



BUSINESS PAPER

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* of the below mentioned meeting.

Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 9 May 2023

Commencing at 3:00 PM

Shellharbour Civic Centre

Ground Floor Training Room

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1. Acknowledgement to Country

Shellharbour City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Dharawal Country and recognise their continued connection to the land we meet on today. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region and extend our recognition to their descendants who continue to live on country.

2. Apologies / Leave of Absence**3. Confirmation of Minutes****3.1 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meetings 7 and 28 March 2023**

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held on 7 and 28 March 2023 as circulated be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

4. Disclosures of Interest**5. Presentations****6. Staff Reports**

6.1 Standing Item - Aboriginal Employment

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Aboriginal Employment opportunities within Council. A newly developed, Aboriginal-targeted role has been established as a Library Program Officer.

A full-time position of **Library Programs Officer (First Nations Targeted)** has been established within the Libraries and Museum Team with the approval of the Executive Leadership Team and advised to Council's Workplace Consultative Committee.

The purpose of establishing a Library Programs Officer (First Nations Targeted) is to enhance the capacity of the Libraries & Museum Team to support programs that promote greater understanding of First Nations culture and engage with First Nations community members. In addition, the role will undertake general library programming and library experiences across all of Shellharbour's libraries, including outreach programs.

An application to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board for an exemption under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)* to recruit for this position 'targeted' to people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Council is currently awaiting the outcome of this application. Recruitment for the position will commence once the exemption has been approved.

Recommendation:

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Aboriginal Employment Report.

Report prepared by: Margie Kirkness
Manager Libraries and Museum

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann
Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 9 May 2023

6.2 Standing Item - Bass Point Interpretive Centre**6.3 Standing Item - Projects / Assets Update****6.4 Interpretive Play Space Project Update**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the launch of Yirran muru (the Aboriginal Interpretive Play Space), provide feedback on the event and play space, and outline future plans.

Overview of the launch

Yirran muru, which translates to many pathways in Dharawal language, was officially opened to the public on Tuesday 18 April 2023. The opening consisted of a smoking ceremony and cultural performances by Guwara, Gumarra, Kugang Djarmbi and Jodi Edwards.

The play space itself includes various elements designed to encourage imaginative play and interactions inspired by Aboriginal culture. Each of the play features are designed to enhance children's understanding of the seasonal movements of Aboriginal people in the local area and connection through creation stories. Unique elements of the play space include Burri Burri, a four metre hand carved interactive timber whale, signage that tells the story of Gang Man Gang; a rock wall replica of Merrigong (the Illawarra escarpment) and local bush tucker in the surrounding gardens. There is an interactive 'language wheel' which plays spoken recordings of Dharawal words.

Following on from the official launch, Council hosted a series of free workshops in and around Yirran muru, to encourage people to explore the space and learn more about local Aboriginal culture and history. The free cultural workshops included a weaving workshop by Gumarra, a connection to country workshop by Kugang Djarmbi and interpretive tours through the play space by Jodi Edwards.

In support of these cultural activities, Council teams also offered a variety of free, family friendly activities on the lawn next to Yirran Muru. These activities included nature painting (the use of tree branches and leaves to paint a temporary community mural), take-home craft activities including air-dry clay animals, painted wooden animals, and sensory bags.

Children and families were also provided with a scavenger hunt booklet that led them through the play space and encouraged engagement with the different elements of the space such as learning Dharawal words, exploring the landmarks structures of the escarpment, lake and ocean, and reading the story of Gang Man Gang. The scavenger hunt will remain available for families to collect from customer service or libraries to complete.

In addition to the opening ceremony and workshops, the event also included a free lunch for community members. The launch of Yirran Muru was a successful event and hosted over 500 visitors throughout the day. Over 150 children attended the free workshops, along with their parents and families.

Feedback on the launch

Feedback provided at the conclusion of the event was positive and supportive of the space. General feedback from community members on the day included comments that the launch event was beautiful to watch and participate in and deemed Yirran Muru a culturally inclusive play space. One community member provided the written feedback provided on the play space - "I took my son there and he loved it! It was funny because when we first got there he asked where the swings and slide were because he's so used to that type of park, but by the time I was ready to leave I practically had to drag him away – he was way more engaged in the area and using his imagination more than at any of the other parks. It was great."

Future plans for the space

Since its launch, Yirran Muru has seen a constant stream of children and families accessing the space.

Council has developed an activation plan to support interaction and engagement with the play space, as well as promoting the space and its cultural connections to the wider community. A free scavenger hunt booklet has been developed to encourage children and families to explore the space and investigate the cultural elements incorporated into the play structures. Council is also developing online resources which will build upon the initial signage and stories told within the play space.

Council also plans to activate the space by hosting community events and activities on the lawn next to Yirran Muru to encourage the wider community to visit the play space.

Since the launch of the play space, Council has received numerous enquiries from the community about how to access and use the space, including enquiries from preschools and playgroups wanting to plan excursions, and community members wanting to have celebrations at the space.

The play space is considered a public space and while Council does not currently have plans to take private bookings for the space, there is potential to coordinate community bookings for larger groups to ensure fair access to the space e.g., coordinate school excursions to attend the space on different dates.

Council would like to acknowledge the key staff and stakeholders involved in delivering the play space, and extend our thanks to Jodi Edwards, Fiona Robbe, Katrina Owers, Bernadette Sharpe, Anne Peden, Shane Venables and Maiquilla Brown.

Recommendation:

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Interpretive Play Space Project Update report.

Report prepared by: Maiquilla Brown
Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann
Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 9 May 2023

6.5 Aboriginal Community Events update report

The purpose of this report is to provide information on up-coming Aboriginal-focused community events, as well as provide a summary of events that have taken place.

Over the coming months Council will deliver a series of events that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and culture, including two key local events, and a regional event. An update on these events is provided below.

Reconciliation Flag Walk – Monday 29 May

This year's Reconciliation Flag Walk will be held on Monday 29 May and will be located at Warilla Surf Club and Reddall Reserve East.

The Reconciliation Flag Walk will commence at 10:00am starting at the Warilla Surf Club, and then proceed north along the shared pathway to Reddall Reserve East where the official Ceremony will take place (see route at Image 1). The Ceremony will commence at approximately 10:45am, and will be followed by a free BBQ lunch for participants.

Invitations and event details have been sent to AAC members, local schools, and the wider Aboriginal community.

This year's theme is 'Be a Voice for Generations' and aims to encourage all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise.

Image 1 – Map of the Reconciliation Flag Walk route

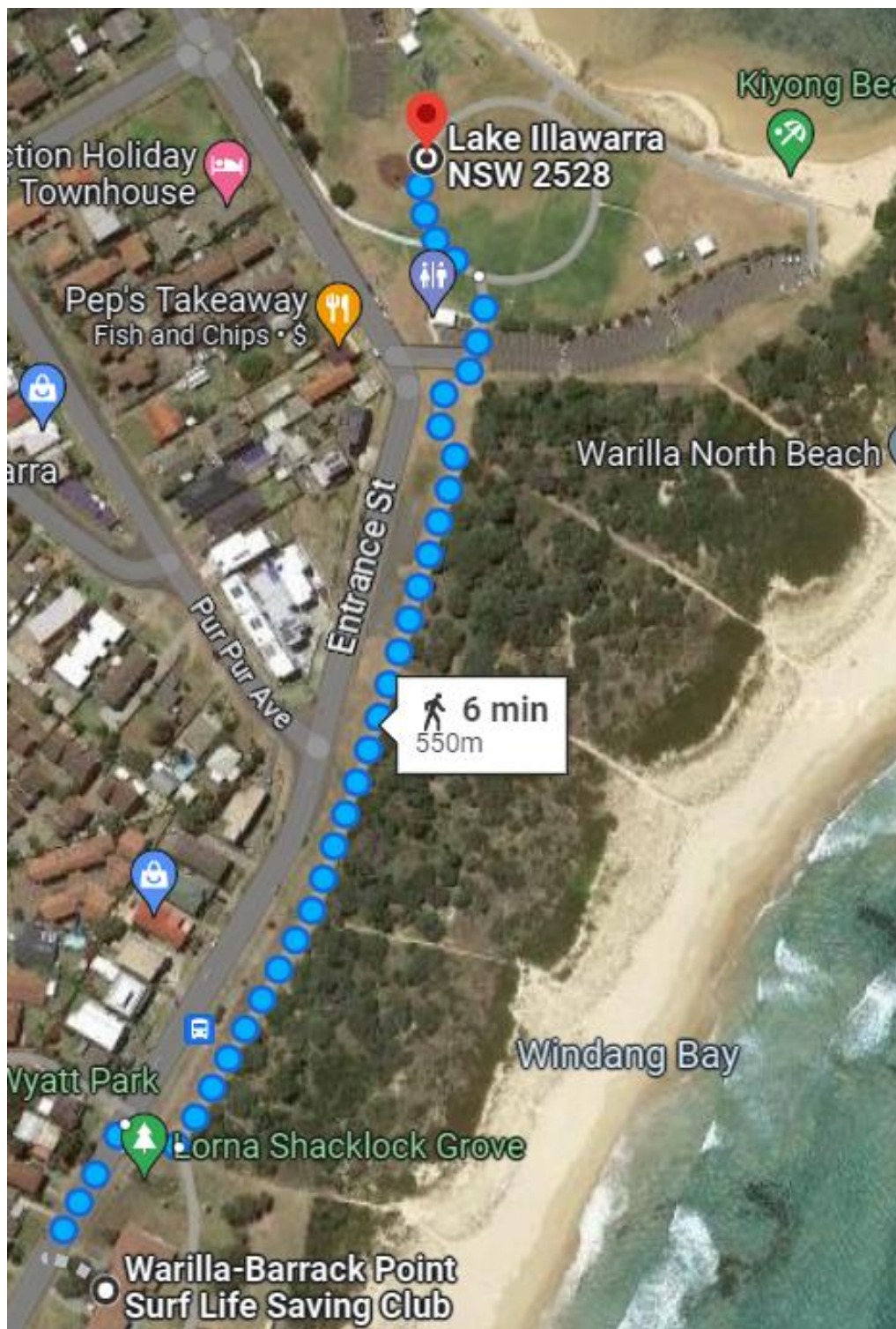
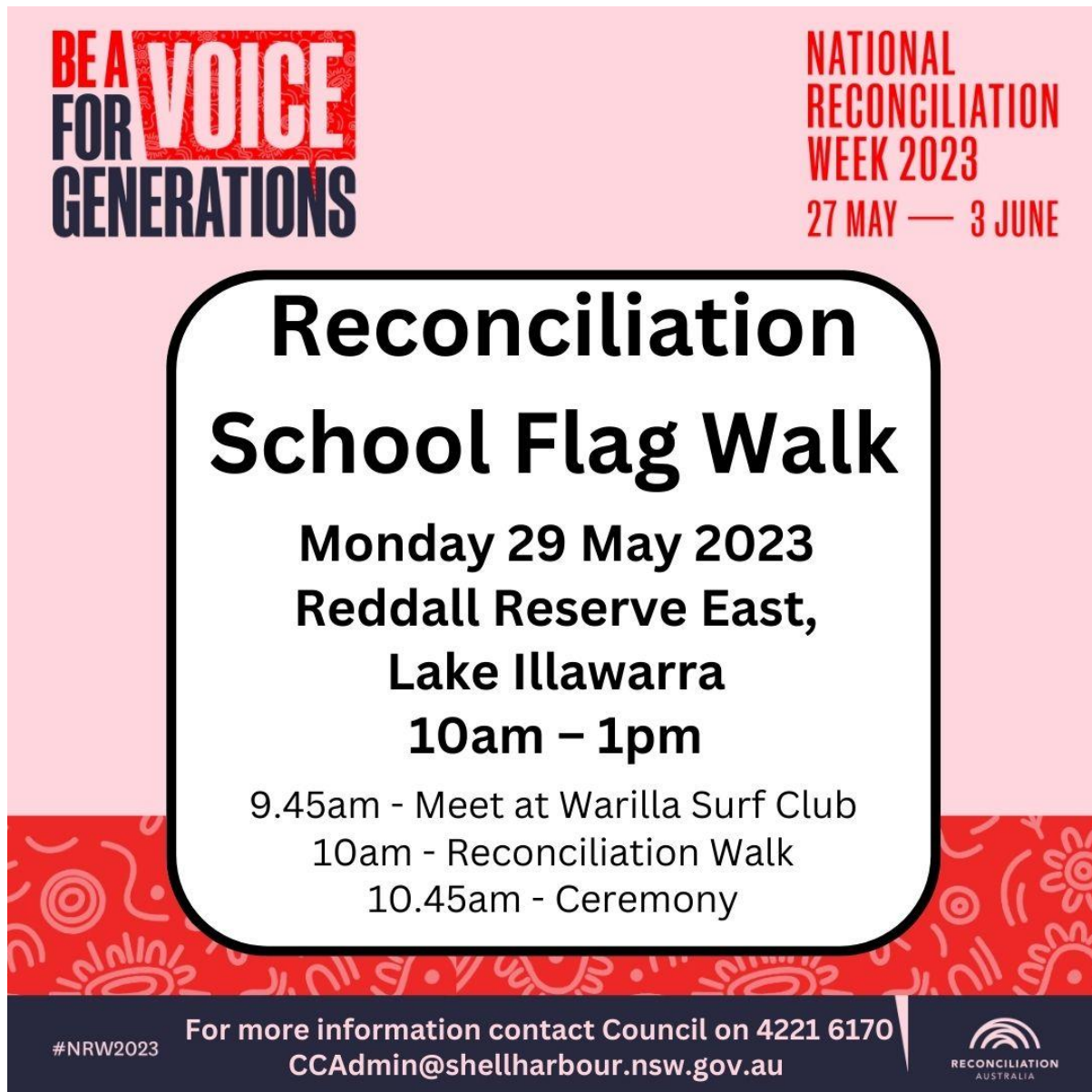


Image 2 – Copy of the Save the Date

The poster is for a 'Reconciliation School Flag Walk' event. It features a pink background with a red Aboriginal pattern at the bottom. In the top left, there is a logo that says 'BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS' in red and blue. In the top right, it says 'NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023' and '27 MAY — 3 JUNE' in red. The main text is in a white rounded rectangle with a black border, stating the event name, date, location, and time. Below this, it lists the schedule: 9.45am - Meet at Warilla Surf Club, 10am - Reconciliation Walk, and 10.45am - Ceremony. At the bottom, there is a dark blue banner with the hashtag #NRW2023, contact information for the Council, and the Reconciliation Australia logo.

BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023
27 MAY — 3 JUNE

Reconciliation School Flag Walk

Monday 29 May 2023
Reddall Reserve East,
Lake Illawarra
10am – 1pm

9.45am - Meet at Warilla Surf Club
10am - Reconciliation Walk
10.45am - Ceremony

#NRW2023 For more information contact Council on 4221 6170
CCAdmin@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au

RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

NAIDOC Community Day – Monday 3 July

This year's NAIDOC Community Day will be held on Monday 3 July and will be held at the Shellharbour Civic Centre. It is proposed that the event take place across the Civic Centre's outdoor spaces, commencing with a flag raising ceremony on the front lawns, and then extending out to the rear of the building to use the back lawn and allow families easy access to Yirran Muru – the Aboriginal Interpretive Play Space.

The event will include stall holders and free activities for the community as well as a free lunch.

This year's theme is 'For Our Elders' and aims to celebrate the role Elders have played and continue to play in our community. Staff welcome ideas from the committee on how this theme can be reflected in the NAIDOC Community Day event.

Regional NAIDOC Awards – Saturday 29 July

Planning for the Regional NAIDOC Awards event has been progressing. The event is confirmed to take place at the Pavilion in Kiama on Saturday 29 July 2023. Kiama is the host Council for the 2023 event and over the past several weeks, the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers from the four participating councils have been supporting the planning and coordination of the event.

At the beginning of May sponsorship applications will close, and nomination forms will open. Ticket sales are scheduled to open around mid-May allowing just over two months for the local community to submit nomination forms for the awards and purchase tickets to the event.

Event Summary - Shellharbour Rocks the Lake – Saturday 18 March

'Shellharbour Rocks' is an event series designed to activate some of the town centres across the Shellharbour local government area. 'Shellharbour Rocks the Lake' took place on Saturday 18 March 2023 at Reddall Reserve and successfully showcased a variety of local and national Aboriginal artists, performers and creatives. The event was well attended through-out the day and saw an estimated 4000 visitors.

The event included market stalls, food trucks, free workshops hosted by local Aboriginal facilitators, as well as cultural demonstrations and various musical performances. Highlights from the day include a cooking workshop delivered by Mark Olive, cultural performances by Gumarra and Kugang Djarmbi, and musical performance by local artists including Aodhan from Albion Park and Prodikal-1 from the South Coast.

Recommendation:

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Aboriginal Community Events Update Report.

Report prepared by: Maiquilla Brown
Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann
Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 9 May 2023

6.6 Reconciliation Action Plan update report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of the Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Council has finished developing the final draft of the Reflect RAP, and the final draft has been returned to Reconciliation Australia for final approval and endorsement. Once Reconciliation Australia has endorsed the Reflect RAP it will then be shared with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Council for adoption.

It is anticipated that the Reflect RAP will be made available to the AAC and Council for endorsement before 30 June 2023.

Recommendation:

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Reconciliation Action Plan update report.

Report prepared by: Maiquilla Brown
Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann
Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 9 May 2023

6.7 Rutledge Collection - Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment Progress Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Rutledge Collection preliminary cultural heritage assessment.

Background

Shellharbour City Museum is the custodian of the Rutledge Collection, comprising approximately 30,000 lithic artefacts including scrapers, flakes, points, cores, hammer stones, axes, grinding stones, and accompanying archaeological site research studies and maps. It is estimated the bulk of the collection is from Dharawal Country and Yuin Nation.

The Collection was acquired in 2014 when the Museum Curator and Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer deemed acquisition was in the best interest of the care and preservation of the Collection.

Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment

At the AAC meeting of 8 March 2022, the Committee recommended to:

- 1. Receive and note the Rutledge Collection Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment Report;*
- 2. Endorse the recommendation to engage consultants to undertake a preliminary cultural heritage assessment of the Rutledge Collection.*

The Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment (PCHA) will:

- Provide an audit of the material;
- Identify the research potential and significance of the Collection;
- Ensure that future actions taken in regard to the Collection comply with relevant legislative frameworks, including the National Parks and Wildlife Service Act 1974;
- Provide a basis from which the AAC and Council can determine clear, culturally appropriate directions to ensure best practice outcomes for the Collection going forward;
- Inform a Plan of Management for the collection.

Progress

Shellharbour City Council engaged Austral Archaeology to undertake the PCHA of the Collection.

Austral Archaeology broke down the delivery of the PCHA into two stages.

Stage One:

- Austral Archaeology will engage an Aboriginal Site Officer through the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council to assist with the raw count of artefacts on-site at the Shellharbour Civic Centre;
- A raw count of artefacts will be undertaken to develop a catalogue of basic artefact type, numbers, typologies and locations;
- A review of the documentary information will be undertaken to determine the nature of the records, locations and type;
- A review of site maps will be undertaken to determine if this duplicates existing datasets that are available, including Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS).

Stage Two:

- The PCHA report will be completed;
- Initial analysis of datasets and analysis of research potential will be determined;
- Preliminary recommendations concerning assemblage and management options will be provided.

Stage One of the PCHA commenced in April 2023.

Council's Museum Curator provided Austral Archaeology with digital copies of the documentary information and maps, to enable off-site research of this part of the Collection.

Australia Archaeology is currently consulting with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council to engage an Aboriginal Site Officer for the project. Once appointed, the Museum Curator and Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer will arrange for the raw count of artefacts to take place, one day per week, at the Shellharbour Civic Centre, until finalised.

Recommendation:

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receives and notes the Rutledge Collection Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment Progress Report.

Report prepared by: Tamara Hynd,
Museum Curator

Responsible Manager: Margie Kirkness,
Manager Libraries and Museum

Date of Meeting: 9 May 2023

7. General Business

8. Items for Information

9. Next Meeting

Date: 27 June 2023