

Minutes

Minutes of the Tweed River Regional Museum Advisory Committee Meeting held Thursday 15 March 2012

Venue:

Coolamon Cultural Centre

Time:

2:00pm

Present:

Cr Barry Longland; David Oxenham (Director Community & Natural Resources); Judy Kean (Museum Director); Max Boyd (Community); Sandra Flannery (Community); Faye O'Keeffe (Community); Joan Smith (Tweed Heads Historical Society); Denise Garrick (Tweed Heads Historical Society); Helena Duckworth (Uki & South Arm Historical Society); Mary Lee Connery (Uki & South Arm Historical Society); Carol Piggott (Murwillumbah Historical Society);

Apologies:

Gary Fidler (Community); Beverley Lee (Murwillumbah Historical Society).

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Joan Smith

Seconded: Fay O'Keeffe

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Tweed River Regional Museum Advisory Committee meeting held Thursday 19 January 2012 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Business Arising:

Item from Meeting held 19 January 2012

1. Senior Museum Curator's Report

Friends of the TRRM

Friends 2012 calendar sold out.

Friends are working toward another film night.

Reference was made to the above item from the meeting of 19 January 2012 - Max Boyd indicated that in conversation with Anderson's Treasure Store they mentioned they could have sold many more Friends' calendars.

Fay O'Keeffe mentioned that the South Murwillumbah Post Office would like to carry stock of the next calendar. The Friends may give consideration to printing more calendars next year.

Item from Meeting held 19 January 2012

1. Senior Museum Curator's Report

TRRM staff update

The position of Museum Director, Tweed River Regional Museum will be advertised nationally during January.

Reference was made to the above item from the meeting of 19 January 2012 - Max Boyd congratulated Judy Kean on behalf of the Committee. David Oxenham advised that the requirements of the previous Senior Museum Curator position has been reviewed in light of the major developments ahead of the Museum in relation to community engagement, building programs, collection storage and content development. The position was assessed as having greater responsibility and accountability and was subsequently upgraded to that of Museum Director. A good range of applications was received in response to national advertisement of the position and Judy Kean was the successful candidate.

Item from Meeting held 19 January 2012

6. Draft Community Based Heritage Study and Management Plan

Members discussed Council's recent release of the Draft Community Based Heritage Study and Management Plan. Members were encouraged to view documents which are open for public comment from mid-January, with information available on Council's website. Members were positive about any measures that supported owners of heritage buildings to care for their buildings.

Reference was made to the above item from the meeting of 19 January 2012 - Mary Lee Connery enquired about response to public consultation. David Oxenham indicated that the period for public comment had closed. Most responses were positive. Of the responses received a small number were negative. Council officers were currently preparing a report for Council

Agenda Items:

1. Museum Director's Report

15 March 2012

Museum building and development

Collections store

Work has begun on site. Detailed design and associated approvals are now being finalized. Building completion is still anticipated around July/August 2012.

A layout of proposed Museum storage has been developed in consultation with storage system suppliers and Powerhouse Museum personnel.

TRRM Murwillumbah

Development Application 12/0035 is currently with Council for assessment. Documentation is available for viewing on Council's website.

Closure of the museum and alternative accommodation for the Historical Society

Historical Society members have begun packing in preparation for the move to a new location. A building at Bray Park has been identified. Various preparations will be underway during March (cleaning, painting, services) and it is anticipated the move will begin before the end of the month.

TRRM Flagstaff

Nothing further to report since January meeting.

Collections

Assessment and Relocation project, Murwillumbah

The project is progressing well. A very successful workshop was held on February 4 and 5, attended by 13 volunteers. Assessment commenced in earnest on 6 February.

Vital Statistics	as @ 14/3/2012	
Number of volunteers and volunteer hours dedicated to the project	11volunteers approx 236 hours	At the moment volunteer teams are working Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This is likely to increase as more space is available and packing and other tasks can begin.
Number of objects assessed	600+	This includes tagging and visual assessment on site; checking collected information against databases and other files, and entry of data into detailed 'Relocation spreadsheet'
Number of objects photographed	420	
Number of objects/boxes packed	0	Packing cannot commence until Historical Society office is relocated

Identifying items for possible de-accessioning

The detailed data collected is helping to identify those objects that are without an identifying number, and/or donor names or other information associated with them and/or are in poor condition. MD will begin to compile information about items that fall into these categories. The TRRM Collection Policy has detailed criteria and procedures for de-accessioning and disposal and these will be observed.

Further discussion with Historical Society members about this process and in relation to specific objects will take place over the coming weeks and be ongoing.

The Collection Policy requires that any recommendation to de-accession an item is formally endorsed by the Museum Advisory Committee.

Collection management, Coolamon, Uki and Tweed Heads

Museum Collections Assistant (MCA) has been dedicated to working through the backlog of collection-related tasks, as summarised below.

Pest Monitoring: A regular program of monitoring and changing baits has been instituted at all sites. This involves working with volunteers to undertake visual inspections and ensuring regular changeover of silverfish and cockroach bates in particular.

Stock take Coolamon storeroom and office: A full stocktake has been completed, a comprehensive inventory and location record developed and a cross-checking of all paperwork undertaken. A number of objects have been re-housed as part of this project.

Uki: MCA is working with volunteers on documentation of collection items.

Acquisitions: MCA is now working systematically through a backlog of items and on new items recently offered. Recommendations for acquisition will continue to be brought to the Committee on a regular basis.

Collections Management System (CMS)

Quotations were sought and received from three companies, KE EMu, Vernon Systems and Maxus. Initial assessment was undertaken by Council Museum, Gallery and Council IT staff on Friday 8 March. This process is now being finalized and it is anticipated that a formal recommendation, and contract negotiations with the preferred supplier will be underway by the end of March.


Friends of TRRM


First Friends Newsletter for 2012 has been published. Sourcing and formatting content for the film night is well advanced.

Staff update

I commenced in the position of Museum Director on 5 March.

Acquisitions/De-accessions
PROPOSED ACQUISITIONS

ARTIFACT	DESCRIPTION & DATE	DONOR	REPORT	IMAGE
Postcard with foldout souvenir photographic prints of Murwillumbah, NSW	Postcard with two kittens in a basket on the front with wording 'Good Luck And a Bagful of Views from MURWILLUMBAH'. There are 11 fold out black and white photographic prints each individually labelled with wording at the bottom of the fold out: 'Murwillumbah, NSW. Valentine Publishing Co. Pty. Ltd., Sydney & Melb.' Handwritten notation on the reverse of the postcard reads: To 'Mollie, 1 George Street Burwood'. From 'Mary'. Intact and in fair condition. 138mm x 90mm c. 1942	Enid McKay	Relates to themes of tourism and the built environment, has a strong provenance and adds to existing postcard examples in the collection.	

<p>Leather wrist band made by Mark Arbuz</p>	<p>Leather wrist band, hand tooled with metal studs, made by Mark Arbuz and worn by Gary Fidler at the Aquarius Festival at Nimbin in 1973. The date '73' and the word 'Nimbin' are etched into the leather.</p> <p>80mm x 50mm 1973</p>	<p>Gary Fidler</p>	<p>Relates to themes of people and culture of the district, in particular highlighting the alternative lifestyle movement that brought new settler populations to the region.</p>	
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Recommendation: That the Museum Director's report be received and noted by the Committee and the proposed acquisitions be accepted..

Moved: Mary Lee Connery

Seconded: Denise Garrick

RESOLVED that the Museum Director's Report be received and noted by the Committee and the Proposed Acquisitions be accepted.

Business Arising from Museum Director's Report:

Friends Film night:

Sandra Flannery advised that a date toward the end of May was still to be confirmed. Screenings are planned for Murwillumbah (Regent), Kingscliff (Cinemax) and Tweed Heads (Twin Towns auditorium being investigated).

Valuable new material from local residents has been located and will be featured, including footage of Banana Festivals and the Murwillumbah Show in the 1960s.

Valuable support for digitisation of film has been received from a Tugun business and the Friends will look to develop this as a potential sponsorship relationship.

There was discussion about accessing archival footage from Film Australia and similar archives, however licence fees associated with public showings are prohibitive.

2. Murwillumbah Historical Society Report

Packing of the Historical Society Office in preparation for the move is well underway.

A number of research enquiries have been referred and are being handled by Joan Fleming and Bev Lee.

There have been issues with hosting of the Historical Society website which have delayed it going live; Carol is pursuing resolution of these.

Minutes

Carol indicated that volunteers are working very hard on the assessment and relocation project.

Moved: Carol Piggott

Seconded: Max Boyd

RESOLVED that the Murwillumbah Historical Society Report be noted by the Committee.

Business Arising from the Murwillumbah Historical Society Report:

Max Boyd indicated that in relation to the thunder egg collection, Frank Rowe had offered to assist with his knowledge of these specimens and the activities of the Gem Club and that Peter Solomon, a past geology student from the University of Queensland had completed a theses on the subject.

Museum Director, Judy Kean, will contact Frank Rowe with regards to this.

3. Tweed Heads Historical Society Report (Attachment 1)

Tabled, circulated and read.

Moved: Joan Smith

Seconded: Denise Garrick

RESOLVED that the Tweed Heads Historical Society Report be noted by the Committee.

Business Arising from the Tweed Heads Historical Society Report:

Joan Smith asked whether Tweed Shire Council or RSL clubs were planning any activity to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI in 2014.

Barry Longland indicated that he would have an opportunity to check with the RSL and others during Anzac Day celebrations.

Max Boyd requested that Council's Festivals and Events Coordinator contact RSL branches regarding any activities.

Museum Director, Judy Kean, will contact Council's Festivals and Events Coordinator with regards to this.

4. Uki and South Arm Historical Society Report (Attachment 2)

Tabled, circulated and read.

Moved: Helena Duckworth

Seconded: Mary Lee Connery

RESOLVED that the Uki and South Arm Historical Society Report be noted by the Committee.

General Business:

5. Historical display at pergola

Max Boyd enquired after the pergola display marking first white settlement in the Shire. David Oxenham, Joan Smith and Denise Garrick advised that the pergola no longer existed due to vandalism of displays and general deterioration but information displays had been appropriately relocated.

6. Historical display at Bray Park Water Treatment Plant:

Carol Piggott requested copies of information based on Ron Johansen's research used at the new water treatment works.

David Oxenham agreed to have photographs taken and to send these, together with any other relevant material developed for the display, to Carol.

7. Collecting contemporary material:

Max Boyd raised the issue of collecting contemporary material.

Museum Director, Judy Kean, agreed that this is an important issue. Once a number of the immediate collection relocation and building related projects were underway, this issue should be brought up at future meetings and formally discussed.

The Committee discussed the importance of recording the major road construction at Sexton Hill. Museum Director, Judy Kean, agreed to contact the company responsible for the works about obtaining a selection of material from their company archive to complement existing material held by TRRM about road/building construction in the Shire.

Joan Smith agreed to send information about a recent enquiry regarding old rock walls on the site.

8. Future meeting times:

It was agreed that remaining meetings for 2012 will start at 2:00pm.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tweed River Regional Museum Advisory Committee will be held Thursday 17 May 2012 at 2:00pm at the Coolamon Cultural Centre.

The meeting closed at 3:35pm.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Nil.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nil.

Minutes

Attachment 1:

Museum Advisory 15th March 2012
Tweed Heads Historical Society Inc Report

We congratulate the Council on their selection of Judy Kean for the position of Museum Director. Judy has made a difference to the whole Museum Project since her appointment in June 2011 as temporary Senior Museum Curator, now she can move ahead and build on the work she has begun.

We go along much the same, weather permitting. The visit planned by the Probus Club from north of Brisbane in February was cancelled on the day due to severe thunderstorm predicted in their area for that afternoon, they wanted to get home.

We are expecting some 70 year nine students from Merrimac High School on the Gold Coast next Monday. They come very well prepared by their teacher with the visit programmed by him to only have approx 10 students at a time in each building while the remainder are working on their work-sheets outside. Again weather will impact on this visit should it be raining.

Stage one of the Kennedy Drive up-grade is completed without too much impact on us, now the second stage will commence. However I am glad not to be living in the area there must be a lot of frustration at times by the residents wanting to leave and enter their properties.

There are two events coming up in the future which we want to give notice of and plan to be part of.

1. Next Year 2013 will mark 150 years since the first boatload of young men kidnapped from the Pacific Islands north east of Queensland [referred to as the South Sea Islands] were brought to Queensland as cheap labour to work in the cane fields. As you may know many eventually found their way to the Tweed. A locally born 1st Australian Generation SSI,, Nasuven Enares will be helping to organise a state wide event. Nasuven will be guest speaker at our Society in May, she has been talking to the local Library and will be addressing the local highs schools in the near future.
2. Then as a Historical Society we are gearing up to have special displays / Log Book editions during 2014 for the centenary of WW!. If the other Societies, Tweed Shire Council and local RSL Clubs are planning anything for this occasion we want to fit in with their plans too. So if there is any sort of a Shire wide calendar of events we would like to know about it ASAP.

I move our report be accepted
Joan Smith
President

Attachment 2:

UKI AND SOUTH ARM HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

REPORT FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the TWEED RIVER REGIONAL MUSEUM 15th March, 2012. At Coolamon Cultural Centre

The Uki and South Arm Historical Society heard of the news that Judy Kean had been appointed Director of the Tweed River Regional Museum and promptly sent off an email that said "Whoopee" plus congratulations. We look on Judy's appointment as a fresh start and the beginning of a very harmonious and productive time.

Esma Thompson has collated our visitor numbers for 2011 at 805 which we are very happy with. Penny Watsford has resumed recording our Resident's Files.

Kathryn King visited us recently to explain about the importance of filling out all the forms with full descriptions of items. We really appreciated this as it saves time and confusion with similar items.

Esma and Jayne have attended the first Oral History Workshop in Southport and came back with added information especially on DVD recording of interviews. This is a Gold Coast City Council Workshop and Jayne has given them our address for their Newsletters.

When Judy was out our way recently we asked her to have a look at the Butter Churn which is in need of TLC. Mary Lee has been researching the history to assist in acquiring funding to restore it under a NSW Statement of Significance grant and she is finding all sorts of butter churns- lots..

In February Mary Lee, Esma and myself attended the two day workshop at the Coolamon Centre and then at the Murwillumbah Museum. So much information and two entertaining speakers made this so worthwhile and changed quite a few of our ideas and practices with conserving items.

Barry Harding of the Harding sawmill family has recently retired (sort of) and has called in to offer his broad knowledge of sawmilling and the timber industry. He is assisting with mapping all the timber mills on the Tweed.

We are having a photographic display on Sunday 15th April titled, "Faces of the South Arm". This is our contribution to Elder's Day.

We are also hosting the RAHS Zone Conference in Lismore on the 5th May and Penny Watsford will be the guest speaker talking about native grasses, plants and other anecdotes on which she has written three books.

Another function on Sunday 12th August will be a garden party to celebrate our 30th birthday. A busy year ahead.

I move that you accept my report,

Helena Duckworth
President.