

Heritage Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC)	Meeting No.	D-21-088145
Meeting Date	Tuesday 17 August 2021		
Meeting Time	9.30am-10.30am		
Meeting Location	Geraldton Regional Library – Randolph Stow Room 1		
Attendees	Cr. Natasha Colliver (NC) (Chair) Cr. Jerry Clune (JC) (Deputy Chair) Cr. Tarleah Thomas (TT) (by Teams) Cr. Sally Elphick (SE) Phil Melling (PM) Leigh O'Brien (LO) Tanya Henkel (TH) (by Teams) Trudi Cornish (TC) Marilyn McLeod (MM) Karrie Elder (KE) Gary Martin (GM) Annette Burton (AB) (Minutes)	By Invitation	Holly Auld (HA) – Acting Coordinator Heritage Services (Part-time)
		Apologies	Cr. Victor Tanti (VT) Lorin Cox (LC) Rose Ann Jupp (RJ) Rita Stinson (RS) Gary Warner (GW)
		Distribution	Anne Brake (NTWA) Leigh Barrett (NTWA)

1. Welcome and Apologies

NC opened the meeting and welcomed those present. The apologies from those unable to attend the meeting were accepted.

2. Previous Minutes and Action Log

That the minutes of the Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting held on 18 May 2021 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved: MM Seconded: JC CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

3. Agenda Items

3.1 Cyclone Seroja and damage to heritage buildings - Update (TH)

Stage One (identifying documenting cyclone damaged heritage buildings) has been completed. TH will continue to work as the Coordinator for an extended period. TH has been assisting owners of the buildings with their negotiations with insurance companies reviewing engineering reports and scopes of work, and advising on funding assistance. The Cyclone Seroja Heritage Recovery funding is for heritage listed places (RHP, AP, LHS, HL), and is based on a reimbursement of eligible works including clean-up work, repairs to heritage fabric not covered by insurance and strengthening heritage buildings to future proof them against future extreme storm events.

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There have been a number of challenges noted including the delays owners have experienced in getting insurance decisions and payouts as well as the ongoing winter storms which have resulted in additional damage to some heritage buildings.

Some sites and buildings, that after the first review, have had to have further structural surveys when it became known that due to the uplift of the extreme wind from Cyclone Seroja had caused damaged that previously had not been noted.

NC asked if this late report of structural damage would affect the funding or insurance? TH advised that the funding managed by the Dept of Planning Lands and Heritage for Cyclone Seroja Recovery for heritage and cultural assets has just been established and that applications for up to \$20,000 have just started being processed and would be available for a 2 year time period.

LO advised that she had reached out to the Northampton and Mingenew Historical Societies and Oakabella with regard to advice and help in storing their collections. Some of the sites are still deemed to be unsafe to enter and it is hoped that the collections will remain undamaged.

3.2 Geraldton Regional Art Gallery and External Works – Update (TC)

The tender for external works to the adjoining park and building surrounds are currently being advertised. Prior to the tender being released, building works were formally referred to the State Heritage Office. Guidance from the CGG Heritage Advisor (TH) will be sought with regard to the possibility of any archaeological remains that may be unearthed during building works.

3.3 Commemoration Flight – 100 Years of Air Mail – Royal Aero Club of WA (TC)

TC advised that the Royal Aero Club of WA is planning an Air Mail Services Commemorative Flight from Jandakot to Derby 15 – 18 September. The City and Library Heritage staff have created a commemorative brochure that will be available. This brochure will also be shared with other participating Shires for their own printing.

LO noted that there had been some misinformation in newspapers regarding the flight (not originating from CGG) - in particular that it had been said to be the first commercial flight when it was actually the first mail service.

3.4 Walkaway Hall Building Works (TC)

TC advised that the work at the Walkaway Hall building is nearing completion. A new fence has been installed, the old playground has been removed, along with the replacement of the old aluminium ceiling panels. New timber braces have been installed, as well as the wiring inspected.

PM advised that they are still working on pigeon proofing the property.

GM asked if the dado railing is going to be preserved?

TC advised that we will look into this further.

3.5 Geraldton-Northampton Rail Precinct (PM)

The State Heritage Office (SHO) has invited submissions on the proposal to enter Geraldton Northampton Railway Precinct in the State Register of Heritage Places. This includes some 50km of land in various ownership. Zones of significance mapping for the Precinct have sent

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to the City but due to the delay of their arrival, were not included in the Tabled Documents for this meeting.

PM explained the background to this submission and that the submission proposal impacts farmland as well as Crown land.

Discussion followed:

MM – Regarding the location of the former White Peaks Primary School and impacts on this.

NC - With regard to the CGG, how much private land is impacted?

KE – Has followed up with SHO further and explained the proposal shows two classifications - primary and secondary. Much of the proposal, particularly in the CGG relates to road reserves and pathways.

KE – SHO have also invited comments on the proposed listing of the Chapman River Road Bridge.

PM– This was considered at Executive level in 2019 and it was concluded that there was very little original heritage value left following extensive modifications and changes over the years.

It was noted that it is likely the oldest bridge in the CGG and was built prior to Maley's Bridge (Convict Bridge) in Greenough.

MM – Mentioned the Chally Bridge Farms and bridge in Isseka? If the Rail Precinct becomes state heritage listed, will this mean they are eligible for grant support?

TH – Yes they would be able to apply for state funding.

TH – Expressed concerns with the Zone Maps regarding the old rail platforms which are not included. Also concern that the inspections completed such a long time again and not reflective of the current state of some places/items.

KE - Advised that inspections were completed in 2013.

LO - Advised of a potential conflict of interest as her partner owns one of the properties that will be affected.

DPLH will support an extension to 1 November 2021 for our response to both items.

ACTION: TC to circulate Zone of Significance mapping document to Committee members following this meeting, along with advice that an out-of-session meeting date would be called in due course to discuss the submission further. Please note that the majority of the alignment within the City of Greater Geraldton is listed as of secondary significance.

4. General Business

4.1 Update from Coordinator Heritage Services (Presented by TC in absence of LC)

- European Interpretive Ellendale Pool Signage – Damage signwork replaced.
- Beginners Family History Session held at the Library on Saturday 19 June presented by the Geraldton Family History Society with 13 attendees.

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- NAIDOC display featuring George Abdullah and associated organisations and events was installed early July.
- A display in Heritage Services featured the 60th GNFL anniversary.
- Family History Month display in Library for August by Geraldton Family History Society.
- Western Australian History Foundation Grant to produce Year 3 Local History Pack is on track for completion November 2021.
- Follow-up on Action Log Agenda Item HAC-026 3.3 Natural Burials in Pioneer Cemeteries:

KE advised the following:

General provisions:

- Cemeteries and burials administered by the Cemeteries Act 1986
- Cemetery — is land declared as Governor to be a cemetery i.e. One must be buried in a proclaimed area.
- A cemetery must be administered by responsible trustees i.e. To a board or to a local government.
- Majority of cemeteries administered by a board. LG usually only administer in remote or isolated areas.

Natural burials:

- Natural burials are currently available in WA at the Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park and at the Fremantle Cemetery both of which are administered by the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board.
- Proposes low impact, more sustainable burial options in a nature based setting.

Can we reopen historical cemetery areas? (Example given Greenough Pioneer Cemetery):

- Resolve ownership of land and vesting. GPC is crown reserve vested with City for disused cemetery.
- Request that the Governor declare the cemetery open.
- The cemetery must be administered by a Board. If the assumption is that the City would administer this — this is a business decision outside the scope of this committee.
- These cemeteries are heritage listed — in many cases with the National Trust and Heritage Council. Would they support re-opening the cemeteries for modern burials? Would this impact their interpretation or threaten conservation?
- While aim is for the burials to be low impact, opening as a modern cemetery would require the provision of or upgrades to the necessary infrastructure - access, car parking, toilets and any other service considered necessary.

Natural burials in Geraldton?

KE has made preliminary contact with the Geraldton Cemetery Board who were putting forward her request for information formally to their next Board meeting. Administration did give preliminary advice that they believed natural burials were part of their long-term strategic planning for the site.

GM asked if the Geraldton Cemetery Board would consider extending their management to other cemeteries, namely the Greenough Pioneer Cemetery.

KE advised that the Geraldton Cemetery Board would have to be approached regarding this but she thinks the main issue would be if reopening part of the cemetery would impact its heritage status and that this would need to be considered first.

ACTION: For this item to remain on the Agenda until further information is received back from the Geraldton Cemetery Board regarding their position on natural burials. TC to action.

4.2 Update from Community Museums

4.2.1. Bluff Point Lighthouse Keepers Cottage

No representative present at the meeting and no report presented.

4.2.2. Greenough Museum and Gardens

Due to the increased number of people visiting this region, we have temporarily extended our opening days to include Friday. This means up to the end of October we are only closed Mondays.

Community Events — Writers of the Coral Coast 19/05, Cancer Council Morning Tea 30 May, Winter Solstice Bonfire 26 June, Moira's Book Club 4 July and 15 August, Cathy Moon Indigo Workshop 12-14 July.

Since we last met, we have had some significant donations including Felix Devlin's coffee pot (c1860), a 1914 Greenough Farmers Club Presentation to Thomas Clinch, a c1965 Peerless Flour Mill bag, and two Geraldton Brewery business cards (c1885). We also ensure that objects go to the appropriate places, thus a large box of items from the Criddle family has resulted in documents going to this Library, with other items and a photo album to go to Mingenew.

Through funding from CGG, work continues on making the collection digitally accessible. We now have 92 objects listed on CollectionsWA and have applied to have them linked to TROVE.

With assistance from a Lotterywest Covid grant a new webpage has been commissioned. Please go to <https://greenouahmuseum.orq.au>

A CGoG Special Meeting was held on 17 July to change the group's name to Greenough Museum and Gardens Community Association. This is all part of the process of obtaining Deductible Gift Recipient status.

As part of the process of making the museum more user friendly, we are in the process of purchasing a ten-seater table for the Old Kitchen that can be used for functions. To complement the table, we have started the Kitchen Chairs Project and are asking people to donate chairs that can be used for display purposes and as seating.

Also, I am pleased to say that planning for the new disability toilets is well under way, and hopefully they will be ready for use by Easter 2022.

Coming up is the Launch on Saturday 21 August at 3.30pm of Alastair McKechnie's book on the restoration of the Hampton Hotel at Greenough.

4.2.3. Walkaway Station Museum

No representative present at the meeting and no report presented.

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4.3 Other General Business

4.3.1. TT advised that a new heritage group has formed in Mullewa and asked if they would be able to join the Heritage Advisory Committee.

NC advised this may be considered following the up-coming disbandment of the Committee and reforming in November 2021. The Terms of Reference would need to be updated and endorsed by Council.

4.3.2. JC advised that Midwest Sports Federation has a large storage room full of items and catalogues. JC asked if the Library would be able to take possession of these items and possibly digitise them.

TC advised that at the moment the Collection storage space available is challenged. However, if the records could be digitised or more storage space became available in the future, this certainly would be something that could be considered.

4.3.3. LO advised that recently the Museum of Geraldton was approached for a succinct history of Geraldton. Whilst there is much source information available in extended version, a local gap exists with this matter and is perhaps something that could be addressed in the future.

4.3.4. MM advised that she has arranged for two clocks from Walkaway Station Museum to be repaired. One clock is particularly rare and as such of some significance.

5. Next Meeting Date

Proposed date of the next meeting to be advised. Calendar invitation to be circulated.

6. Close

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.38am.

Signed (Chair – Cr. Natasha Colliver)

Date