

# Heritage Advisory Committee

## Meeting Notes

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Heritage Advisory Committee	<b>Meeting No.</b>	D-25-015817
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Thursday 6 February 2025		
<b>Meeting Time</b>	3.30pm – 4.30pm		
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Geraldton Regional Library Randolph Stow Meeting Room 1 and 2		
<b>Attendees</b>	Cr. Natasha Colliver (NC) (Presiding Member) Marilyn McLeod (MM) Michael Reymond (MR) Gary Martin (GM) Shiree Hamersley (SM) Fiona Norling (FN) - CGG Denielle Riley (DR) - CGG Farnaz Bairaghi (FB) - CGG Trudi Cornish (TC) - CGG Annette Burton – CGG (Meeting Notes)	<b>By Invitation</b>	
		<b>Apologies</b>	Tanya Henkel (TH) Heritage Advisory Leigh O'Brien (LO) Museum of Geraldton Cr. Kim Parker (Deputy) Mayor Jerry Clune (JC) Cr. Simon Keemink (SK) Karrie Elder (KE) - CGG
		<b>Leave of Absence</b>	
		<b>Distribution</b>	National Trust (WA)
<b>Purpose of Committee</b>	Refer to <a href="#">Committee Book</a>		

All Committee Members, including external members, are subject to the same rules as a Council Meeting concerning confidentiality, public statements, conflicts of interest and behaviours of members, pursuant to the [Local Government \(Model Code of Conduct\) Regulations 2021](#).

The Presiding Member is to refer to the following Policy, Meeting Procedures and Regulations when chairing a meeting.

[Meeting Procedures Local Law 2011](#)

[Council Policy 4.4. Operation of Advisory Committees](#)

[Council Policy 4.2 Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates](#)

[Council Policy 4.12 Independent Committee Member Fees and Reimbursements](#)

### 1 Declaration Of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 3.31pm.

As this meeting did not meet a quorum, no decisions were made at this meeting. Therefore, the following is only a record of the meeting.

### 2 Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji people who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet/stand. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Yamatji people.

### 3 Welcome & Apologies

Presiding Member welcomed the members and apologies were noted.

#### 4 Disclosure of Interests

Michael Reymond declared an Impartiality Interest in items 10 & 11 as he is President of the Geraldton RSL and is on the Geraldton Cemetery Board.

#### 5 Applications for Leave of Absence

None

#### 6 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 31 October 2024

Quorum not met, to be held over to the next meeting of the Committee.

#### 7 Action Log

**HAC 043, Item 7 - St John Of God Sub Centre:** The City's first Ambulance (1925) was initially stored within the old Municipal Markets on Durlacher Street. T Cornish is in the process of writing up brief notes on this, which will be sent to the St John Ambulance in recognition of this 100 year anniversary.

**HAC 045, Item 10 - Ex-Victoria District Hospital Staffing Association:** All items have been transferred. This item is complete.

#### 8 Zeewijk and Batavia Anniversaries (NC)

The 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the wrecking of the *Zeewijk* will be in 2027 and 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Batavia* in 2029. Cr. Colliver request Heritage Advisory Committee consideration of these dates with regard to possible future community celebrations. It was noted that The Museum of Geraldton may also be planning for these anniversaries.

This item to remain on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.

#### 9 Cultural Collections Scoping Study (TC/FB)

T Cornish advised that the purpose of the Scoping Study was to document the extent of cultural collections which are owned and managed by the City of Greater Geraldton with a view to understanding the current and future storage needs of these collections.

The Study has been presented to the HAC previously in June 2023. On presentation to Executive Management Team (EMT) some revisions were requested, included adding in a summary of actions at the beginning of the document. The outcome from EMT was that the Study should be presented at a future Council Concept Meeting, via the HAC.

F Bairaghi advised that Heritage Services has already started to embrace some of the suggestions from the Cultural Collections Scoping Study, including making use of the Library's Overdrive subscription to continue to load more Oral Histories and the online Portfolio catalogue to share digital copies of old photos.

Cr Colliver commended all those who had contributed to the preparation of the document.

#### 10 Birdwood House (TC)

M Reymond declared an Impartiality Interest in items 10 & 11 as he is the President of the Geraldton RSL and is on the Geraldton Cemetery Board.

T Cornish advised that the City of Greater Geraldton has been successful in obtaining two grants from the 2024-25 Heritage Grants Program, delivered by the Dept. Planning, Lands and

Heritage for the repair work required at Birdwood House (RSL Hall). These grants will be allocated to masonry repairs, damp remediation and conservation management planning.

M Reymond thanked the Council for obtaining the grants and for the repair work that is already underway.

## **11 Use of Historic Non-active Cemeteries and Burial Grounds – Future Policy Development (TC)**

M Reymond declared an Impartiality Interest in items 10 & 11 as he is on the Geraldton Cemetery Board.

The Heritage Services team has been investigating the possible development of policy around the use of the City's non-active cemeteries and burial grounds. Our historical cemeteries are amongst the most valuable of the City's cultural heritage sites. There are 7 non-active cemeteries and burial grounds in the City.

At present the City has a Council Policy for Commemorative Plaques, which deals very broadly with all public sites (in addition to historical cemeteries) across Geraldton. Some of our burial grounds are State Heritage Listed and have conservation plans e.g. Greenough Pioneer Cemetery.

Examples of items that could be included in a Historical Burial Ground Policy might include: Memorial care and maintenance (monuments, headstones, plinths, seats, gardens), General conduct in the Cemetery, Interment Rights and possible future use, Record keeping and genealogy, Aboriginal heritage.

This item to remain on the agenda for further discussion.

## **12 Upcoming Signage Projects (TC)**

T Cornish advised of the following signage projects:

- A new interpretive sign will be created to be installed on Lester Avenue, at the site of the former St John's Church (now Fresh Christian Fellowship Church). It is the oldest surviving church in Geraldton.
- Edith Cowan Memorial Statue signage is being prepared in readiness for the statue.
- Mullewa Masonic Lodge signage was damaged beyond repair and a replacement has been ordered.

## **13 Ex-Victoria District Hospital Staff Association Collection (NB)**

The transfer of the collection is now complete.

## **14 Edith Cowan Statue Update (TC)**

The Geraldton Volunteer Tour Guides (GVTG) delivered a presentation at the Concept Forum on the 3 December whereby the GVTG put forward their request to hand over ownership of the Edith Cowan statue to the City once installed. The City is in the process of seeking some additional information from the GVTG and the Smith Sculptors regarding the transport and installation requirements for the work, plus also details of the recommended cleaning regime, so that this proposal can be put forward formally to Council in a report. Advised by GVTG in late December that they had reached \$101,230 of their required budget of approximately \$120,000.

## **15 Reports to be Received**

### **15.1 CGG Heritage Advisor Report**

The report was marked as received by the Committee.

M Reymond asked whether it was appropriate for an interpretive sign on Thomas Welsby Clark's grave site. He suggested that repair and cleaning of this grave and other significant graves would be a better use of funds.

F Norling advised that grants may be obtained for the cleaning, particularly for significant servicemen's graves.

G Martin noted that he had witness the public not adhering to the speed limits on the Greenough Convict Bridge, also that he had witnessed items falling off the structure as a result of this behaviour.

T Cornish mentioned that the draft 2025-2026 Capital Works Program Report included works proposed to make upgrades to this site.

### **15.2 Heritage Services Coordinator Report**

The report was marked as received by the Committee.

### **15.3 Community Museum Reports**

The report from Greenough Museum and Gardens was marked as received by the Committee.

Gary Martin advised that the Greenough Museum and Gardens were in discussions with the City of Greater Geraldton regarding a new road sign for the Museum and regarding the need for a new shed for the storage of the farming equipment, which will resulting in freeing up space in the community hub.

Shiree Hamersley from Walkaway Museum thanked Heritage Services team for all their work regarding the cataloguing of the Geraldton newspapers. The Walkaway Station Museum is in the process of applying for a grant to fix the entry into the museum, making it more disability accessible. They have a few projects underway and are getting ready for an ANZAC Day. The Museum has wonderful volunteers who keep everything running, making displays and completing the cleaning regime.

## **16 General Business**

### **16.1 Rail Heritage Sign (JC/TC)**

Along Chapman Road and behind the old Gatekeepers Cottage in Bluff Point some original railway is still in situ. A member of the public has approached Mayor Clune and asked if an interpretive sign could be installed regarding the importance of the track.

T Cornish advised there is already existing signage about the railway near this site. But noted that this location is quite removed from the old track. It is located on the corner of Cecily Street and Chapman Road.

The old Two Mile Well is also located near the Gatekeepers Cottage and it was suggested the interpretive sign could relocated there. Further discussion is required and so this item is to remain on the agenda.

S Hamersley was asked to comment on the Walkaway Public Hall, noting repair works have been completed and the hall is looking very well. It has been in regular use with the first function being a Christmas social event and more regular social events are being planned.

D Riley advised that preparation is underway for National Reconciliation Week and the City of Geraldton is running a photography competition for "Best Moments on Country" exhibition which will be held at the Museum of Geraldton.

M McLeod asked about the Mercantile Club building on Marine Terrace.

Cr Colliver advised that the property is a City of Greater Geraldton Category 2 listed building, and the property is going to be auctioned in March.

M McLeod advised that Nicole Edwards has been elected Chair of the Geraldton Historical Society. Cr Colliver requested that the Heritage Advisory Committee request a letter of thanks via the Mayor's Office be sent to Rita Stinson acknowledging her valued contribution as former President of the Geraldton Historical Society.

The Heritage Advisory Committee wish to acknowledge the recent passing of Patricia Shaw who had contributed to local heritage matters in a significant way for many years.

## **17 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting to be advised.

## **18 Close**

There being no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 3.35pm