2021 – Survey is about the collection by Police of Aboriginality .

Meeting closed- 19:36

Next meeting: 19th October 2021