

Minutes

Chairperson: Mr Bob Reid

Attendees:

Linda McLaughlin (Rhododendron Festival Committee)
Dick Harris (Rhododendron Gardens)
Des Dyer (Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation)
David Bosworth (Blackheath & Mt Victoria RSL)
Alima Clarke (Local School Teacher)
Jan Webster (Horticultural Society & Popes Glen Bushcare Group)
Paul Vale (Popes Glen Bushcare Group)
David Pender (Blackheath Chamber of Commerce)
Susan King (Interested Resident)
Bob Reid (Rhododendron Festival Committee)
Jennifer Kelly (Friends of Blackheath Pool and Park)
Wayne Kelly (Blackheath Streetscape Group)
Jean Broughton (Horticultural Society)
Patricia Gonzalez (Blue Mountains City Council)
Elizabeth Dudley Bestow (Blue Mountains City Council)

Apologies:

Terri Hamilton (Resident & Ward Councillor)
Coral DeLosa (Quota Club Blackheath)
Matt Murray (Interested Resident & Horticulturalist)
Geoff Bates (Quota & Mt Victoria & District Historical Society)

1. General Welcome

Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow welcomes group, introduces herself and objectives for the Community Liaison Group (CLG).

2. Introductions

All CLG members introduce themselves, the community group/s they represent and why they are here tonight representing their respective groups. Why members are part of the CLG ranges from: ensuring community values are protected to ensuring Council carries out the project adequately.

3. Confirm Agenda Items / Call for Additions etc

Bob Reid confirms items on the agenda and call for any additional items that members may want to include. Dick Harris requests some question time at the end of the meeting.

4. Adopt Terms of Reference

Bob Reid encourages all to review the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a minute or two prior to discussing any concerns / queries.

There is discussion on the following:

- Section 4.2 – the term ‘stakeholder’ is not clear. This is changed to ‘community’.
- Section 4.4 – how will we ensure that interested community members are fully

informed? Patricia advised that it is the duty of all CLG members to report back to their respective groups and make themselves available to other members of the public who may want to ask questions re: Plan of Management.

It is also suggested and agreed that an information poster be placed inside notice boards on the main street of Blackheath to inform the general public on the project's progress. These posters would be updated as necessary, usually after a CLG meeting is held.

ToR are adopted with minor amendment as noted above.

Action: Patricia will become responsible for creating update posters and placing in notice boards on the main street in Blackheath.

5. Confirm Section 2 of PoM – Legislative Requirements

Patricia Gonzalez introduces Section 2 of the Plan of Management. It is explained that this section "outlines the basis for management, giving direction provided by legislation such as the Crown Lands Act and Council's Strategic document". Therefore the contents of this section are dictated by legislation or policy and not something the community can alter / amend.

The PoM *currently* looks at:

- Crown Lands Act 1989
- Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979
- Heritage Act 1977
- Local Environmental Plan 1991 & 2005
- Council's 25 year strategy – Map for Action
- Recreation Sustainable Asset Management Plan (yet to be completed)

Linda McLaughlin points out that wording of Section 2.1 last sentence third paragraph is confusing and can be misunderstood. It is agreed that the sentence should read "The Department encourages the community to be either directly involved in, or contribute to, the planning and management of the system *through the* trustees of the reserved and dedicated land". Note: the word 'as' has been replaced by 'through the'. The Department = Owner of the Land & Trustees = Council as Manager of the Land.

It is acknowledged that in summarising legislation the original intend of the words may become ambiguous.

Wayne Kelly asks for clarification on the area of land on the corner of Inconstant St & Gardiners Cres which is not shown on the Zoning Map. The reason this areas is not shown on the Zoning Map is that this land is zoned 'road' and therefore does not appear as part of the park. Everyone agrees that this area of land should become part of the park.

Susan King advises that there are changes to the Heritage Act 1977 currently being considered. BMCC to review these changes and any impacts they may have for PoM prior to exhibition of draft document.

David Bosworth advised that the Gallipoli Steps within park are now on the State War Memorial Register.

Action: Patricia to include National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974 (covering any sites / items of Aboriginal significance) and the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (covering any threatened species and their habitat) as part of this Section.

Action: Include area of land corner Inconstant St & Gardiners Cres into Blackheath Memorial Park.

6. Confirm Values – Basis for Management

Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow introduces the known values and explains that these values have been divided up into six (6) broad categories. Everyone is asked to consider the potential “objectives” (shown on PowerPoint presentation) and to consider how to improve and strength the objective. Objective = what we wish to achieve. Below are the DRAFT objectives and other ideas put forward for the six (6) broad categories:

Flora & Fauna

1. “To minimise the impacts of activities within Blackheath Memorial Park on its flora and fauna”
2. “ To protect the current horticultural style, character and integrity of the original plantings”

Other ideas / words: “protect and maintain design and cultural integrity”.

Bushland Management

1. “To minimise the impacts of activities within Blackheath Memorial Park on the bushland within and adjacent to the Park.”
2. “To improve water quality within the Popes Glen Catchment area”
3. “Blackheath Memorial Park should be managed to enhance the Bushland”

Other ideas / words: “minimise and manage impacts”, “actively manage”, “manage park to ensure positive contribution to bushland”.

Aboriginal Heritage

1. “To protect Aboriginal values and promote active measures to investigate and protect Aboriginal items in areas of potential disturbance.”
2. “To involve the Aboriginal community in the management of Aboriginal significance within Blackheath Memorial Park”.
3. “To educate local residents and visitors to the park on the Aboriginal significance of the site”

European Heritage

1. “To protect heritage values and promote active measures to protect items from further and / or potential disturbance and decay.”
2. “To educate local residents and visitors to the park on the history of the site including pre and post contact”
3. “Restore and maintain the integrity of the original design concepts of Blackheath Memorial Park”

Other ideas / words: “restore”, do we need a memorial element?

Note: Objective 3 - David Bosworth suggested we include “Soldiers Memorial Park” however this is not the gazetted name of the park. Renaming the park may become an action of the PoM.

Recreation Uses

1. “To provide a range of formal and informal recreation opportunities within Blackheath Memorial Park”
2. “To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, historical and social education activities.”

Residential and Park Amenity

1. “To ensure that Blackheath Memorial Park continues to contribute to the amenity of the Blackheath community whilst minimising adverse impact on adjacent residents”
2. “To provide well maintained facilities and access”

7. Where to from here?

- Information from tonight's meeting will help form the guiding principles for the PoM.
- **9th July 2008** – expect a copy of the DRAFT PoM which will be sent to CLG members. CLG members will be expected to discuss draft with their respective groups prior to CLG No. 2 where the draft will be discussed.
- **30th July 2008** – Next CLG meeting where we will discuss the draft PoM. At this meeting we will decide if a third CLG is required before or after public exhibition of document.

Other:

- Borer activity in Rhododendrons was treated in late March 2008.

- Dick Harris requests the cost of producing the Blackheath Memorial Park PoM. This request is currently being processed and estimated project costs will be sent to CLG when they become available.

- David Pender – suggests that formation / guidance from a “management committee” be included in the objectives / guiding principals of PoM. Can this be included? If so, where & how? The creation of a management committee could also become an action of PoM.

- Copy of Non Aboriginal Heritage Assessment of Blackheath Memorial Park sent to: David Bosworth – via mail 22 May 2008