



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes of the **Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting** held at the JC Rose Room, Council Chambers, 37-39 Rose Street, Manjimup on Friday 9 September 2022.

1. Declaration of Opening of Meeting

Shire President, Cr. Omodei declared the meeting open at 9:00am

2. Acknowledgement of Country delivered by Shire President, Cr. Omodei
The Shire of Manjimup respectfully acknowledges the Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands in which we work throughout the region and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

3. Attendance / Apologies

ATTENDANCE:

Cr. P. Omodei (Chair)
W. Herdigan (ATSI Community Stakeholder)
S. Kelly (ATSI Community Stakeholder)
S. Griffiths (ATSI Community Stakeholder)
K. May (ATSI Community Stakeholder)
F. Sinclair (Community Representative)
W. Eiby (Community Representative)
V. Dei-Tos (Shire of Manjimup – Proxy and Note Taker)

APOLOGIES:

Cr. Cliff Winfield
G. Ipsen Cutts (Shire of Manjimup)

ABSENT:

B. Cornwall (A&TSI Community Stakeholder)

GUESTS: Nil

4. Declaration of Interest - Nil

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of 3 June 2022 Meeting are a true and correct record.

Moved: V. Dei-Tos Seconded: S. Kelly

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – Nil (although noted that Balang Miya Community Hub confirmed as name of new Co-location project in Pemberton)

7. General Business / New Matters

RAP Project Updates

- Projects are ongoing and will continue to be reviewed at future meetings. Updates on specific projects included in Round Table discussions.

Naming of Laneways in Manjimup

- Ms Kelly confirmed that she had provided three options as potential names for laneways in Manjimup. They are the Noongar names for three birds common to the area:
 - Djidi-djidi (Willy Wagtail)
 - Koolbardi (Magpie)
 - Dwanart (Australian Ringneck/28 Parrot)

Committee agreed to make a recommendation to Council to adopt these names.

Moved: W. Herdigan

Seconded: S. Kelly

Round Table:

Vanda Dei-Tos

- Provided update on two major library activities.
- The Shire's libraries hosted Alton Walley (who is a Noongar man from the South-West) as the guest Children's Book Week author. His workshop had students from all local schools participating – singing, dancing and learning more about Noongar language and Dreaming stories. Feedback from schools has been very positive.
- Invitation to artists to participate in *Noongar Seasons: Nature in Transition* project was published in local and regional newspapers in early September.
- One of a number of workshops associated with the Seasons project - *Bush Banquet* – featuring a presentation on plants used in traditional foods and medicines available during each of the six Noongar seasons.
- Other workshops are planned and details will be advised to the Committee when confirmed.

Wayne Herdigan

- Shire to set clear parameters for the new Indigenous Liaison Officer's (ILO) role. Once appointed, details of the ILO and their responsibilities should be notified in local newspapers so that relevant issues can be brought to their attention. To this end, a suitable meeting room/space should be available for more sensitive discussions.
- When Shire's planning for a proposed Indigenous event proceeds, might like to consider musician, Brook Turnamen as one of the performers. Ideally, the event would feature a headline act as well as a range of local performers.
- Important to continue to focus on mentoring and providing development opportunities for Indigenous youth in the area.
- Greater effort is required to assist young Indigenous people to take up employment opportunities in State Government positions. Although pathways exist, they do not necessarily filter into the local area.

- Future Forest Management Plans and related projects may offer increased opportunities for Indigenous Rangers and similar positions to manage culturally-led burning and fire mitigation controls.
- Ms Sinclair suggested that local Volunteer Fire Brigades and other organisations involved in developing and managing Bushfire Management Plans like DBCA and the Shire might be able to offer additional opportunities.
- Ms Kelly noted that Indigenous cadetships have been available in the past, however, they did not lead to more meaningful and permanent employment opportunities.

Suzanne Kelly

- Would like to see an entrance statement that acknowledges Aboriginal People in the area and provides details of the Country that visitors are entering.
- Ms Eiby suggested following up with Southern Forest and Valleys as it had received funding to develop entrance statements for the entire region.
- Decisions around what to do with land being returned to Karri Karrak as per the Native Title Agreement will be discussed at the next Cultural Advice Committee meeting.
- The Trail Map of Indigenous migration trails is a complex, long-term project. These are not necessarily walking trails.
- Chair suggested DBCA may be interested in participating in this project.
- Ms Sinclair suggested that the Karri Karrak Corporation might also be interested.

Susan Griffiths

- Sought an update on the 'Book' of traditional Indigenous Stories described by local Elders.
- In response, Mr Herdigan advised that he is continuing to try to convince the current holder of the book to give it up but to date she has been resistant.
- The 'Book' was given to the current holder by Ian Michael. It may be worth trying to contact him to see if he can assist.

Katrice May

- Arrangements for Ms Kelly to visit the Manjimup Senior High School to speak to students is still in the pipeline.
- Ms Dei-Tos suggested that there is also the potential to have the students participate in one of the *Noongar Seasons* workshops.

Fiona Sinclair

- Raised concern that new Australia South West (ASW) Destination Management Plan does not prioritise Aboriginal Cultural Tourism as a focus priority for the Southern Forest and Valleys as it does for the other three subregions in the South West. This will limit investment for the development of local cultural tours and businesses.
- Ms Sinclair suggested that the Committee write to the ASW asking them to reconsider supporting growth of cultural tours in the area.
- Busselton artist, Natalie Clark, will be in Northcliffe to assist Southern Forest Arts with a banner project.
- Busselton-based TK Dance is worth considering for potential future school visits.

- Schools might like to consider inviting the Noongar Language Choir for a visit. The Choir teaches songs in language and could visit more than one school within a day.
- Ms May noted that Bridgetown Primary School has developed a beautiful rendition of its Acknowledgement of Country which is sung in Noongar language.
- Northcliffe celebrates its 100 Year Anniversary in 2024. It is crucial that workshops/presentations focused on the importance and significance of Welcome (Acknowledgement of Country) and the sensitivities around the meaning of the 100th Anniversary, are held in the town. They should be led by Elders and should be held well in advance of activities celebrating the Anniversary.

Wendy Eiby

- Advised that a motion to separate the Shire's Citizen of the Year awards from its Australia Day celebrations was passed at the Council meeting on 8 September. Australia Day is a very busy weekend resulting in many people (including recipients) who would like to attend the Awards being unable to do so.
- Decisions around potentially changing the date for celebrating Australia Day are a Federal issue.
- Towns in the Shire can continue to organise Australia Day events at their locations.
- Northcliffe District High School has added Noongar Words to a number of its buildings and is in the process of reviewing its logo.
- The Indigenous Tourism Conference is scheduled for 16 March 2023.
- Ms Eiby will contact the WATC for assistance in funding the attendance of a number of local students if there is interest.

8. Meeting Closed – 10.00am

9. **Next Meeting:** **28 October 2022**
 2022 Meeting Dates: 30 December (to be confirmed)
 2023 Meeting Dates: 24 February, 28 April, 30 June 25 August and 27 October

Action Items

Committee agreed to make a recommendation to Council to adopt Noongar bird names for three laneways in Manjimup.

Ms Eiby suggested following up with Southern Forest and Valleys regarding funding received to develop entrance statements for the entire region.

Ms Sinclair suggested that the Committee write to the ASW asking them to reconsider supporting growth of cultural tours in the area.