



**MEETING NOTES  
SYDNEY HARBOUR FEDERATION TRUST  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CAC MEETING – 21 November 2017**

**Time:** 6:10-8:10pm  
**Venue:** Building 44- Officers Mess, North Head Sanctuary

**Present:**

Adele Rancan  
Beth Lawsen  
Geoffrey Lambert  
Kate Eccles  
Ian Campbell  
Julie Goodsir  
Peta Lewis  
Jennifer Anson (AWC)  
Angus Mackie

Mary Darwell (Harbour Trust)  
Daniel Sealey (Harbour Trust)  
Rebecca Hill (Harbour Trust)  
Kathryn Roberts (Harbour Trust)  
Rebecca Hage (Harbour Trust)  
Ellen Gillespie (Harbour Trust)

**Apologies:**

Bob Smith  
Doug Sewell  
Jilly Gibson  
Paul Forward  
Peter Abelson  
Vince Williams  
Colleen Godsell  
Zena O'Connor  
Liz Foster  
Matthew Rafferty  
Sarah Dinning  
Roy MacLeod  
Jill L'Estrange  
Susan Moylan-Coombs  
Trent Zimmerman

**Purpose:**

To provide updates on current Harbour Trust projects and seek input from CAC members.

**Site Tour:**

Members undertook a tour of the Barracks Precinct at North Head Sanctuary and Bandicoot Heaven where they were briefed by the North Head Sanctuary Foundation.

**Executive Director Welcome and Update**

Mary Darwell welcomed attendees and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land and elders past and present.

Members were presented the results of Q1 of the Corporate Plan and provided updates on:

- The Asset Management Strategy
- Consultation with Reconciliation Australia on the Reconciliation Action Plan
- Sub Base Platypus
- Snapper Island, outlining the intent of the Government to transfer the Island to the Harbour Trust, dependent on funding.
- Enhancement of visitor experience across all its sites and development of partnerships for this purpose: Sculptures by the Sea – new pieces installed at Headland Park, 2018 Biennale at Cockatoo Island, new pop-up food and beverage operator to operate on Cockatoo Island to support the busy summer period.

The committee suggested future sponsorship opportunities including plaques, bricks and park benches donated with monetary contributions. It was noted that Mosman Council offer park benches to constituents for \$10,000 per bench – The Harbour Trust has a program at Headland Park with a few benches at Georges Heights with all available benches taken up. Sponsored paving, administered by the Royal Australian Artillery Historic Company, is also available at North Head.

Refurbishments on the Steam Crane at Cockatoo Island were recently completed, the Steam Crane construction work was undertaken by Volunteers over a four year period.

Members were provided an update on the tenancy at the Barracks at North Head Sanctuary. 'Solider On' will have a presence on the site in early 2018 in building 4. This organisation helps with the rehabilitation of ex-serviceman and their reintegration into society. The building they are leasing is in good condition and will require low initial capital for the occupants.

The Harbour Trust has engaged an external consultancy firm to undertake visitor research.

Members provided feedback from one of the café's on Middle Head, outlining their rent had increased 30 per cent – lease negotiations are based on market rents and appropriate benchmarks.

**Interpretation Strategy**

Members were provided an update on the Interpretation Strategies for Headland Park and North Head Sanctuary.

An external agency has been engaged to complete the Interpretation Strategy. Key outcomes identified as priorities are the widening of Indigenous interpretation, expanding the scope of military history by adding a new ASOPA theme and the importance of continuing the fostering of information. Current devices used for interpretation include; visitor guides, multipurpose wayfinding signage and oral histories.

New devices that will be used to further support interpretation are cultural programming and partnerships, virtual information center (mobile friendly/interactive website) and social media.

Members asked if a physical visitor's center at Headland Park is included. It was outlined that this is not a priority at this stage.

Members noted that Mosman Council has developed an Indigenous program where children from remote areas visit key attractions in Sydney as part of an education program. The program was interactive and the children were encouraged to learn by collecting stamps in a passport.

It was noted that Cockatoo Island has an established education program, and this type of program is important to expand across the sites.

#### Project Update and Event Achievements

- Discovery Day will take place on NSH on 21 January and include a program of talks, workshops and activities.
- Two new Sculpture by the Sea works have now been installed in Headland Park.
- Family Fun day at Cockatoo Island was a success with 2500 people attending the day. Rain at the conclusion of the event caused many families to leave at once and caused a large crowd on the wharf. Crowd management around the wharf for events and busy weekends to be reviewed.
- The Marine Biological Open Day we held 29 October.
- Channel 9 program, Australian Ninja Warrior will film again at Cockatoo Island. Filming commences 4 December through to 20 December. This is the second year the program is being filmed on the Island. A community engagement and notification strategy has been implemented, receiving positive feedback.
- New bus timetable to North Head Sanctuary will begin on 26 November and provide more regular services.
- The Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) provided an update on the current projects. AWC is a not for profit agency looking after threatened mammals, flora and fauna. Looking after 26 properties, covering 4 million hectares of land, AWC has had a focus on North Head Sanctuary, reintroducing three main species into the area; Brown Antechinus, and Pygmy Possum and the native Bush Rat.

Members were shown a video on the Rancan Sister's Walking and Food Tour of Headland Park held as part of the Festival of Mosman.

#### Review of Management Plans

Members were provided an update of the ongoing review of the management plans for Woolwich Dock and Parklands, Macquarie Lightstation and Marine Biological Station, Watson Bay. These management plans are being updated to reflect current site conditions and legislative requirements. The renewed plans will be informed by updated consulting management plans (prepared by consultants) and will be subject to further formal public consultation process.

#### **Woolwich Dock**

Management Plan made in 2007

The Plan has been mostly implemented. Outcomes achieved to date include, site remediation, parkland created, a new network of paths, working dockyard, car parks, restaurant, lookout and new wharf, saw tooth building restored and all asbestos removed, New restaurant (Deckhouse).

Future opportunities include improved interpretation of the site and better integration with Clarks Point reserve

Member comments/questions:

- Concern regarding isolation of the site and public transport to the dock, lack of ferry service.
- A ferry service connecting all Harbour Trust sites would make the sites more attractive to visitors.
- The area be used for an open air cinema during summer as this would be ideal for local residents and those in the catchment area.
- Traffic management on the narrow peninsula is a significant issue.
- The area is very isolated as it is surrounded by suburbia.

The Harbour Trust will collaborate with the local council to determine the needs of the local community.

### **Macquarie Lightstation**

Management Plan made in 2007. Outcomes achieved to date include; site remediation, fencing has been removed or improved and illegal parking managed.

Further opportunities include; interpretation of original light tower and compound, a nomination will be submitted for listing as a National Heritage Place, restoration of Greenway wall at rear of lighthouse and plan provides for the eventual removal of the modern townhouses. The townhouses were refurbished about 5 years ago, the removal remains a long term a long term ambition.

Member comments/questions:

- Frequency of lighthouse opening events (every two months, most recently 29/10/2017).

The site will celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in November 2018 and the HT is consultation with Woollahra Council for the event.

### **Marine Biological Station**

Management Plan made in 2004. Outcomes achieved include; parkland created, linking beach with local street network, house has been conserved and interpretation around the site.

Further opportunities include additional interpretation needs to be updated, update plan to reflect current site conditions.

Member comments/questions:

- Is research currently untaken at the site – this would connect it back to its original purpose? Research is currently not undertaken, however historical interpretation may be able to be incorporated to make this connection.
- Has the fencing surrounding the site been fixed - all refurbishments to the site have been completed. This included landscaping and the fences.

### Middle Head Oval Update

The committee were informed that Mosman Council has decided to suspend its preparation of a DA for a synthetic oval and will consider this further at next council meeting on 5 December 2017.

Members commented that the plastic from the synthetic ovals is very reflective of the sun and there is an investigation underway into this contribution to melanoma.

Members questioned why the Harbour Trust would go ahead with a DA if the CAC has voted against the idea.

### SIMS and 10 terminal

The Sydney Institute of Marine Science are continuing to develop a concept for use of 10 Terminal following awarding of a 100k grant to investigate the proposal and business case.

### Mosman Drill Hall- Flood lighting Proposal

The proposal from Mosman Council to install floodlighting on the Netball courts was outlined. Council has received a grant from NSW Government for \$150k for the proposal to support women participation in sport. Lease Management Plan and DA conditions currently only allows use of the outdoor courts during daytime hours. Mosman council are proceeding with community consultation on the lighting. Prior to deciding whether to request Trust amend Plan, DA and lease.

Members discussed the potential for light spill. Members noted that there were residents who were unhappy with the Middle Head Oval lighting upgrade and identified the light spill would have to be carefully monitored.

It was noted that the floodlights at MHO were already in place before the Harbour Trust took over management of the site and that a recent upgrade at MHO had improved the situation and therefore different from Drill Hall where there is currently no floodlighting.

### Board Meeting in Public

The Board Meeting in Public will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December, members were encouraged to submit any questions for the board before this date.