

**Minutes
Blue Mountains Crossing Bicentenary Committee
Wednesday 1 August 2012**

ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Mayor Neville Castle, Cr Col Hunter, Duncan Wass (Hartley District Project Association), Joan Kent (Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations), Helen Riley (Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation) and Bob Morris (Hartley Vale and Mt Blaxland Reserve Trust).

Apologies: Patsy Moppett (Cox's Road Project Committee) and Noela Cullen (National Trust).

Officers: Robert Park (Events Co-ordinator), Wendy Hawkes (Cultural Development Officer).

Declaration of Interests: Nil

ITEM: 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 6 June 2012 meeting were endorsed by three (3) members of the Committee being Cr Col Hunter, Helen Riley and Duncan Wass and subsequently adopted by Council on 25 June 2012.

ITEM: 3 FUNDING FROM COUNCIL

SUMMARY

Groups planning activities commemorating the bicentenary of the crossings of the Blue Mountains in the Lithgow LGA were invited to present their project proposals along with budget estimates to the committee for consideration by Council.

COMMENTARY

Funding of \$20,000 towards events commemorating the bicentenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains has been included in Council's 2012-13 budget.

The only group currently planning commemorative events and projects for the 1813 Crossings 200th Anniversary Commemoration, and in need of funds, is the Hartley District Progress Association.

Duncan Wass (Hartley District Progress Association) reported that the group has still to provide an itemised budget for the events in 2013. He reported that the group is planning a Fair Day, dedication of the Tors Memorial by the Governor and a reception for the Governor on Saturday 1 June 2013. They are also planning walks along Cox's Road, an Images Exhibition and a date signing project for historic buildings in Hartley for which a grant application has been submitted.

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Bob Morris reported that the Hartley Vale and Mt Blaxland Reserve Trust are planning a sign for Mt Blaxland and are restoring a grave at Hartley Cemetery. The Trust has funds for this already and won't be requiring Council funds.

Helen Riley reported that she will be able to provide details of activities planned by the Wiradjuri Council of Elders following the next meeting of Elders on 24/25 August 2012 at Wagga Wagga.

The committee agreed to recommend to Council that \$10,000 be allotted to the Hartley District Progress Association for their activities and that the Association would provide an itemised budget at the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT \$10,000 be allocated to the Hartley District Progress Association for bicentenary projects.

MOVED: **Clr Col Hunter**

SECONDED: **Helen Riley**

**ITEM: 4 REPORT ON THE 15 JUNE 2012 WESTERN CROSSING
COMMITTEE MEETING**

SUMMARY

At the Western Crossing Committee Meeting on 15 June 2012 several items related to the Blue Mountains Crossing Committee were discussed.

COMMENTARY

The following items were discussed at the 15 June 2012 meeting of the Western Crossing Committee Meeting.

Events website.

- David Carment advised that the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) application for funding for calendar of events website did not succeed and that it was necessary to create a website for which an anonymous sponsor would provide funding and this could be incorporated within the RAHS website upgrade.
- Kerrin O'Grady said that for the regional approach, Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Oberon Tourist people would work collaboratively.
- Kerrin O'Grady advised that Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) Crossings Committee may be able to assist with small funds.

Crossing re-enactment involving Wentworth descendants.

- David Carment advised that John O'Sullivan had been invited to give a presentation on his walking event, but was unable to attend.

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- Alec Walker advised that he and a relative, D'Arcy Wentworth, are going to walk from Mt York to Mt Blaxland 29 – 31 May 2013. D'Arcy Wentworth had emailed John O'Sullivan in April, to see if they and perhaps other members of their family could join with John O'Sullivan and his walkers, but to date had not received a reply

Commemorative Stamp

- David Carment advised that he had received an email from Richard Blaxland in regard to the commemorative stamps to be released on 3 July 2012. There will be two stamps. Buy a First Day Cover and post to yourself or others. Could become valuable.
- Kerrin O'Grady advised that the next meeting of the Western Crossings Committee would be on 17 August at the Katoomba Council Chambers and there would be a launch of the commemorative stamps after the Western Crossings Committee meeting. Kerrin said that the BMCC Crossings Committee had argued that the \$1.20 stamp was not appropriate, not as widely used, and so it was decided to issue a 60c stamp.

Holey Dollar

- Juliette Palmer-Frederick said she had contacted The Mint regarding the issue of a holey dollar, which would be good for advertising.
- Bruce Ferrier advised that the commemorative holey dollar and dump are going to every school child.
- Louis Markus said that she would check up with The Mint to see when the planned commemorative coin will be released.
- Bruce Ferrier further advised that it will also be the bicentenary of the release of the holey dollar.

Permanent Crossings Organisation

- David Blaxland had emailed David Carment regarding the Western Crossings Committee forming a permanent organisation that can promote the area and mentioned the Sir Joseph Banks Memorial Fund 1907. David Blaxland thought it would be beneficial for the proposed organisation to have links to other groups like universities and schools. It would be good to consider a guided tour on CD that people can play in their car. This would promote the area, advise the history, the town planning, local government, research that is being conducted, etc. David Blaxland's email was circulated by David Carment before the meeting.
- Monica Morse said Bathurst welcomes the continuation of the crossing to Bathurst in 1815.
- Wendy Hawkes asked if the impact on the Indigenous people had been considered.
- David Carment and Kerrin O'Grady advised that the Indigenous People would be properly acknowledged.

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- Bill Evans advised that the guided tour on CD with audio head sets proposal had been used in other areas, e.g. The Great North Road – The Convict Trail, where people are walking, rather than driving.
- Bruce Ferrier advised that the Hunter Valley Wineries have a Yellow Brick Guide, which is a GPS system, which also contains the history pertaining to the wineries in the Hunter. \$40 to rent for three x half-day tours.
- Alec Walker also mentioned that Andrew Tink would be willing to give talks pertaining to his book about William Charles Wentworth. (A number of local societies and organisations have had Andrew Tink as their guest speaker in regard to this book.)

Aboriginal Perspective

- Robert Cameron advised that Mount Victoria and District Historical Society Museum had received a donation of Aboriginal artefacts. These will be displayed after consultation with the Aboriginal community. These artefacts are from the period of Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth through to Macquarie.
- Kerrin O'Grady advised the Gundungurra people had given an inspirational, outstanding presentation at the last BMCC Crossings Committee meeting. Kerrin will see if they can give the presentation at the next Western Crossings Committee meeting in August.
- Kathleen Schilling advised that interpretive signage is proposed, giving the history and heritage, for Aboriginal sites, with portraits. It is best to work with each of the Aboriginal groups to see what they want to present. It will be a treat to visit the Aboriginal sites.

Crossings! Play

- Wendy Blaxland spoke about her play *Crossings!* This will be an interactive play, with school performances and general performances. Wendy's prospectus was emailed before the meeting. Wendy is hoping to hold the play at Lawson. She has a database of the local schools and will make contact. There was a similar play held in Strahan, Tasmania, which ran for some 20 years. Same sort of inter-activity. Involve the Aboriginal communities and the stories of Europeans who crossed, e.g. Elizabeth Hawkins, Dumaresq and Backhouse.

Musicians Available

- Robert Cameron advised it would be appropriate to have music from the Macquarie era and there were two classical musicians willing to provide their services, Michael Scott and Claudia Douglas.
- Claudia Douglas advised she has a connection to the Macquarie family.

Beyond Blue Musical

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- Kathie McMahon-Nolf advised that her group of musicians were going ahead with *Beyond Blue*, which will depict the history of the Blue Mountains. There are five musicians involved. If people are interested, look on the calendar of events website when it is set up. Kathie has not been able to obtain any funding, as yet.

Museum's Exhibition

- Kerrin O'Grady advised that Lynn Collins, the BMCC and Lithgow museums adviser, had worked with them on a BMCC Crossings Committee open museum program. Contact Kerrin O'Grady if you are interested. The National Library of Australia and the National Museum of Australia have travelling museums planned. This could be an overall promotion of museums over the area.
- Kerrin O'Grady advised that artefacts and items are being called for, for the travelling museums.

Project descriptions

- Colin Semmler asked if everyone could bring to the August meeting a three or four sentence description of what they have organised.

Venue and date of the next meeting.

The meeting agreed to the Blue Mountains City Council's kind offer to hold the next Western Crossings Committee meeting at the Blue Mountains City Council Chambers, Katoomba on Friday 17 August 2012.

Bob Morris suggested a Commemorative Medallion be created for the events in Hartley on the 1 June 2013 which could be sold before, during and after the event and perhaps given to school children as a memento of the day. The Hartley District Progress Association in conjunction with the Hartley Historic Site Advisory Committee are looking into this.

Joan Kent stated she was still concerned at the lack of co-ordination between groups across the mountains regarding activities.

Wendy Hawkes reported that a website hosted by Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Oberon Tourism would be launched on 17 August 2012 that will allow all groups to simply and easily upload information on their events and projects and allow all groups to network and co-ordinate events and projects.

Mayor Neville Castle reported that the Western Crossings Committee had written inviting Lithgow City Council to host the October meeting on Friday 19 October 2012. The group agreed to host the meeting. The Mayor will pass on the invitation to Wendy Hawkes to organise a venue and other details. The Mayor will reply to the Western Crossings Committee accepting the invitation.

RECOMMENDATION

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THAT The report on the Western Crossing Committee Meeting on 15 June 2012 be noted.

MOVED: **Duncan Wass** **SECONDED:** **Joan Kent**

**ITEM:5 LAUNCH OF CROSSINGS WEBSITE AND
 COMMEMORATIVE STAMP**

SUMMARY

Following the next meeting of the Western Crossing Committee on Friday 17 August 2012, a launch for the Crossings Website and Commemorative Stamp will be held.

COMMENTARY

A Crossings Website has been developed by the Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Tourism Organisation to provide a vehicle for all organisations across the region to advertise their events.

A 60c stamp commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Crossing of the Blue Mountains has been released by Australia Post.

Both of these will be launched following the Friday 17 August 2012 meeting of the Western Crossings Committee at Blue Mountains City Council Chambers.

Organisations and individuals are encouraged to RSVP to Kerrin O'Grady by 3rd August to crossings@bmcc.nsw.gov.au or phone 02 4780 5659 (Invite attached)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT The report on the launch of the Crossings Website and Commemorative Stamp be noted.

MOVED: **Duncan Wass** **SECONDED:** **Joan Kent**

ITEM: 6 CROSSINGS WEBSITE

SUMMARY

Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Oberon Tourism is in the process of establishing a website to be used for advertising by organisations planning events and projects.

COMMENTARY

The website will be available for organisations following its launch on Friday 17 August 2012.

RECOMMENDED

THAT The report on the Crossings Website be noted.

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MOVED: Helen Riley **SECONDED:** Clr Col Hunter

ITEM : 7 SIGNAGE FOR COX'S ROAD

SUMMARY

Interpretive signage is being planned along the Cox's Road to commemorate the bicentenary of its completion in 2015.

COMMENTARY

Patsy Moppet reports that:

“Please find attached a quote from Danthonia Designs for the Lithgow signage. I have tried to have the figure fit within your budgeted figure of \$20,000, and the quote is valid to October. By the time you need to take it up it may need a slight revision. I have obtained the quote for most of the small signs and one of the larger signs, as Stage 1 of the Lithgow project. I am hoping that next year Council will be able to budget for one more large sign and a couple more of the small signs as Stage 2.

I have attached some maps showing possible locations, which are subject to final choice of location and ground truthing. The choice of locations may have to be run past your Traffic Committee to make sure the locations are safe etc.

I have also attached photos (used in Oberon LGA) of the signs that will be made up – route sign, directional sign and large sign. The wording of the large sign may need to be adjusted to suit the Lithgow LGA.”

Attachments:

- Danthonia Quote – Lithgow
- Locations Suggestions Map
- Route Direction Photo
- Information Signage Photo
- Route Alignment Photo.

Council has resolved to consider \$20,000 funding in the 2013/14 Council Budget if State and Federal funding is not forthcoming.

Bob Morris suggested Paul Toole (State Member for Bathurst) be approached to provide funding or assistance in gaining funding for the Cox's Road Signage in the Lithgow Local Government Area.

Mayor Neville Castle suggested that a letter be drafted outlining the significance of the building of the Cox's Road on a local, state and federal level and requesting assistance in gaining funding for the first stage of the signage. Quotes for the signage should be provided along with images of signage already installed in other areas. Wendy Hawkes will draft this document and provide to the Mayor for approval and signing.

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Organisations planning events updated details of projects and events in the Events Calendar. (Attached)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT The above information on planned events be noted.

MOVED: Duncan Wass SECONDED: Joan Kent

ITEM: 9 GENERAL BUSINESS

SUMMARY

Committee Members were invited to raise matters not included in the previous items.

COMMENTARY

Bob Morris moved that Mayor Neville Castle be invited to continue on the Committee once he has retired from Lithgow City Council.

The Committee unanimously agreed with this suggestion.

Mayor Neville Castle accepted the invitation and will continue on the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Mayor Neville Castle be accepted as a Committee Member following his retirement from Lithgow City Council

MOVED: Bob Morris SECONDED: Duncan Wass

ITEM: 10 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

**Wednesday 3 October 2012
4pm
Lithgow City Council Committee Meeting Room**