

ATTACHMENT TO AGENDA ITEM

Ordinary Meeting

18 April 2017

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**GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY
COUNCIL**

**GREATER SHEPPARTON HERITAGE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT

for Year 2016

dated 3 April 2017

 Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee 2016

Bangerang Cultural Centre	Clinton Edwards, John Atkinson (Alt)
Community Representatives (3)	Evan Lloyd, Gary Steigenberger, Robyn Slee
Dookie Historical Society	Gaye Sutherland, Norma Sutherland (Alt)
Greater Shepparton Councillor	Cr Jenny Houlihan
Historical Society of Mooroopna	Ian Pleydell, Val Hill (Alt)
Katandra & District History Group	Marjorie Earl (Dep. Chairperson), Betty Opie/ Janice Senior (Alt)
Merrigum & District Historical Society	Anne Tyson (Secretary), Kittie Dighton (Alt)
Murchison & District Historical Society	Warwick Finlay, Kay Ball (Alt)
Shepparton Heritage Centre	Peter Matthews, Robin Close (Alt)
Tatura & District Historical Society	Evert Worm, Brian Williams (Alt)
Toolamba Community Plan Steering Committee	Geoff Maynard (Chairperson), John Gray/ Christine McKenzie (Alt)
Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Wade Morgan, Gaye Sutherland (Alt)
GSCC Strategic Planning	Michael MacDonagh
GSCC Strategic Planning	Lynette Bolitho/Tracey Mercuri
GSCC Heritage Advisor	Deborah Kemp

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Appendix 1 *Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee Terms of Reference*

1.0 FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Cr Dinny Adem,
Mayor – Greater Shepparton City Council

Mr Mayor,

It gives me much pleasure to present the Fifth Annual Report of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee.

The Committee continues to be involved in a full range of heritage matters including the provision of considered advice to Council as appropriate. Of particular importance has been the continuation of a Strategic Work Program facilitated by a range of active sub-committees.

I commend Council for continuing to support the municipality's third heritage study, the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC*. This is an enormous undertaking and is expected to be considered by Council in May 2017. Committee members have spent countless hours researching places of significance across the municipality for inclusion in the Heritage Study; their intimate knowledge of heritage buildings, places and sites outside the urban areas has been vital. This research data and historical information is proving invaluable in the preparation of a robust Study and it has significantly reduced costs for Council.

On 21 April 2016 Council hosted the inaugural Greater Shepparton Biennial Heritage Lecture, an initiative and prime focus of the Committee in promoting our municipality's cultural heritage. Presented by Ms Louise Honman, a member of the Heritage Council of Victoria (the State's peak heritage body), the Lecture was very well-attended and deemed to be most successful. The Committee looks forward to facilitating future biennial Heritage Lectures, now named in honour of Bruce Wilson, our inaugural Chairperson.

Sub-committees are also involved in a range of other heritage matters including the Cultural Heritage Awards, promoting links with tertiary institutions, examining the possibility of incentives that promote conservation works and maintenance, investigating signage for heritage places, and master class presentations on a variety of topics.

Members have a continuing interest in a number of key heritage sites in the municipality, including the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue, the former Day's Mill, the cluster of prisoner of war and internment camps unique to Greater Shepparton, and the Mooroopna Hospital. The Committee congratulates Council on the Open Days it has conducted at the Mill in cooperation with Parks Victoria, thereby bringing the heritage values of the Mill to the wider community.

The development of a Heritage Strategy for the City of Greater Shepparton has been seen by the Committee as an important step forward in heritage protection and conservation, and it is most gratifying to note that the Draft Heritage Strategy will be presented to Council for consideration in the near future.

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the great contribution made by Councillor Jenny Houlihan during her years as the Councillor representative on this Committee. Jenny's commitment to the preservation of the municipality's heritage has been steadfast and ensured that heritage issues have been presented and addressed at Council with depth and understanding.

Sincere thanks to Committee members for their continuing dedication and support. Michael MacDonagh, Colin Kalms, Deborah Kemp, Lynette Bolitho and Tracey Mercuri have provided first class professional guidance and administrative support which is very much appreciated. The Committee would like to record its gratitude to Lynette for her capable and committed contribution while working with the Committee.

In conclusion, I wish to again record the Committee's appreciation of the invaluable and enduring contribution made by our inaugural Chair, Bruce Wilson JP OAM, who died in May 2016. Bruce helped to structure and guide the Committee in its early years, and his passion for history and heritage was a driving force. He chaired our meetings with both grace and efficiency, and his knowledge of local government has been invaluable in the smooth operation of today's Committee.

Yours faithfully,

Geoff Maynard

April 2017

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Council authorised the formation of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee on 17 January 2012. The primary purpose of the Committee is to provide the best possible advice to Council on how to conserve and promote the unique cultural heritage of Greater Shepparton, and to act as an advocate for all cultural heritage matters within the Municipality.

The establishment of a Heritage Advisory Committee was consistent with the objectives, strategies and actions outlined in the Environment section of the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy 2006*, and Objectives 18 and 31 of the *Greater Shepparton Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2009-2013*.

2.2 Terms of Reference and Committee Composition

The Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee acts in an advisory role to Council on the future development of cultural heritage matters across Greater Shepparton. It has no executive authority and operates in accordance with the Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference are reviewed biennially and were last adopted by resolution of Council on 7 March 2016.

The Committee's Terms of Reference provide for a voting membership consisting of up to two Councillors, along with one representative from each of the ten identified member organisations listed and three community representatives unaffiliated with any of these organisations, and a non-voting membership comprising Council's Heritage Advisor and up to two members of Council's Strategic Planning Team (see Figure One). Member organisations nominate an alternate delegate to ensure ongoing representative continuity.



Figure One: Members of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee, July 2016.

At the Committee meeting on 7 November 2016, the Committee elected office bearers for the 2016-2017 year (see Figure Two).

Chairperson - Geoff Maynard, Toolamba and District Community Plan Steering Committee;
Deputy Chairperson - Marjorie Earl, Katandra and District History Group; and
Secretary - Anne Tyson, Merrigum and District Historical Society

The Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee Terms of Reference 2014, the Greater Shepparton Cultural Awards Guidelines 2016 and a wide range of heritage information are all available on Council's Website.



Figure Two: Office bearers for 2016-2017 (Marjorie Earl, Geoff Maynard and Anne Tyson, November 2016).

2.3 Meetings

The Committee meets on the first Monday of each month with the exception of January. The Strategic Work Program, established during the year 2014 and designed to achieve defined goals while accommodating specific member interests through a range of sub-committees, was continued and developed in 2016.

Current sub-committees and their specific terms of operation are as follows:

1. Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC

To continue to locate and add to the list of places to be considered for inclusion in the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC*, and to provide research data and historical information relating to these places. Members' intimate knowledge of heritage buildings, places and sites outside the urban areas has been an invaluable aid in assisting Council's Strategic Planning Team to reduce the costs of preparing the Heritage Study.

2. Cultural Heritage Awards

To plan and organise the Cultural Heritage Awards. These Biennial Awards aim to recognise outstanding contributions to cultural heritage conservation, research, education, promotion, interpretation, training and awareness-raising within the Municipality. They require considerable advance organisation.

3. Heritage Lecture and links with Tertiary Institutions

To plan for the next Bruce Wilson Memorial Heritage Lecture (the Lecture alternates with the Cultural Heritage Awards), and to investigate possible links with local tertiary institutions in relation to heritage studies.

4. Heritage Incentives

To continue to work with Council in an examination of possible heritage incentives to assist owners with the preservation of the municipality's cultural heritage.

5. Signage

To propose interpretive signage across Greater Shepparton and recognisable cultural heritage signage compatible with other municipal signage.

6. Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue

To investigate and recommend to Council measures that would ensure the future conservation of the Memorial Avenue.

7. Heritage Program, Events and Tourism

To extend recognition of the municipality's cultural heritage by encouraging the involvement of the historical societies and other groups in wider heritage events, for example, the National Trust's annual Heritage Festival, and also in Greater Shepparton's own SheppARTon Festival, and to investigate opportunities for heritage tourism in Greater Shepparton.

8. Master Classes/Presentations

To continue the program of Master Classes to be held at the conclusion of alternate monthly meetings.

9. Victorian Heritage Register

To investigate and recommend places of cultural heritage significance, which meet the threshold for state significance, to be included on the Victorian Heritage Register.

10. Greater Shepparton Council Plan 2017-2021

To investigate and recommend to Council heritage-related objectives and priorities to include in the *Greater Shepparton Council Plan 2017-2021*.

11. Heritage Budget

To contribute further input into Council's allocation of its heritage budget.

12. Committee Agenda

Standard inclusions on all 2016 Committee agendas included:

- A briefing on all active Planning Permit Applications within a Heritage Overlay;
- Suggestion and consideration of items for presentation as Short Discussion Sessions (SDS) for the Councillors;
- Heritage Adviser Reports and updates;
- Strategic Planning Report; and
- Member reports regarding local historic/heritage activities.

3.0 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

3.1 Brief Overview

Other sections of this report highlight the wide range of agenda and other activities of the Heritage Advisory Committee. This section provides a brief overview of some specific items that have a key membership focus.

It was particularly pleasing to note the success of Greater Shepparton's inaugural Biennial Heritage Lecture, held on 21 April 2016 (see Figure Three). The Lecture, 'Jewels in the Crown, Places of the Heart,' was presented by Ms Louise Honman, a member of the Heritage Council of Victoria, the State's peak heritage body, who is a heritage architect, consultant and advisor, and director of well-known heritage consultancy Context Pty Ltd. Ms Honman delivered the Lecture twice, at 1 pm and at 6 pm, to cater for the needs of different audiences, on both occasions eliciting a great response and many interested questions.



Figure Three: Greater Shepparton's inaugural biennial Heritage Lecture was held on 21 April 2016.

In June 2016 the Committee resolved to rename the Lecture the 'Bruce Wilson Memorial Heritage Lecture' in honour of our inaugural Chairman, and this has been supported by Council. The next Lecture will be held in 2018.

The Greater Shepparton Cultural Heritage Awards, the other large public focus of the Committee, will be presented on 22 April 2017. The Awards were launched at a well-attended public event on 8 August 2016, nominations were received, and the shortlisted nominations notified in December 2016. Including subsequent site visits and meetings of the judging panel, the Awards process covers

a time period of approximately eight months, and involves a deal of voluntary time on the part of the Committee members who comprise the judging panel.

The protection and conservation of the former Day's Mill and Farm Complex at Murchison continues to be of concern to the Committee. This is the best preserved 19th century flour mill in Victoria, and possibly Australia. The mill is still in working order and in its original, but rural and vulnerable, setting. All members have an ongoing interest in the preservation of this important heritage site, and have expressed disappointment that the Expression of Interest process has failed to lead to an outcome.

The future of the municipality's unique prisoner of war and internment camps also remains of concern to the Committee, as most are on privately-owned land. Of further concern is the Mooroopna Hospital site with its iconic buildings.

In June 2016, the Committee undertook a day of site visits. Members had indicated they needed more intimate knowledge of and exposure to a number of significant places representing various aspects of the municipality's heritage, and the following were visited: Tallygaroopna Soldiers' Memorial Hall, 'Fairley Downs', Rumbalara, an 1870s log building and 'The Echoes' at Cooma. This learning opportunity was much appreciated.

The Committee supported a number of memos issued to the Council as Short Discussion Sessions (SDS) items including: the nomination of places to the Victorian Heritage Register, Heritage Advisory Service Funding, Soldiers' Memorial Hall at Tallygaroopna, the Katandra West Hall, the hosting of the Cultural Heritage Awards 2017 and the call for nominations for inclusion in the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC*.

The Committee also supported and commended Council for preparing Amendment C143 to the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme to correct a significant number of errors and anomalies in the application of the Heritage Overlay. The approval of this amendment in January 2016 will ensure that the municipality's places of cultural heritage significance will continue to be appropriately conserved.

Members continue to be concerned with two funding issues: the ending of State government funding for the Heritage Advisory Service through Heritage Victoria and the Rural Council Planning Flying Squad, and the potential effects of State government rate-capping on funding for heritage projects in the future.

The Heritage Advisory Committee is of the view that it fulfilled its core advisory functions during 2016 and that its professional Strategic Work Program has been very successful in focussing the Committee's heritage activities.

3.2 Activities and Achievements

Committee Activities and Achievements in 2016 included:

- hosting the very successful inaugural Bruce Wilson Memorial Heritage Lecture: pitched well, the Lecture aroused great interest from the two audiences;
- taking a lead role in the provision of research data and information for the second half of the forthcoming *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC*: a large amount of historical

information has been made available by Committee members, ensuring a thorough Study, and greater value for Council;

- advertising and successfully launching the Cultural Heritage Awards 2017 and commencing the assessment process, which will be completed prior to the Awards ceremony on 22 April 2017. The subcommittee was pleased to note an increased number of nominations;
- reviewing and updating the *Cultural Heritage Award Guidelines 2014*, including increasing the number of categories, based on the experience of the Awards in 2015;
- inputting into the development of the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Strategy 2016-2020*;
- further developing and refining the Strategic Work Program;
- ongoing support for the adoption of an agreed stakeholder process to implement the conservation management plan for the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue (sub-committee established);
- continuing to keep informed of planning applications concerning heritage matters coming before Council, and contributing to Council's consideration of any application impacts;
- recommending the conservation and restoration of the Katandra West Hall, Katandra West; the Tirana City Walk Mural, Shepparton; and the Undera Hall, Undera.
- ongoing Master Class presentations. Master Classes were presented on several aspects of heritage conservation, the strategic and statutory planning processes, and the impact on the identification, conservation and development of places of cultural heritage significance:
 - March: Michael MacDonagh, 'Planning and Conservation Practices in the Republic of Ireland';
 - May: John Gribben, 'Internment and POW Camps';
 - July: Michael MacDonagh, 'The significance of Acheson House, Edinburgh';
 - September: Dr Rebecca Coates, 'The SAM Collection';
 - October: Gaye Sutherland, 'Gowangardie Weir'; and
 - November: Dr Charles Fahey, 'Closer Settlement Schemes in Victoria'.

As in previous years, Committee members and alternate members demonstrated their committed enthusiasm in all matters heritage, and continued to improve their heritage understanding and knowledge. Members recognise the growing Council involvement in strategic planning, and look forward to the adoption and promulgation of a *Greater Shepparton Heritage Strategy*.

The Committee also continued to provide valuable input and information to Council's Building and Planning Department staff regarding development proposals to places of cultural heritage significance.

4.0 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2017

Forward planning for 2017 includes:

- supporting the final preparation of the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC*: finalising research data and historical information;
- continuing the planning for the Cultural Heritage Awards 2017 leading to the conduct of the Awards presentation ceremony, to be held on 22 April 2017;
- beginning forward planning for the Bruce Wilson Memorial Heritage Lecture 2018;
- continuing to advocate for cultural heritage conservation within the municipality;
- advancing the adopted Strategic Work Program as set out in Part 2.3 of this report;
- continuing to liaise with Council in an examination of further possible heritage incentives to assist owners with the preservation of the municipality's cultural heritage;
- supporting the recommendations within the *Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Conservation Management Plan 2004* and the establishment of a representative advisory committee to facilitate management and conservation;
- proposing interpretive signage for heritage places across Greater Shepparton compatible with other municipal signage;
- investigating and recommending measures for the future conservation and upkeep of the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue;
- adopting the 2017 Master Class program as recommended by the sub-committee: Master Classes will continue to be presented every second meeting;
- assembling of background information that will allow Council to nominate relevant places to the Victorian Heritage Register, e.g. the C. W. Wilson Drinking Fountain in Tatura, a Closer Settlement house in Zeerust, the Soldiers' Memorial Hall in Tallygaroopna, Gowangardie Weir and various mid-19th Century log structures within the municipality;
- investigating the feasibility of a Greater Shepparton Open Heritage, an Open Day or weekend similar to Melbourne's Open House;
- encouraging Council and local historical societies and community organisations to participate in State and regional heritage initiatives and programs such as History Week and the National Trust's Heritage Festival; and
- contributing further input into Council's allocation of its heritage budget.