

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
(373.42)**

Held on Wednesday 11 July 2001

Meeting No EH/01/07 commenced at 9.05 am.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Cllr Geoff Preece (Chair)
Mr Ian Bowie
Mrs Joan Dent
Mr Paul Dignam
Mrs Marian French
Mrs Marigold Lawrence
Mrs Beryl Strom
Ms Tracy Sharp (Planner)
Ms Lyn Morris (Heritage Officer)
Mr Geoff Potter (Gosford City Library)

Apologies: Mrs Joan Fenton
Mrs Elaine Fry
Mr Stan Fry

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Committee members were invited to declare any interests they might have in respect to the business of this meeting. There were no declarations.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting No EH/00/06 held 13 June 2001 were confirmed. [J Dent / I Bowe]

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**EH.001 FINANCIAL STATEMENT - HERITAGE FUND**

Small Grants Ms Morris distributed a status report on the Small Grants Program and this was discussed briefly. There had been little or no change since last meeting.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [I Bowie / B Strom] that the information be noted.

EH.002 HERITAGE REVIEW

Stage I Ms Morris advised that she has had no further word on when the report on this matter will be going to Council.

Stage II Ms Morris advised that there has been no response from Sutere Architects since she sent off the last of the information they required. Ms Morris had also asked them for advice regarding their assessment of some items as having “regional significance” which is a term not in use by the Heritage Office.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [M French / G Potter] that the information be noted.

EH.007 WOY WOY LIBRARY - DA 12367 / 2001

The Committee was advised that a Development Application (DA 12367/2001) has been lodged with Council. Ms Morris said the architect had offered to come to this meeting to talk about the DA but she told him it would not be necessary if the plans were essentially the same as those already viewed by the Committee.

Ms Morris tabled the DA plans and the Committee re-affirmed its support for the proposed alterations and additions.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [M Lawrence / J Dent] that the information be noted.

EH.003 MANASSEH FROST’S HOUSE, KINCUMBER

The Chairman advised that he had received a fax from the Uniting Church regarding their earlier letter in which they said the Committee had made a “fundamental error” in interpreting the Burra Charter and the definition of ‘reconstruction’.

Clr Preece had tabled the letter from the Church at the May meeting when it was discussed by the Committee and noted that it was the Church that had misinterpreted the definition.

Ms Sharp advised that in the event of the cottage being demolished and rebuilt, as proposed by the current DA, the property may no longer be classified as a heritage item. If this was the case, the heritage provisions in the GPSO could not be utilised. Therefore the 2(a) zoning would not then permit a medical centre.

Mrs French reported that she has not had a reply from the Church and she assumes Mr Pavliuk has not either in regard to their formal offers to purchase the property and restore the cottage. It seems that while the Church has some concerns about future usage and the amount of land required, there is a likelihood that they will consider the offers.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [P Dignam / I Bowie] that the information be noted.

EH.004 GEORGE DOWNES COTTAGE (HERITAGE ITEM NO 68)

Ms Morris had spoken with the Community Services section about the placement of advertisements calling for expressions of interest in leasing the property, now that a Plan of Management has been adopted by Council.

George Downes Cottage is a 'drop-log' (slab) building at Kulnura, restored by Council in the 1990s under the supervision of the Committee.

Expressions of interest to lease the building were sought from "individuals or groups" in January 1997 for uses including -

- Community Centre
- A keeping place (museum)
- Arts and Crafts Centre
- Tea Room or Restaurant
- Information Centre.

Following the advertisement, the Manager-Property Services had advised the Committee that a Plan of Management would be necessary before the restored cottage could be leased for a community use or whatever, because the land is classified as 'community'.

A Plan of Management was adopted by Council on 22 May 2001 and Ms Morris has now been advised that the Property section have already leased the Cottage and it has been leased to a Council employee.

The Committee voiced considerable astonishment and concern that after years of endeavouring to ensure that the best possible use of the heritage cottage would be achieved through community consultation, it had been summarily leased without any consultation with Council's Heritage Committee.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [M Lawrence / P Dignam] that the information be noted and a report be brought to Council by the Manager - Property Services detailing the current leasing arrangement of George Downes Cottage at Kulnura, the process which was involved and why the lease was entered into without reference to Council's Heritage Committee.

EH.005

HELYS GRAVE

In the absence of Mrs Fenton, it is not known whether the 'photograph' of Frederick Hely has yet been received from the Mitchell Library.

Mrs Strom tabled photographs of the information display recently erected at Cochrone Lagoon and suggested we might do something similar for Helys Grave (ie something more elaborate than the modest noticeboard initially proposed).

Committee members to gather information for next meeting, including sketches of possible designs for a substantial display. Mr Dignam offered to photograph some good noticeboards he had seen at The Entrance.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [B Strom / L Morris] that the information be noted.

EH.006 GOODAYWANG RESERVE

Mr Potter and Mrs Dent will talk with Ian Rhodes of Council's Recreation Section and give him a copy of Dr Varman's report.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [I Bowie / G Potter] that the information be noted.

EH.008 HERITAGE EDUCATION

Mrs Strom had neglected to bring copies of her "Historic Walks" around Woy Woy and Gosford. To be tabled at next meeting. Mr Potter will commence work on a 'Wyoming' leaflet to assist the Helys Grave project.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [L Morris/G Potter] that the information be noted.

EH.009 (OLD) CHRIST CHURCH, GOSFORD

Ms Morris had distributed copies of the Conservation Management Plan prepared by Hector Abrahams of Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners and it was discussed.

Mr Bowie suggested that the Plan should address the issue of the addition on the eastern side of the building which pre-dates the 1960s. Ms Morris will send this comment and any others received in the next two weeks to Hector Abrahams. She will also send a copy of the Draft Plan to Mr Kevin Booth.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [J Dent / M French] that the information be noted.

EH.011 DA 9564 - THE FERRYMASTERS COTTAGE, WAGSTAFFE

Ms Sharp reported that the Draft LEP to have this property (comprising the cottage, the lot, boatshed, jetty and Norfolk Pines) included in Schedule 8 of the GPSO as an item of environmental heritage, is currently on public exhibition.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [B Strom / M Lawrence] that the information be noted.

EH.040 (OLD) NARARA PUBLIC SCHOOL

A letter has been received from Keith Christie for Thomas Paul Constructions P/L regarding their proposals for external wall treatment of the Old Narara Public School building within their Heritage Park Estate.

It is proposed to paint the two unpainted brick walls of the building due to extensive and offensive graffiti on the south-east elevation which could not be removed without discoloration of the treated bricks. The Committee agreed to the proposal on the understanding that the walls would not be rendered. It also agreed to the preferred colour for all of the external walls, subject to checking by Ms Morris.

Approval is also sought to replace all existing bull nosed brick window sills on the heritage building with the red bull nosed sill bricks being used elsewhere on the development “so as to maintain consistency in appearance”. Mr Christie advises that some high level bull nosed brick window sills to the north-east elevation are damaged and the existing face bricks are not available.

The Committee does not support the replacement of the existing brick window sills. It believes that matching bricks could be available from local sources or as advised by the Heritage Office. The high level window sills should be left untouched if not able to be repaired with bricks matching the lower sills.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [L Morris / P Dignam] that the information be noted.

EH.041 KINCUMBER COMMUNITY CENTRE / BURNS FAMILY HOUSE

Ms Morris advised of a memo from Kincumber After School Care which is one of the users of Kincumber Community Centre within the Burns Family House (Heritage Item No 83).

The group is concerned about security measures following two recent incidents of entry by unauthorised persons. The group would like to implement additional measures including the installation of lattice (or other) screening on the verandahs, a door bell and eye viewer in the doors and fire safe security bars on the windows (to be used as exit points if required).

It seems that the intruders simply walked in to the building and whilst the Committee sympathises with the problems of security, it does not feel that the proposals as presented would address those problems. It might be more appropriate for Council to examine the security measures within the whole community precinct at Kincumber.

It was agreed that a representative from Kincumber After School Care be invited to attend the next meeting and / or provide additional information. Meanwhile, Committee members should individually inspect the site.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [M French / I Bowie] that the information be noted and the appropriate Council officers be requested to examine the adequacy of security measures within the precinct of community buildings at Kincumber.

EH.032 DA 11455 - SEAWALL AT WAGSTAFFE

A letter has been received from John McKinney P/L which has prepared a new design of the proposed seawall which uses “smaller-scaled squared sandstone rubble which will visually relate to the scale of those walls adjoining the property which are still intact.”

The Committee noted that it is still proposed to indent the wall to provide a beaching area and thus to interfere with the line of the existing wall. It was further noted that Mr McKinney advises that the existing seawall west of his client’s property is also deteriorating and “being on public land” is not being maintained.

The Committee re-affirms that the existing seawall should be retained and maintained for the reasons contained in the minutes of 9 May 2001. Also, it recommends that maintenance be carried out in tandem with the section of the seawall fronting the public reserve to the west of Lot 134.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [P Dignam / J Dent] that the information be noted and Council give urgent consideration to repairing the seawall fronting the public reserve at Wagstaffe, adjacent to Lot 134 of the Santoy Estate.

EH.042 DA 12397 - MT PENANG FESTIVAL GARDENS

A site plan for the Mt Penang Festival Gardens had been referred to the Committee.

The proposal is in the proximity of the McCabe Cottage complex but details relate only to Stage I which will not intrude on the heritage building.

The Committee expressed concern that much of the rural setting of the Mt Penang site has been taken away by recent developments.

The Committee considers that the rural setting of McCabe Cottage should be preserved and that the architects should involve the Committee when designing the northern section of the Festival Gardens Site Area rather than when the plans are completed as DCP144 – Mt Penang Festival Development Site identifies McCabe Cottage as an item of heritage.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [P Dignam / B Strom] that the information be noted.

EH.043 STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2000

Ms Morris had been approached by Ms Ann Stewart regarding a passage in the State of Environment Report 2000 which recommends that Council “investigate the feasibility of expanding the small grant scheme to include Aboriginal heritage items (to include memorandum of understanding with the Darkinjung Aboriginal Land Council regarding local heritage items).”

In the discussion that followed, it was noted that Heritage Small Grants are available only to listed heritage items and currently there are no Aboriginal sites listed. However, the Committee supports the idea in principle, and resolved to invite the Darkinjung Land Council and the National Parks & Wildlife Service to nominate Aboriginal sites for potential listing in Council's Heritage LEP/DCP.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [G Potter / J Dent] that the information be noted.

EH.025 "BOORA BOORA", KINCUMBER

Ms Morris reported that she had partly attended a Heritage Office inspection of "Boora Boora" on July 4, in company with the owners of the property and their solicitor.

Ms Morris further reported she had been advised of a fire last weekend in the rear portion of the small cottage which is also covered by the Permanent Conservation Order (PCO) on the property. The advice came through a memo from Daniel Keato - Environmental Health & Building Surveyor.

The Committee agreed that it would not be appropriate to demolish the building in view of the PCO but steps need to be taken to prevent danger to the public if the structure is unsafe. The issue is one for the Heritage Office to determine and Ms Morris was requested to advise Mr Keato and the resident owner (Mr Houston) accordingly.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [M Lawrence / P Dignam] that the information be noted.

NEXT MEETING **Date:** **Wednesday 8 August 2001**
 Time: **9.00 am**
 Venue: **1st floor Committee Room**

CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The meeting closed at 12.45 pm.

* * * * *

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

A The information be noted

EH.001	FINANCIAL STATEMENT - HERITAGE FUND
EH.002	HERITAGE REVIEW
EH.007	WOY WOY LIBRARY
EH.003	MANASSEH FROST'S HOUSE, KINCUMBER
EH.005	HELYS GRAVE

EH.006	GOODAYWANG RESERVE
EH.008	HERITAGE EDUCATION
EH.009	(OLD) CHRIST CHURCH, GOSFORD
EH.011	DA 9564 - THE FERRYMASTERS COTTAGE, WAGSTAFFE
EH.040	(OLD) NARARA PUBLIC SCHOOL
EH.042	DA 12397 - MT PENANG FESTIVAL GARDENS
EH.043	STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2000
EH.025	"BOORA BOORA", KINCUMBER

B For the action of Council

EH.004 GEORGE DOWNES COTTAGE

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [M Lawrence / P Dignam] that the information be noted and a report be brought to Council by the Manager - Property Services detailing the current leasing arrangement of George Downes Cottage at Kulnura, the process which was involved and why the lease was entered into without reference to Council's Heritage Committee.

EH.041 KINCUMBER COMMUNITY CENTRE / BURNS FAMILY HOUSE

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [M French / I Bowie] that the information be noted and the appropriate Council officers be requested to examine the adequacy of security measures within the precinct of community buildings at Kincumber.

EH.032 DA 11455 - SEAWALL AT WAGSTAFFE

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS [P Dignam / J Dent] that the information be noted and Council give urgent consideration to repairing the seawall fronting the public reserve at Wagstaffe, adjacent to Lot 134 of the Santoy Estate.