



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Working Group

Tuesday, 16 February 2021 – 6pm

Ashfield Service Centre

Peter Cross & Irene Williams Community Rooms 3 & 4

260 Liverpool Road

Ashfield NSW 2131

Notes of the Meeting

Welcome to Country – done by Deborah Lennis

Introductions

Community:

Janelle Scott – member

John Staines – member

Derek Wilson – member

Allan Barnes – member

Robert (Bob) Webb – member (left at 21:00)

Katrina Thorpe – member

Cathy Craigie – member (arrived at 18:45)

Selena, Alexander & Jayanto – Presenters (left at 18:30)

Staff:

Deborah Lennis – Facilitator

Joshua Staines – Aboriginal Program Officer

Bronwyn Tuohy – Presented (left at 19:00)

Simon Watts – Presented (left at 20:45)

Johanne Gallagher – Presented (left at 19:45)

Naomi Bower – Presented (left at 20:45)

Apologies:

Pam Touma – member

Ben Bowen – member

Tess Heffernan – member

Jenny Thomsen – member

Preamble – Deborah Lennis

Disclosure of interest – NIL

Confirmation of previous minutes and actions – no meetings during 2020

No quorum tonight - so we just had the guest speakers

Guest Speakers

1. Foxy Laners – Artists Re: Lanterns in Fox’s Lane, Ashfield - foxlane.lanterns@gmail.com
The Foxy Laners are three local artists (Selina, Alessandro & Jayanto) who have been commissioned by IWC to create a permanent art installation in Fox Lane Ashfield. ¹ They are making copper lanterns which will be lit by electricity with the thought ‘THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A LIGHT ON FOR YOU’. They have approached several groups and would like to have an Aboriginal story /creative lantern to lead the lights in Fox’s Lane.² There is a tight timeframe, however they would like input from the Committee. End of this month consultation finishes and will start being installed by the end of April 2021.

2. Arts & Placemaking Programs – Bronwyn Tuohy – Bronwyn.tuohy@innerwest.nsw.gov.au
PowerPoint³ - this was to discuss the opportunities that the Arts Department have been working on
 - Gadigal & Wangal Wayfinding Arts works – 1 sculptural art piece to go into each of the Wards – Sites chosen via advice from Aboriginal Working Group and Council staff – EOI’s to artists to choose site including using the Aboriginal Critical Investigation – 4 out 5 sites finished the final site - Damun (Stanmore) will be completed by Sept-Nov 2021. This is by young artist from Boomalli – Jasmin Sarin. Link to Gadigal Wangal Wayfinding <https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/live/living-arts/public-art-and-placemaking/current-public-art-projects/gadigal-wangal-landscape-eoi>
 - Greenway – this is a green corridor from Parramatta River to Cooks River via walking, bike and hiking trails. 3 of the Gadigal & Wangal Wayfinding Artworks are along this trail including the only mural in this process – Djarrawunang (Ashfield) at Cadigal Reserve. The plan is to knock a hole through and create a tunnel so that the greenway continues under the roadway.
 - Research Collaboration – this links the above two projects and stakeholders from local universities who do teacher training. The project is looking at new start teachers learning to teach off country. Council, UTS, Syd Uni, & Shared Path working in collaboration with the artists to bring this program to life.
 - Comments
 - It is about how teachers also engage the artworks – KT
 - Members to be involved = CC & JS
 - Parramatta Road Upgrade – opportunity for young artists or artist who wish to change mediums who would like to be mentored in different fields to gain and work some opportunities
 - Comments
 - Make sure Boomalli is involved - it is longest Aboriginal owned and run Art Organisation in Flood Street, Leichhardt
 - Greenway Edge (9-15) – EOI’s are going out for this opportunity for small community run events and artworks. Close 28th Feb
 - Comments

¹ Google Map – Fox’s Lane – Ashfield

² Hand-outs – Foxy Laners

³ PowerPoint – Arts Projects

- It is about being involved from the beginning – from the concept not after when it has been decided what should be happening
 - Taverners Hill – possible opportunity for some Aboriginal interpretation/artwork to go in this area and it is also a part of the Greenway missing links program. We are waiting to see on funding and other opportunities to make it happen.
 - Cadigal Reserve – Summer Hill – this is where the mural is (see ●Greenway). It was also a mentorship piece. Video link
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wITAsorFKuk&feature=emb_logo
 - Explorer’s Park – Ashfield – this park and artwork was placed in 1988, for the bicentenary. The information obtained within is very old school and very out of date.
 - Comments
 - The artwork itself is depressing as it looks as if the explorers are taking the Aboriginal people up the hill to shoot them
 - No consultation of Aboriginal peoples in 1988, not heard of
 - Need to have the signage updated to a contemporary perspective - to help improve and educate
 - Need to also update signage to reflect skill and assistance of Aboriginal peoples (trackers, Scouts, guides???) the explorers wouldn’t have found anything or survived
 - Members to be involved – CC &
3. Wellbeing/Healthy Aging Strategy – Simon Watts simon.watts@innerwest.nsw.gov.au & Johanne Gallagher Johanne.gallagher@innerwest.nsw.gov.au – Draft Action Plan Handout ⁴
- LGA = 1.1% First Nations
 - First Nation’s people 50+ as aged due to the compounded health issues
 - Overall objective of the Plan ‘how to age and participate in the community.’ How to make all peoples healthier’
 - Comments
 - Street seats, particularly the one that was outside Alfred Imaging in Liverpool Road, need to be maintained
 - More seats and chairs and resting places are required in the public domain. Also, simple things like a place to hold onto the wall and rest can be very useful.
 - More disability accessible parking is required in the LGA, along with more parking for buses as shopping centres
 - Disability accessible parking is required outside doctors’ surgeries
 - Alex Trevillion Plaza in Marrickville is an important meeting place for elders and the upgrade that is underway is supported
 - Getting out to meet other people, and finding and enjoying the company of others, is critically important for elders maintaining their wellbeing. With the rise of shopping centres and the decline of main streets, social opportunities are lost or diminished, and purposeful replacements are required

⁴ Inner West Council Draft Healthy Ageing Action Plan – Handout

- Footpaths are critically important for navigation for those with mobility impairment and for wheelchairs and walkers, this includes particularly street crossings that are accessible. Uneven tiles and slippery surfaces are dangerous. Hercules Street Ashfield is slippery, uneven and people prefer to walk up the tarmac with the traffic than face the footpath. Stairs and ramp access also need careful attention. Basically outdoor and public domain spaces need to be designed with frail elders needs in mind, and then everyone can be included.
- Poor accessibility in the public domain stops people from leaving home, is isolating and causes a decline in wellbeing and mental health. People experience long and difficult recovery from falls, and falls need to be avoided. Once someone falls, they are much less likely to leave home again or be more reluctant to do so. Fear of falling is a mind and confidence killer.
- Elders need to be engaged in the design of local places, experts don't know what is needed and don't have to live with poorly designed places. The former precinct committees of Leichhardt gave a lot of positive priority to the needs of people with increasing impairment or mobility
- Community transport is critically important but it is too expensive, difficult to access and not flexible enough (transport should come to the person, not require the person to struggle to a stop that might not be near their home). Council sponsored or delivered on-demand transport would be ideal. Norton Street Plaza is particularly difficult to get to. It maybe that there are employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in driving council or community buses, which would enable culturally sensitive transport to be provided.
- Home visits by volunteers to elders are valuable, it enables people to keep feeling connects to their communities and younger people.
- Recognition of Elders seems to have been forgotten, programming in art and culture, and Welcome to Country is a way of including Elders. The older one gets, the more wisdom one accumulates. Intergenerational participation is very important. Library days and story time led by Elders is very important.
- Digital means not accessible for Elder sin many cases and people can get the run around when they try and reach Council by phone. More information that is accessible and available is required. Targeting communication is essential.
- Health care is critically important. Accessible and free dental care is required. Not being able to smile effects mental health in a negative way. Is there a possibility that the Dental Care Program at Marrickville Community Health Centre could be expanded?

Any more comments or ideas the community will contact the presenters direct

4. Cultural Strategy – Naomi Bower naomi.bower@innerwest.nsw.gov.au – Draft Cultural Strategy handout⁵ see information

○ Comments

- Focus locally
- Cross Cultural Training should be rolled out across Council
- Find partnerships – 1st year is the most important
- No tokenism
- Need to let Aboriginal peoples tell you (Council) what we need
- It is about being involved from the beginning – from the concept not after when it has been decided what should be happening

Any more comments or ideas the community will contact the presenter direct

Feedback due by the end of the month

5. Library Service Programs 2021 – Josie Cavallaro josie.cavallaro@innerwest.nsw.gov.au or Lysele Assarapin Lysele.assarapin@innerwest.nsw.gov.au Library programming were unable to attend the meeting, sent through the ideas of library programming which are being planned in 2021. See handout⁶

6. Aboriginal Programs - Joshua Staines Joshua.staines@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

- **Digital Divide** – working with Ben Bowen (Shared Path)
- **Getting Connected – Staying Connected** – seniors program which was started by Jannice Packer (Library Services) during her secondment to Aboriginal Programs. 3rd session finishes end of March. – will continue running with Mum’s & Bubs in conjunction with Gannawarra.
- **Reconciliation Week Working Group** – looking at programs to do across the LGA during Recon Week – can use volunteers
- **Ministry of Sport** – working relationship for family in sport programs
- **NAIDOC Week** – programs, ideas and volunteers
- **Mental Health Month** – partnership with SLHD and Rikky Lyons
- **IW PAC & Karri** - partnership young peoples at risk. Weaving Workshop – Term 2 = 13 weeks & Yidaki Workshop - ??
- **HeadSpace – Ashfield** – partnership for program make rope from stringy bark
- **Aboriginal Worker Circle** – sharing of ideas and partnerships
- **Signage** – Welcome to Gadigal & Wangal Lands
- **Early Learning Services** – Josh has put a program together and offered across council’s ELS – working with Aunty Tracey Bostock
- **Interaction with Plants** – programs possibility during Seniors Week 2021
- **Steel Park Community Rooms** – EOI – should be out in a week, will be sent separately
- **IP Framework** – worked with Terri Janki – now with Legal and ICT
- **Engagement Practice Guide** – V8 and still working on the best practice
- **Economic Development Strategy** – seconded to write and with Council
- **Webpage** – updating and redesigning

⁵ Draft Cultural Strategy Handout

⁶ Aboriginal & Non-Aboriginal Specific Weeks Library Programs

For volunteering or program feedback or ideas community will contact the presenter direct

Items for discussion

7. Steel Park Community Rooms & Child Care Centre – updated by Deborah Lennis
 - Community Rooms – updated by Josh in his presentation – EOI’s sent separate email
 - Child Care Centre – was opened at the end of Oct – delayed due to Covid, nearly at full capacity and have an Aboriginal staff member there
8. IWC Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) - Deborah Lennis –
deborah.lennis@innerwest.nsw.gov.au
 - Draft Action Plan Handout⁷

Any further comment/feedback or actions that have been missed due back to presenter by the end of March 2021

9. Community Business – Other council update & Community update
This was not done as we didn’t have a quorum

Next meeting: 20th April 2021

⁷ Draft Reconciliation Action Plan