

Minutes

Chair: Councillor Terri Hamilton

Attendance: The meeting was attended by approximately 70 local residents including representatives from various stakeholder groups. Councillor Terri Hamilton, Mr Greg Clifford, Mrs Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow & Ms Patricia Gonzalez were in attendance from Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC).

1. General Welcome

Councillor Terri Hamilton welcomes the group and introduces herself and BMCC staff members.

2. Presentation

Greg Clifford & Patricia Gonzalez give short presentation on the following:

- What is a Plan of Management?
- Why have a Plan of Management? and
- The Blackheath Memorial Park Plan of Management.

Patricia Gonzalez emphasised that the Plan of Management has not yet been written and no decision have been made. The Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal Heritage reports and the bushland management study provide guidance to the PoM only. Their recommendations are will not necessarily be incorporated into the final PoM.

Please refer to copy of the presentation for further details on its contents.

3. Question & Answer Session

This session was chaired by Councillor Terri Hamilton and provided an opportunity for all in attendance to ask questions. Where possible responses were provided by BMCC staff.

Notes:

- Name and group person represented has been identified where possible.
 - These minutes are not necessarily word for word.
- a) **Bob Reid (Rhododendron Festival Committee)** – read statement written by Dick Harris (who was unable to attend meeting). Statement identifies some of the following: concerns there is too much money being spent on PoM, an offer (by him) to provide report on health of Rhododendrons, Significant Tree Management brief refers to a row of 19 Rhododendrons when 72 were originally planted.
- Response:** Statement to be considered as a submission and reviewed by Community Liaison Group (CLG), Dick Harris to be given opportunity to provide quote for completion of Significant Tree Management Plan (along with other consulting Arborists), row of 19 Rhododendrons is identified in Council Significant Tree Register – the brief will highlight that original number was approximately 72 (although 74 & 77 have also been mentioned).
- b) **Wayne Kelly (Blackheath Streetscapes Group)** – questions why there are different maps of the sites between 1) the Zoning Map (available on evening) & 2) the map on page 4 of the revised Bushland Management Study.
- Response:** The Zoning Map is provided by the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and developed on a citywide scale; it prescribes what is and is not permitted for development on a certain area of land. The map on page 4 of the revised Bushland Management

- Study related only to this study and identifies the sections of the study areas i.e.: modified parkland vs. bushland areas. Maps are completely unrelated.
- c) **Jennifer Kelly (Friends of Blackheath Park & Pool)** – commends Council on the revised Bushland management Study but reads out some comments in relation to it.
Response: Request copy of her concerns as submission to be considered by CLG.
- d) **Helen** – concerned by the borer attacking the Rhododendrons, referred to in Dick Harris' statement. Do something about the Rhododendrons.
- e) **Don Burns (Blackheath Walkers):** uses park at least six (6) times a week and suggest that the park needs to be managed / maintained in sub sections as the park is in three (3) defined areas: Bushland, Modified Park & Caravan Park.
Response: There was general agreement to this statement by those present; it will be further explored by the CLG.
- f) **Bob Reid (Rhododendron Festival Committee)** – reads from prepared statement including: does not agree with specified species *Rhododendron ponticum* in Bushland Management study – wishes to challenge this is the species, also mentioned statement on pages 13 & 14 referring to “invasion” and page 24 “English Study”
Response: Statement to be considered as a submission and reviewed by Community Liaison Group (CLG). Patricia Gonzalez again emphasises that recommendations from the Bushland Management Study need not be part of final PoM.
- g) **Alima Clarke (Local School Teacher)** – comments on beauty of park and its importance to local children. She also wants to see issue of borers in Rhododendrons tackled as soon as possible.
Response: Councillor Terri Hamilton confirms she will speak with the General Manager of BMCC to seeking commitment to rectify borer problems, as soon as possible.
- h) **Susan King (Local Resident)** – urges us not to forget section of land on the corner of Inconstant St which is full of weeds.
- i) **Michael Pagg** – After it was confirmed Dick Harris would be asked to supply quote for the significant Tree Management Plan, Michael asks what the selection criteria is for the consultants. Is value for money included?
Response: Selection criteria for this consultancy will be: Arboricultural skills & knowledge (recognised qualifications), proven experience (examples of previous similar reports), professional referees, ability to work within timeframes and value for money.
- j) **David Bosworth (RSL)** – We can't afford new assets! Why are we doing the Plan of Management? Doesn't make park any better.
- k) **Des Dyer (Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation)** – provides opinion on why Plans of Management are valuable. He explains it provides confidence in the future of the land and further confidence to local Aboriginal groups (for example) that may have sites of significance located on the land. The PoM will protect these sites. He also provided examples of two (2) recent PoM's which have protected sites and put a stop to works.
- l) **Bob Reid (Rhododendron Festival Committee)** – reads from prepared statement including: concern over comment that some ornamental exotics are considered invasive.
Response: Statement to be considered as a submission and reviewed by Community Liaison Group (CLG).
- m) **Mike Chirgwin (Local Resident)** – asks for confirmation / clarification on Crown / Council roles.
Response: Using maps available on the night the study area was clarified. The land is owned by Crown and managed by Council. The land is classified by the Crown as Public Recreation Reserve. Being Crown Land does not protect the future of the park anymore than if it was Council Community Land. It is also confirmed that the final PoM will be adopted by BMCC but can also be sent to the Minister for Lands for adoption giving its contents greater authority.
- n) **Wayne Kelly (Blackheath Streetscape Group)** – reads from prepared statement regarding Bushland management Study concerns.
Response: Statement to be considered as a submission and reviewed by Community Liaison Group (CLG).

- o) **Don Burns (Blackheath Walkers)** – How is maintenance carried out? Is there any long term strategy in place?
Response: Maintenance is routine and varies depending on item e.g.: parkland, building, swimming pool. The PoM can help identify gaps in maintenance / renewals and provide a strategy for future maintenance / renewal works.
- p) **John (BANC)** – Want to ensure that the issue of accessibility is included in PoM.
- q) **David Bosworth (RSL)** – RSL will make a submission requesting parks name change from Blackheath Memorial Park to ‘Soldiers Memorial Park’.
- r) **Robert Glover (Dog Owner)** – need to consider needs of both people and dogs in PoM.
- s) **Community Member** – is there money to implement the actions in the PoM
Response: No. The PoM does not have money attached to it once adopted but provides tool to seek funds from various funding bodies including Council’s Capital Works Program.
- t) **Community Member** – How long does the PoM long for?
Response: five (5) to ten (10) years and it will then be reviewed.

4. Community Liaison Group (CLG)

Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow introduce the CLG. The CLG is an advisory group which will be formed to assist Council oversee the development of the PoM. It is expected that there will be a minimum of three (3) meetings and people on the CLG will have their contact details available to members of the public.

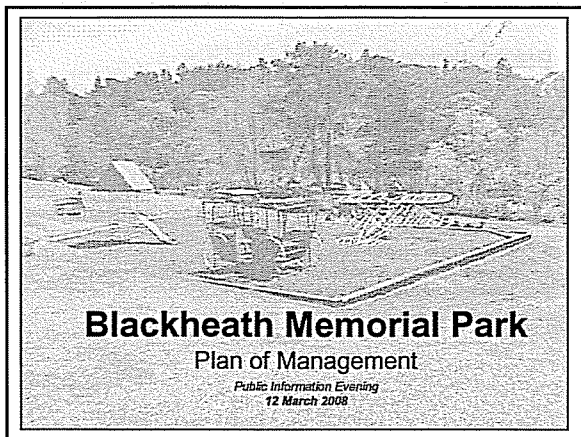
Councillor Terri Hamilton asks for nominations from the people present. Nominees to come from a board range of interest groups. Those that register their interest are given a copy of the CLG’s Terms of Reference.

CLG members are:

Name	Interest Group	Phone	Email
Clr Terri Hamilton	Ward Councillor	4787 6549	thamilton@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
Mrs Jean Broughton	Horticultural Society	4787 8251	N/A
Ms Linda McLaughlin	Rhododendron Festival Committee	4787 7274	lindoli@gmail.com
Mr Dick Harris	Rhododendron Gardens		N/A
Mr Des Dyer	Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation	0408 360 814	desmond4552@hotmail.com
Mr Matt Murray	Horticulturalist	0419 778 967	matthew_murray@hotmail.com
Mr Geoff Bates	History Consultant	4787 8534	geoffbates@bigpond.com
Mr David Bosworth	Blackheath – Mt Vic RSL	4787 7140	Blackheath@pacific.net.au
Ms Alima Clarke	Local School Teacher	0431 616 737	namaster@pnc.com.au
Mrs Coral DeLosa	Quota Club of Blackheath	4784 8241	ormonde@hermes.net.au
Mr David Pender	Blackheath Chamber of Commerce	0414 481 380	dpender@netspace.net.au
Mr Bob Reid	Rhododendron Festival Committee	4787 6746	bireid@optusnet.com.au
Ms Susan King	Local Resident	0417 086 218	suking@ozemail.com.au
Mrs Jennifer Kelly	Friends of Blackheath Pool & Park	4787 6567	hollow@bigpond.net.au
Mr Paul Vale	Popes Glen Bushcare Group	0429 014 454	paulvale@ozemail.com.au
Mr Wayne Kelly	Blackheath Streetscape Group	4787 6567	hollow@bigpond.net.au

Other


- The survey available on the night was completed by twenty (20) people. The results are attached for your information. Note: the results have been arranged to make the best sense of the responses received. Should you want a copy of the raw data please contact Patricia Gonzalez on 4780 5573 or via email on pgonzalez@bmcc.nsw.gov.au.
- Ms Isabel Page – request a copy of the revised Bushland Management Study however I do not have contact details (phone or mailing address) for her. Can anyone assist by providing her contact details?



Blackheath Memorial Park

AGENDA

1. Introduction to Plans of Management (PoM).
2. The Blackheath Memorial Park PoM.
3. Question & Answer Session.
4. Community Liaison Group Nominations.
5. Where to from here?



Blackheath Memorial Park

WHAT is a Plan of Management?

- A document with legal status under the Crown Lands Act;
- They contain core objectives for the management of the land;
- Contain performance targets; and
- Specify the means for achieving the objectives & performance targets.




WHY have a Plan of Management?

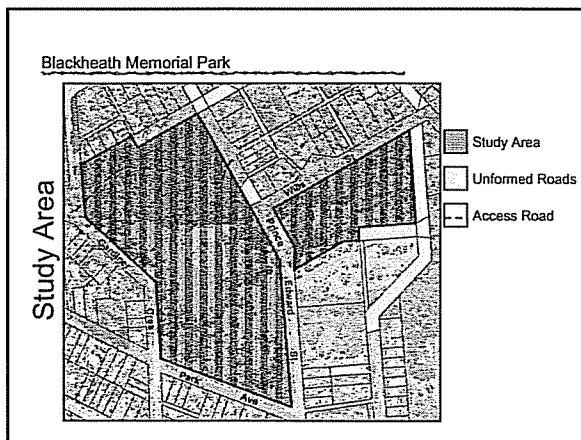
- Provides confidence on the future of the park;
- Identifies all the values, issues & priorities for the land as highlighted through Community & Council input during PoM development;
- Becomes a reference document detailing what will and will not be permitted on the land; and
- Increases opportunity for funding.

Blackheath Memorial Park

WHY Blackheath Memorial Park?



- One of Council's six (6) District parks – major recreation space for locals & visitors alike;
- Significant Council assets such as the Swimming Pool;
- Identify & provide solutions for competing uses / values;
- Significant heritage values within the park that need to be protected;
- Issues / concerns that need to be resolved identified.



Blackheath Memorial Park

Plan of Management Process	Community Input Opportunities
Gather background information: Such as bushland, fauna or heritage studies, as well as general desktop review.	
Community Consultation: meet with greater community & community liaison group (CLG) to understand values etc.	WE ARE HERE Community Input
Develop DRAFT PoM: developed based on community & CLG input. Prepare to send to Council for public exhibition.	← CLG Input
Public Exhibition: Minimum six (6) week period to include information day at park etc.	← Community Input
Reconsider Draft PoM: Review submissions received during exhibition period with CLG & make amendments where applicable.	← CLG Input
Adopt by Council: send to Council for adoption or re-exhibit if necessary.	

Blackheath Memorial Park

Process so far...

- 2007
 - Advertisement in the BM Gazette x 1;
 - 2500 flyers/surveys distributed to Blackheath households;
 - Memo to all Councillors;
 - Introduce PoM at Blackheath Pool Advisory Group meeting (Feb 07); and
 - Letter to stakeholder groups both local organisations & state agencies (June 07);
 - First Community Liaison Group meeting (August 07)
- 2008
 - Advertisement in the BM Gazette x 2;
 - Letter & flyer to local stakeholder groups;
 - 12 x A3 posters distributed around Blackheath Parks, BANC & Train Station etc; and
 - 250 x Flyers distributed to shops by Blackheath Chamber of Commerce.
- User Park Surveys and Observations: conducted over March and April 2007
- Consultants engaged to conduct:
 - Heritage (both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal) Assessment (Nov 07);
 - Bushland Management Study (note: original study has been revised); and
 - Significant Tree Assessment (yet to commence).

Blackheath Memorial Park

Question & Answer Session

1. Chair to run session;
2. One (1) person speaks at a time;
3. One (1) issue / comment etc per person;
4. Limit of two (2) minutes per person for question & two (2) minutes for Council response;
5. Respect other peoples views / opinions; and
6. Council officer/s to respond now or at a later date through Community Liaison Group if research etc is required.

Blackheath Memorial Park

Community Liaison Group

What is it?

- Advisory group to generate discussion on matters related to the PoM; elected representatives (Council) make final decision of PoM contents; and
- It is NOT a voting committee.

What is the time commitment?

- Expect to meet a minimum of three (3) times over 6 month period, more if necessary;
- Expect emails in between meetings with any updates;
- Expected to review and make comment on Draft PoM; and
- Liaise with greater community. Name & contact details will be made public.

Who should nominate

- We are seeking approximately 12 interested residents / stakeholder representatives to participate; and
- Participants should represent broad areas of interest / skills e.g.: European & Aboriginal heritage, bushland, recreation, horticulture, residential amenity, commercial, tourist and other.

Blackheath Memorial Park

Where to from here?

- Release minutes of this meeting to all attendees including names & contact details for all CLG members;
- Complete the Significant Tree Management Plan;
- Hold a Councillor Working Party to inform all Councillors of the Plan of Management (PoM) prior to sending to Council;
- Draft PoM and prepare for Public Exhibition; and
- Public Exhibition of Draft PoM including an information day.



Gardiner Creek Entrance



Playground

SURVEY RESULTS

Please note: these survey results have been grouped to demonstrate the most common responses to:

- 1) What are your top three (3) VALUES to be protected? And
- 2) What are your top three (3) ISSUES to be addressed?

Should you wish to see a copy of the raw data – listed by priority please contact Ms Patricia Gonzalez on 4780 5773 or via email on pgonzalez@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

SURVEY RESULTS	
from 12 March 2008 Community Information Evening	
VALUES to be protected	Responses
Rhododendrons / Return plaques	12
Trees / Flora in general	9
Heritage Values	8
The Swimming Pool	4
Retain open / grass area	4
All landscape to be looked after by Council / Keep in Order	3
Play Equipment	3
Better access for disables / Access issues generally	3
The present layout / present room structure	2
Don't change anything / Do not alter	2
Land to be preserved for all future generations	1
Dogs allowed	1
Gallipoli Steps	1
Beauty	1
Avenues	1
Areas for animals & peace	1
All dogs before 8am & after 4pm off leash	1
Social Cohesion	1
Peace & Quiet	1
Duck Pond	1
Recreation Uses in general	1
Lamp posts to have lamps again	1
ISSUES to be addressed	Responses
Amenities / Toilets to be updated / Clean up outdoor toilets	5
Weeds	3
Preservation of our park as it is / Leave it alone	3
Lack of lighting / night time security	3
Dog areas / need more bins for dog waste	2
Reinstate soldiers plaques	2
Health of plant life / keep existing flora	2
Shelter	2
Rhododendrons give Blackheath its identify / Local character	2
Replace dangerous trees / remove borers	2
Renovate kiosk and lease for open period / Lease out kiosk	2
Access / Parking / Restriction of public access	2
Is Council looking for others to maintain (?)	1
Vandals	1
Removal of mature shrubs / trees	1
Trustfulness of Council	1
Maintenance	1
What does Council have in mind?	1
Shade at pool	1
Interference with memorial avenues / dedicated areas	1
Encourage usage e.g.: events	1
The people of Blackheath to be consulted	1
Separate from Popes Glen Reserve	1

SURVEY RESULTS	
from 12 March 2008 Community Information Evening	
ISSUES to be addressed	Responses
Heat to pool – more people will swim	1
True consultation / information	1
Waste	1
As a tourist town the park is valued by tourist.	1
Other comments / suggestions / interesting facts	Responses
Rhododendrons were planted to commemorate soldiers in Great War – They must be kept.	
Continues use of the Pool including adequate opening hours & days	
Delineate the park area	
Increase public consultation	
Council need to study lean management – especially when considering Plans of Management costs & employment of consultants	
I think Dick Harris report is spot on. Weeds & rubbish in Gardiner Cres and natural spring underneath all weeds & rubbish.	2
Conduct some of Rhododendron Festival at pool park eg: crowning of princess.	
Park is a significant part of our cultural heritage	