

Botany Historical Trust Meeting

5/02/2018

Item No	3.1
Subject	Draft Minutes of Botany Historical Trust Meeting – 6 November 2017
Report by	Paula Pfoeffler, Acting Manager Libraries and Customer Service
File	SF17/2264

Officer Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust Committee Meeting held on 6 November 2017 be confirmed.

Present

Ms Anne Slattery, President
Mrs Alice McCann
Mr Clarence Jones
Mr Christopher Hanna
Mr Robert Hanna
Dr Peter Orlovich
Mr Richard Smolenski
Ms Jacqueline Milledge

Also present

Meredith Wallace, General Manager
Paul Pfoeffler, Acting Manager Libraries and Customer Services
Jenny MacRitchie, Community History Librarian
Luis Melim, Manager Development Services
Diana Polonska, GIS Coordinator

President Anne Slattery opened the meeting in the Mascot Library and George Hanna Memorial Museum at 6.23pm.

1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Ms Slattery acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land, the Gadigal and Bidjigal clans.

2 Apologies

That the following apologies be received and leave of absence granted:

Samantha Sinnayah, Museum Curator

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

3.1 Botany Historical Trust Meeting – 7 August 2017

On the motion of Richard Smolenski, seconded by Chris Hanna

That the Minutes of the Botany Historical Meeting held on 7 August 2017 be confirmed with the following correction: that the word 'Trust' be added under point 3.1 after the words 'Botany Historical'.

4 Matters Arising

The General Manager brought to the attention of the Executive the article in the *Daily Telegraph* of Monday 6 November 2017 about the Meriton development, 'Pagewood Green' and the changing of the suburb boundary between Eastgardens and Pagewood. The BHT was mentioned in the article as having supported Meriton's request for the name change. The article suggested that apartment prices would increase accordingly because of this. The Executive made it quite clear that the name change was supported purely based on the historical association of that site with the name Pagewood, including Pagewood Film Studio and Pagewood Bus Depot.

The Executive decided that the President should write to all members of the BHT as well as to the *Southern Courier* to make their position clear regarding the reasons behind their support of the suburb name change.

Mr Robert Hanna asked about the Thematic History of the former City of Botany Bay. The Community History Librarian explained that she and the Curator were working through the final drafts, checking facts and photos and will provide feedback to Elizabeth Conroy. It was hoped that the final report would soon be more widely available.

5 Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

6 Mayoral Minute 11 October 2017

The President discussed the email she had sent to the Acting Manager, Libraries and Customer Service regarding the Mayoral Minute of 11 October 2017. She expressed her preference for Mascot Library and George Hanna Memorial Museum as the home of the BHT. Ideally, she would like to see a display case made available for the BHT to mount rotating displays of the museum's collection. If a computer could be made available on occasions, then she would like the opportunity for members of the Trust to be able to undertake some research or projects in co-operation with the local history team. The President did not think that the Trust could staff a museum on a voluntary basis at AMAC House. Ms Slattery would like the Trust to be able to hold talks occasionally at Mascot Library on a Saturday afternoon and would like Council's assistance to produce 4 newsletters a year for members.

7 Trust Deed

The Trust Deed has been adopted by Council.

8 BHT Constitution

The committee discussed the need for updating the BHT Constitution. It was resolved to send a copy of the constitution to all members over the Christmas break so that it could be addressed early in 2018.

9 Reports

9.1 Community History and Museum Activity Update

The Acting Manager, Libraries and Customer Service mentioned that the Curator's *When the Beatles Landed at Mascot* talk for History Week had been well attended.

The Ron Rathbone award had been successful and she thanked Dr Orlovich for his participation as judge once again. Dr Orlovich noted that the standard of some entries had been very high. He also stated that it was not essential for the entries to have been written solely for the Ron Rathbone Award and that other works already researched and written could be submitted.

The Community History Team is keen to promote the airport's centenary which will be in 2019/2020. In 2018 a local history hub will be established at Mascot Library.

Mr Smolenski asked whether there would be any exhibitions or commemorations of the centenary of the major battles of 1918. Ms Slattery mentioned that she had just received notification from Matt Thistlethwaite's office that grants would be available to mark the centenary of the armistice in 2018. The time frame is quite tight, and Ms Slattery asked for any suggestions of local significance from the Executive to be forwarded to her by Monday 13 November. The Executive could then make a submission to the Member for Kingsford Smith for his consideration.

On the motion of Jacqueline Milledge, seconded by Alice McCann:

That the report be received and noted.

9.2 New Name Request

Mr Melim spoke about the need for a street name to be chosen for a new close in Banksmeadow, just off Corish Circle. The Community History team had prepared a shortlist of 10 possible names. Two of these names were rejected by the Geographic Names Board but the other 8 names were accepted as possible contenders. After some discussion and a vote the name 'Jullian' was selected from the list by the executive. This name honours Private Frederick Augustus Jullian (4285), a labourer from Ocean St Botany, who earned the Belgian Croix de Guerre in late 1918 for his conspicuous service and marked gallantry as a linesman.

Mr Melim and Ms Polanska left the meeting at 7.25pm

10 General Business

The BHT Christmas party will be held at Bonnie Doon Golf Club on Thursday 30 November at 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm. Mr Smolenski and Mr Robert Hanna tendered their apologies as they will be away. The Christmas party will also be the AGM. Nominations will be required by Thursday 16 November. Ms Slattery will prepare her President's report and consider possible events and activities for 2018. Nomination forms for the Executive Office Bearers will be sent to all members.

Mr Smolenski expressed his disappointment that Council had not arranged any commemoration of the centenary of the Charge of the Light Horse Brigade at Beersheba on 31 October. The BHT President had arranged a small ceremony and wreath-laying at the last minute at the Light Horse memorial at Eastlakes. The General Manager said that Council would be pleased to refund the cost of the wreath and noted that as there are 10 RSLs in the Bayside area, it would be good if other community groups sometimes took the lead and invited Council to participate in their activities and commemorations. Ms Slattery noted that it had been a difficult 12 months and that the BHT had been on uncertain ground. She stated that she knew that no insult had been intended and agreed that the RSLs could have done more. But she expressed her opinion that the Light Horse memorial at Eastlakes was unique and that a plan should be made to commemorate 31 October in future years and invite schools to also take part. Mrs McCann thought that local people were disappointed that the Light Horse memorial was not better looked after and that the anniversary of Beersheba should be remembered there every year.

Dr Orlovich reported that the archives of the Botany RSL were being delivered to AMAC House on Wednesday 8 November and that he had 4 students who would be working on them during the week beginning 13 November. The long-term storage of the archives was still to be confirmed.

Mr Chris Hanna thanked the committee for the flowers and their kind thoughts and wishes during his illness and recovery from surgery. He also mentioned that the 75th anniversary of Kokoda was recently commemorated.

Mrs McCann expressed her concern about the committees that no longer exist in the Botany community. She felt that the Eastgardens Library opening had lacked warmth and that the new Councillors should have been introduced to the community members who were present.

Ms Milledge asked about the format of the BHT Christmas party and offered to prepare a Christmas story as she has done in the past.

Mr Jones asked about the Aboriginal Advisory Committee meetings. Ms Wallace advised that the meetings would commence in 2018 and that they would be held at Botany Town Hall on a Wednesday evening.

Mr Chris Hanna reminded the committee that Remembrance Day was on Saturday and that services would be held at both Eastlakes and Botany at 11.00 am.

Mr Smolenski mentioned that the annual Nancy Hillier lecture would be held at the University of New South Wales on 23 November 2017 at 6.00 pm.

Ms Slattery asked about the Lionel Bowen scholarship which had not been awarded during 2017. The scholarship pays for the first year of study for a student from the Kingsford Smith electorate who is committed to community issues and social justice. The President of the BHT is on the selection committee.

Mr Rob Hanna thanked the BHT committee for its work during the last 12 months. He also thanked Council for its support. Mr Smolenski also thanked the President, staff and the General Manager.

Meeting Closed at 8.30 pm

The next meeting will be held on Monday 5 February 2018.