AGENDA

1. Apologies / Leave of Absence ................................................................. 2

2. Confirmation of Minutes ........................................................................... 2
   Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting 5 December 2017 ......................... 2

3. Staff Reports ........................................................................................... 2
   3.1 Aboriginal Culture Resources for Shellharbour City Libraries (11007459) .......... 3
   3.2 Office of Environment & Heritage - Information Session (11009991) .................. 17
   3.3 Proposed Naming of Reserves (11010529) ....................................................... 20
   3.4 update on Community Strategic Plan review workshop outcome (11010530) ........ 21
   3.5 Membership update (11010531) ................................................................. 21
   3.6 Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards Dinner (11010532) .................... 22

4. General Business ..................................................................................... 23
   4.1 NAIDOC Week ...................................................................................... 23
   4.2 Employment ......................................................................................... 23
   4.3 Bass Point Interpretive Centre ................................................................. 23

5. Items for Information ............................................................................... 23

6. Next Meeting .......................................................................................... 23
Acknowledgement to Country

Shellharbour City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Land on which we are meeting and pays its respects to Elders past and present.

1. Apologies / Leave of Absence

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting 5 December 2017

3. Staff Reports
3.1 Aboriginal Culture Resources for Shellharbour City Libraries (11007459)

The purpose of this report is to seek the support and guidance of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) to develop resources and programs at Shellharbour City Libraries that support Aboriginal Culture.

It is proposed that this initiative will enhance local access to information and knowledge about Aboriginal culture, history and issues that will benefit both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members of our local community.

Background

Shellharbour City Libraries has a small number of resources relating to Aboriginal culture, which are currently not separated or highlighted from the general collection.

Other public libraries in NSW have collections and programs that promote and enhance knowledge of Aboriginal culture, often through their central library. Now that the new City Library is open, it is a valuable opportunity to develop resources that support Aboriginal culture and promote City Library as an inclusive community space.

The Indigenous Unit of the State Library of New South Wales also provides support for public libraries. The recently published document: *Indigenous spaces in library places: building a vibrant public library network inclusive of Indigenous peoples and communities* establishes the principles and provides guidance for library engagement with Aboriginal people.

Proposal

It is proposed that the existing Library resources on Aboriginal culture be highlighted as a separate Aboriginal Culture collection and expanded in size to enhance access to information and knowledge about Aboriginal culture, history and issues for the Shellharbour community.

It is hoped that through consultation with the AAC and other local Aboriginal community groups, the Aboriginal Culture collection can develop and grow to meet community needs.

It is further proposed that following consultation with the AAC and other local groups, appropriate programs and initiatives that engage our Aboriginal community can be delivered through Shellharbour City Libraries. For example, this may include initiatives such as workshops on Aboriginal family history.

It is intended that library initiatives in the Shellharbour area be undertaken in the spirit of the guiding document, *Indigenous spaces in library places* as attached.
Recommendation:

1. That Shellharbour City Libraries implement an Aboriginal Culture collection at City Library that includes general materials about Aboriginal history, culture and issues in New South Wales and Australia as well as local content about or for the Dharawal people.

2. That Shellharbour City Libraries work collaboratively with the AAC and other local groups to develop suitable resources and initiatives for our local community.

Attachment 1: Indigenous spaces in library spaces

Responsible Manager: Kathryn Baget-Juleff, Group Manager Community Connections

Report prepared by: Margie Kirkness, Manager Libraries and Museum

Date of Meeting: 6 March 2018
Attachment 1: Indigenous spaces in library spaces
WHY A STRATEGY FOR INDIGENOUS SERVICES?

Indigenous Services in NSW Public Libraries — 2015 Survey
The State Library of NSW conducted a survey of Indigenous Services in NSW Public Libraries in 2015, to gather information on library needs in this area. The survey focused on the following key areas:
1. Staffing
2. Cultural competency
3. Events targeted for Indigenous communities
4. Acknowledgement of Indigenous culture in the library space
5. Collaboration with external Indigenous stakeholders
6. Indigenous collections
7. Awareness and use of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library Information Resource Network (ATSILIRN) protocols for libraries, archives and information services
8. Challenges in engaging with Indigenous Australian clients
9. Assistance that could be provided by the State Library of NSW.

The low response rate to the survey shows a need for raising awareness around Indigenous services in public libraries. However, responses show a general interest in developing better services targeted for the Indigenous Australian population, and enthusiasm for promoting library services and programs dedicated to Indigenous Australian peoples and communities. Results also highlight interest in the State Library providing more assistance to develop services targeted for the Indigenous population across the state.

The strategy for public libraries, Indigenous Spaces in Library Places: Building a Vibrant Public Library Network Inclusive of Indigenous peoples and Communities, encourages development of library services in this area. It aims to generate interest and support from public libraries across NSW for developing Indigenous services.

In this strategy, library places refer to a conceptual arena where libraries engage not only with Australian Indigenous peoples accessing the library building, but also with their history, issues and perceptions across the community.

*Throughout this document the terms ‘Indigenous’ and ‘Indigenous Australians’ have been used to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*
DEVELOPING AND SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS SERVICES ACROSS NSW PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Indigenous population of NSW

Indigenous Australian peoples are recognised as having one of the oldest and longest continuing cultures in the world. There is great diversity of Indigenous peoples and language across Australia, including distinct Aboriginal nations speaking a range of different languages.

New South Wales is home to the largest number of Indigenous peoples in Australia and there are many substantial communities of Aboriginal peoples across the state, including those living in suburban areas of Sydney and other cities, those in country towns and those in smaller, often regional and remote predominately Aboriginal communities. The lives and interests of those people vary enormously but all share a core concern that their identity and culture be respected. The most recent population figures are provided in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/territory</th>
<th>Population number</th>
<th>Percentage of Indigenous population</th>
<th>Percentage of total state/territory population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>208,476</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>47,333</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>188,954</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>37,408</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Australia</td>
<td>88,270</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>24,165</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Territory</td>
<td>68,850</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Capital Territory</td>
<td>6160</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>669,881</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>3%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(source: Diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. 2015 Find legal answers with sources from the Australian Bureau of Statistics)

In addition:
- most (45.8%) Indigenous peoples live in rural communities
- 34.8% live in cities (with western Sydney having the largest population in Australia)
- 21.4% of Indigenous peoples live in remote areas
- the largest numbers of Indigenous peoples live in NSW and Queensland.

STATEMENTS OF GOOD PRACTICE: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND LIBRARIES

ATSILIRN Protocols for Libraries, Archives and Information Services

The Library Council of NSW has endorsed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library Information Resource Network (ATSILIRN) protocols as a guideline for best practice for working with Indigenous Australian peoples, content and collections.

The ATSILIRN protocols cover focus areas of:
1. Governance and management
2. Content and perspectives
3. Intellectual property
4. Accessibility and use
5. Description and classification
6. Secret and sacred materials
7. Offensive
8. Staffing
9. Developing professional practice
10. Awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Issues
11. Copying and repatriation of records
12. The digital environment.

NSLA Indigenous Working Group and publications

The ATSILIRN protocols and other statements of good practice, such as those prepared by the National State Libraries of Australasia (NSLA) Indigenous Group, encourage the inclusion of Indigenous Australian content and perspectives. Some examples of good practices are the National Position Statement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library Services and Collections and the Working with Community: Guidelines for Collaborative Practice between Libraries and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

* Information on the ATSILIRN protocols is available at [ATSILIRN website]
The strategy *Indigenous Spaces in Library Places: Building a Vibrant Public Library Network Inclusive of Indigenous Peoples and Communities* has been developed for the timeframe 2016–2021.

The goal is to encourage public libraries across NSW to build greater awareness, support and engagement with Indigenous peoples and communities and to provide guidance for libraries to enhance services to the Indigenous population.

The objectives are to:

- **Reach**
  - Build the profile of the NSW public library network in relation to Indigenous services
  - Inspire collaborative relationships across the public library network to share information on Indigenous services

- **Welcome**
  - Create welcoming and trusted environments for Indigenous peoples in library spaces
  - Encourage the public library network to support, share and engage with Indigenous peoples in their local area

- **Collaborate**
  - Build vibrant collections and services that are shaped by Indigenous needs and aspirations
  - Develop strategies to include and support Indigenous Australian employment across the public library network

- **Support**
  - Share stories and build knowledge of local Indigenous history and culture

---

*SHELLHARBOUR CITY COUNCIL*  
Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting - 6 March 2018
WELCOME

Create welcoming and trusted environments for Indigenous peoples in library spaces

Targets
- Increase number of visible library spaces acknowledging and connecting with local Indigenous culture and history.
- Gain positive feedback from the local Indigenous population.

Key strategies
- Encourage public libraries to create a visible Indigenous presence in the library spaces — for example, through welcome or acknowledgement signs of the local Indigenous community.
- Encourage public libraries to promote event programs and collections related to Australian Indigenous history and culture.
- Encourage public libraries to acknowledge and share successful stories and feedback from the Indigenous local population accessing the library.

ABORIGINAL KNOWLEDGE CENTRE - WARRAGARLA LIBRARY (NSW), IMAGE COURTESY OF ROBERT WILLS PHOTOGRAPHY
SUPPORT

Encourage the public library network to support, share and engage with Indigenous peoples in their local area.

Targets
- Libraries develop new approaches to attract key Indigenous community organisations.
- Increase outreach activities to Indigenous communities.
- Develop relationships with key Indigenous community organisations at a local level.

Key strategies
- Encourage public libraries to liaise with the local Indigenous groups and associations regarding shared aspirations and programs — for example, Reconciliation groups and Land Councils.
- Support libraries to explore collaborations with their local council and other organisations involved with Indigenous peoples in the community.
- Work collaboratively with public libraries to promote opportunities for their staff to engage with local community groups to build long-lasting relationships.
SHARE

Targets
- Increased awareness of Indigenous history and culture.
- Visible collections and services for Indigenous peoples.

Key strategies
- Support public libraries to collect, expose and share local and national resources on Australian Indigenous culture and history.
- Encourage public libraries to collaborate with local Indigenous peoples and communities to create and share stories — for example, collecting local histories relating to experiences of the Indigenous community, collecting ephemera, collaborating with Indigenous artists etc.
| INCLUDE |

Develop strategies to include and support Indigenous Australian employment across the public library network.

**Targets**
- Increased number of Indigenous Australian staff, including librarians and archivists employed by public libraries.
- Increased awareness of career pathways for Indigenous Australian peoples to be employed in the Library and Information profession through the public library network.

**Key strategies**
- Advocate for government agencies and/or councils to develop Indigenous employment strategies.
- Encourage and promote the development of volunteer and/or other work experience or placement opportunities for Indigenous Australian students in public libraries.
- Provide mentoring and professional networking for Indigenous staff across NSW public libraries, including sharing information on development opportunities and new career pathways.
BUILD

Targets

- Collections relating to Australian Indigenous culture and history are developed and are made visible throughout the public library network.
- Events and programs related to Indigenous Australian culture, history and experiences are incorporated into regular planning across the network.
- Collections and services dedicated to Indigenous peoples and communities are developed with respect to the ATSILIRN protocols.

Key strategies

- Provide information to public libraries on the development of Indigenous collections, including key reference titles.
- Support the provision of tools, templates and guides online relating to the development of and access to Indigenous services and collections.
- Share with public libraries staff case studies developed on the ATSILIRN protocols and their application.
COLLABORATE

Inspire collaborative relationships among the public library network to share information on Indigenous services

Targets
- Staff across the public library network share information and experiences on how to develop better services for Indigenous peoples.
- Create a network of professionals, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to develop good practice for Indigenous services in public libraries.

Key strategies
- Facilitate connections and conversations across the public library network, through the use of the State Library website, online collaborative tools and social media channels.
- Promote champions in improving and providing services for the local Australian Indigenous population, and celebrate these inspiring stories among the public library network.
REACH

Spread the strategy across NSW

Targets
- The public library network is actively aware and engaged with the strategy.
- Public library staff promote the strategy across the network, encouraging collaborations and sharing stories.

Key strategies
- Organise onsite and/or online focus groups with library staff and managers to seek input and feedback on the application of the strategy.
- Investigate the use of online tools to survey priority areas, new ideas etc.
3.2 Office of Environment & Heritage - Information Session

Introduction

New South Wales is now the only jurisdiction in Australia without either updated legislation or standalone legislation for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH). Protection and management of ACH in NSW primarily occurs under Part 6 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act).

Although there have been a number of amendments to the NPW Act in recent decades, we know from feedback and research that the current system is not delivering for Aboriginal people, industry or the wider community. Major limitations include:

- Regulating ACH under flora and fauna legislation is outdated, offensive to Aboriginal people, and out of step with approaches in other states
- The absence of a formal role for Aboriginal people to make decisions about how ACH is protected and managed
- Narrow legal definitions of ‘Aboriginal cultural heritage’ that are limited to objects and places and do not recognise other aspects such as stories, lore, ancestors and living practice
- The absence of formalised local arrangements for coordinating cultural knowledge, creating uncertainty and complexity for both Aboriginal communities and those seeking to consult meaningfully with those communities
- An approach to regulation that is largely reactive, and doesn’t support the type of upfront planning approaches that are better at preventing harm and driving positive conservation action
- Complexity, uncertainty and delays for those undertaking development
- The absence of formal processes for resolving disputes when they occur, which can lead to challenging relationships, difficult negotiations, and in some cases costly court proceedings.

In recognition of these issues, the NSW Government is developing a new legal framework to improve the way ACH is protected, managed and celebrated in NSW.

The new legal framework will be significantly different to the current system, and it is important to take the time needed to get it right.

After several years and three previous rounds of consultations, draft legislation to establish the first part of the new legal framework will shortly be released.

The draft legislation will be called the ‘draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill’ (draft Bill). A ‘bill’ refers to a proposal for new legislation or a change to existing legislation before it has been approved by Parliament.
Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) will be asking communities, individuals and other stakeholders to tell us what they think about the proposals in the draft Bill, to see what changes we may need to make before the Bill is introduced to Parliament. Once the Bill has been passed by Parliament it will become an Act – the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.

The proposed new legal framework booklet provides a plain English explanation of key proposals in the draft Bill to help people understand what the draft Bill contains before it is released. (Extract from the Introduction – A Proposed new legal framework booklet published by OEH.)

Council’s Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) provided a Report on the NSW Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference held in September 2017, which included a report on the proposed ACH changes and proposed new legislation.

As a result of the ACLO’s report the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) recommended on Tuesday, 24 October 2017 that Council invite the Office of OEH to provide an Information Session on the proposed legal framework regarding ACH in NSW. The AAC acknowledged the importance of the ACH proposed changes and wanted to ensure they were sufficiently informed regarding the proposed changes and to provide input to Council if a response was being prepared on the proposed Bill.

OEH accepted Council’s invitation and delivered a presentation on Thursday, 8 February 2018.

The Information Session was well attended with 22 participants including Cr’s Marsh and Cattall, staff from Shellharbour and Kiama Council’s, SCC’s AAC, OEH South Coast Branch and the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council (ILALC).

The OEH presented on the proposed new system in particular, five broad aims:

- Broader recognition of ACH values;
- Decision-making by Aboriginal people;
- Better information management;
- Improved protection, management and conservation of ACH;
- Greater confidence in the regulatory system.

Documents distributed included:

- ACH in NSW: A proposed new legal framework – Factsheet
- Yarn up handbook: Decision-making by Aboriginal people
- A Proposed new legal framework booklet.

The OEH will conduct a 2nd round of workshops in the next few weeks seeking feedback on the proposed draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill, which may include a
submission from Shellharbour City Council. The AAC and SCC’s staff are now well placed to provide input regarding those proposed changes as a result of the OEH Information Session.

Council’s ACLO will continue to update the AAC on the status and progression of the proposed ACH Bill.

Recommendation:

That the AAC receive and note the Information Report on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage reforms.

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Report prepared by: Veronica Bird, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Date of Meeting: 6 March 2018
3.3 Proposed Naming of Reserves (11010529)

To demonstrate a genuine commitment and respect for Aboriginal culture, heritage and people, Shellharbour City Council has requested the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) to explore opportunities for incorporating Aboriginal language for proposed naming of Reserves.

The AAC suggested a Register of names be developed with a list of words and names of local regional significance, which may be identified by the Aboriginal sensitivity mapping associated with Council’s Aboriginal Heritage Study 2000. Further development of the Register could be identified into categories, which could be used for other purposes by Council.

The AAC and Council Officers understood the importance of ensuring the Aboriginal words identified were ‘easy to pronounce’ and the words were not too long or complicated or were not cultural sensitive to the local Aboriginal community that may cause offense.

Once the proposed names have been approved, Council staff will forward the recommendation to the Geographical Names Board (GNB). The GNB will consider the proposed name and advertise the proposal in the local press, inviting submissions. The GNB will then consider any public submissions and advise Council of the outcome.

One of the considerations the AAC will need to determine is whether there are any intellectual property rights associated with the provision of Aboriginal words once they become part of the GNB system. This matter has not been considered by the AAC at previous meetings and is an important part of the decision-making process.

The Draft Council report for the proposed naming of Reserve’s on Whittaker Street, Flinders is attached for AAC input. The Geographic Information Services (GIS) team are preparing a series of A3 maps for the AAC that will display areas of unnamed parks and reserves. The AAC can use the maps to provide a list of appropriate names to Council for future use. Unfortunately, the A3 maps will not be ready for the AAC meeting of 6 March 2018.

Recommendation:

That the AAC receive and note the Proposed Naming Reserves Report and nominate Jodi Edwards to work closely with Council’s Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer to develop a Register of Aboriginal names to be endorsed by Council’s Aboriginal Advisory Committee before use and submission to the Geographical Names Board.

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Report prepared by: Veronica Bird, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Date of Meeting: 6 March 2018
3.4   Update on Community Strategic Plan review workshop outcome (11010530)

A verbal report will be presented by Veronica Bird, Shellharbour City Council’s Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer.

**Responsible Manager:** Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life  
**Date of Meeting:** 6 March 2018

3.5   Membership update (11010531)

A verbal report will be presented by Veronica Bird, Shellharbour City Council’s Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer.

**Responsible Manager:** Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life  
**Date of Meeting:** 6 March 2018
3.6 Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards Dinner (11010532)

A verbal report will be presented by Veronica Bird, Shellharbour City City Council’s Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer.

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 6 March 2018
4. General Business

4.1 NAIDOC Week

This is a standing item on the agenda. Any developments will be reported to the meeting.

4.2 Employment

This is a standing item on the agenda. Any developments will be reported to the meeting.

4.3 Bass Point Interpretive Centre

This is a standing item on the agenda. Any developments will be reported to the meeting.

5. Items for Information

6. Next Meeting

8 May 2018