

Sydney Local Health District Yaralla Estate Community Advisory Committee

Date: Monday, 23 June 2014 Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Venue: City of Canada Bay Museum
1 Bent Street, Concord
Chair: Dr Teresa Anderson, Chief Executive

1. Present & Apologies

Present

Dr Teresa Anderson	Chief Executive
Professor Roger Garsia	Senior Clinician, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, SLHD
Ms Madeleine Kitchener	Graduate Health Management Trainee
Mr Norm Buckley	Local Resident / Neighbour
Ms Lois Michel	City of Canada Bay Heritage Society
Mr Robert Hussey	Local Resident / Neighbour
Ms Sue Riley	Local Resident / Neighbour
Mr Stuart Read	Heritage Division, NSW Office of Environment & Heritage
Professor Robert Lusby	Senior Clinician, Concord Repatriation General Hospital

Apologies

Mr Stephen Saldatos	Head Gardener, Concord Repatriation General Hospital
Mr Jeremy Roper-Tyler	Local Resident / Neighbour
Mr Alan Marsh	CEO, Sydney Olympic Park Authority
Dr Tim Sinclair	General Manager, Concord Repatriation General Hospital
Mr Guy Pinkerton	Local Resident / Neighbour

Minutes

2. Confirmation of previous minutes

The minutes from 12 May 2014 were endorsed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Actions arising from previous minutes

Communication Strategy

The Communication Strategy is to be forwarded to the committee before the next meeting.

Action: Send out Communication Strategy for final comment.

Workplan

An appropriate time to be arranged for photos graphs to be taken of Yaralla. The final copy of the rules and regulations are also to be circulated for final comment.

Action: Rules and regulations to accompany the communication strategy.

Open House

The NUMs based at the HIV/Dementia service in Yaralla House agreed in principle to allow the public access during an open day at Yaralla with enough notice to inform the patients and their families. It is hoped that the patients can join in the activities of the open day. The open house will allow the public to appreciate the restorative work that has been done on the mansion by SLHD.

Appropriate opening hours and guided tours to be arranged by the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society for October Open Day, in consultation with the staff of the HIV/Dementia Service to be developed, along with a list of rooms which can be entered. The public will be expected to pre-book and pay a nominal fee for the tours. This will need to be planned well in advance. A draft schedule to be developed by the August meeting.

Action: Roger to work with Lois to organise open house.

Community Gardens

The small shed would be good for the community gardens as it would be an appropriate space to store tools and equipment. There was concern raised about locating the gardens away from the potential greenhouse behind the dairy. The greenhouse could act as a source of income where people can buy seedlings for the community gardens.

Uses for Yaralla

There were considerations regarding the best use of the paddocks. It was acknowledged that SLHD has inherited a place of uniqueness and the committee intends to keep that vision of open space. Kite flying and orienteering were suggested uses. The criteria have been established to guide people's proposals. Activities should be quiet and peaceful that encourages physical activity, exploration of the unique fauna and flora at Yaralla for example bird watching and the like.

Proposals should be pitched to the committee to ensure activities are consistent with the vision.

The pathways concept was discussed in detail. Suggestions included the widening of the footpaths to make more widely accessible and also have seats along the paths for people

(patients in particular) to be able to rest. It was identified that there is a memorial seat at the RSL. The Estate could have additional and various seats throughout the Estate which could be donated and have plaques. These could be sponsored and the suggested locations chosen from a map on the Internet page. There should be limited spaces, style and scope.

Issues with parking and potential increased traffic were raised, specifically around Nullawarra road. It was advised that a traffic study is being performed and plans additional for parking areas on outskirts of the Estate are underway. It was also identified that there will be 7 disabled car park spaces at accessible locations within Estate. It was again raised that there needs to be multiple entry opportunities which are still underway.

The various pathways would provide different experiences throughout the Estate. For example the boardwalk with easy access through the mangroves, the heritage walk and the vegetation walks through the turpentine forest and the rose garden. It was noted that further up the Parramatta River some of the council paths have had the mangroves cut back and people can now look down toward the city.

The pathways will make Yaralla stand out and will be a selling point to encourage the community through the Estate. The committee endorsed the proposal for quotes to be obtained for the crushed granite paths, the boardwalks and viewing points etc around the Estate.

The committee would like to incorporate a European park feeling by including signs of distances to amenities and various paths. It was noted that Hampstead Heath organises various charity runs and could be something for the committee to consider for raising awareness and funds.

The idea of introducing a small temporary café near the homestead was discussed. If the business were to be successful then could consider establishing a more permanent business. It was suggested that a good spot for the business may be near the squash courts. The committee and the District could explore a public private partnership for the establishment of such a business. The café would likely encourage families onto the Estate during the day, who can bring their children and dogs. A down side is that there are many coffee shops already in the Concord area and this therefore may not be a feasible business. Food trucks were also considered and discussed.

Action: Explore opportunities for permanent or temporary coffee shops/small business.

The possibility of also having Film students from NIDA could be helpful publicity and a potential avenue of funds.

The committee would like to progress work on the community gardens. There are community grants which can be applied for so there is money available.

4. Information for Noting and discussion

4.1 Bush Regeneration Contractors

The National Trust for the grant funded Bush regeneration project at Yaralla has been engaged. The regeneration project is due to be completed on 15 December 2014.

4.2 Photos at Yaralla – website

A new page has been added to the Yaralla website regarding areas for photographs, booking process and fees. This information should be sent to local photographers to let

them know about the website.

The money raised will go into the trust and it was suggested that fees should be kept slightly less than the council. The cost covers insurance and ensures exclusive booking.

Action: Send link to photos website to committee members and draft a media release.

4.3 Update from the Director, Capital Assets and Contract Services

A quotation for security cameras and access for the inner gates has been progressed. An application is to go to heritage office for approval. At night the gates will close for security purposes to the patients and residents. It was acknowledged that the Concord security currently does that manually and the timer on the gate will be similar to what occurred in the past. This is to also try and discourage drivers recklessly and inappropriately using the Estate.

The drainage and bollard protection of the trees along the driveway is to receive approval from the Office of Environment and Heritage and SLHD will then approach the market.

The potential car park at the western area of the Estate has been estimated. An environmental impact statement and traffic survey is currently underway. A cost approximation for these works is \$900K which is a conservative figure. The committee approved SLHD to proceed and obtain quotes. SLHD will now approach consultants and council. If the plans progress and develop it is anticipated that a bush/tree screen will be maintained for residents.

Funding concerns were raised by the committee and it was identified that staff parking payments will assist to fund this car park. It was indicated that residents of Collane Street have had specific problems with parking, but often if council change the parking restrictions it just pushes the problem further away. The car park will be funded by SLHD but other funding sources are being explored for the pathways.

4.4 Hyacinth Cottage

Hyacinth cottage is now being internally modified and will be a step down unit for burns patients. These patients still require lots of rehabilitation, but this will provide a location that is a bit closer to normality and within close proximity to the hospital. It is hoped that the neighbours can be engaged to assist with the experience of a more normal life. The facility will be designed and go through appropriate channels consistent with appropriate infection controls. This will assist with resocialising and reintroducing to normal life.

It was suggested that if possible the house could have nice gardens or locate a community garden near the house but there may be an issue because of susceptibility to infection. The plans for the cottage are to come to the committee for consultation.

5. Other Business

The Yaralla Estate Management Document will go for public consultation in August.

SLHD won an award for the Thomas Walker boat house restorations which can be found on the SLHD Media website.

The City of Canada Bay Heritage Society only have a couple of people to do work on the priorities areas. They are currently trying to get a workgroup together.

Action: Organise a meeting with Stuart, Deb, Teresa and Lois to work out priorities of

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building works within two weeks and bring back to the next meeting. Also discuss the signage and get the main signs underway.

Employment of an Estate Ranger

There was a discussion with the CEO of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Centennial Park about how having a ranger in peak times is really important. A job description is being developed. It is likely that it would be more cost effective to employ one person to monitor the Estate than numerous staff. The ranger should have an appropriate uniform and would likely work staggered shifts, for example some mornings, afternoons and weekends. They could also link in with the Rivendell security officer and this position could potentially convert to a ranger as well. The committee's expertise will assist with developing this position. The next committee meeting will have an agenda item to focus on the education of the ranger and the key messages the committee wants to give to community.

The welcome banner was tabled at the meeting and it was suggested that it have a different image because the committee doesn't want the house be the main attractor of the Estate, but rather maybe the rose garden, stable, grotto or waterfront vista. It was suggested that there be a Couple of banners with various images

On the 30th of June the fauna report will be made available and the President will be invited to present.

6. Next Meeting

The first proposal presentation is to occur at the next meeting. Regular meetings to change from Mondays to Tuesdays.

Tuesday, 15 July 2014, 6-8pm. City of Canada Bay Museum, 1 Bent St, Concord

Action List

Action items arising from Yaralla Estate Community Advisory Committee meetings

No.	ISSUE	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
1.	Communication strategy	Corryn to amend communication strategy for comment prior to next meeting. Madeleine to send out Communication Strategy for final comment.	Corryn McKay	July	To be circulated
2.	Work plan	Pictures of the restorative work that has been done to be collated and put on Website. Rules and Regulations to be circulated for final comment. Tim to investigate greenhouse at the old shed.	Madeleine Kitchener Lois Michel SLHD Tim Sinclair	May/June May July	Ongoing Circulated Ongoing
3.	Priorities	Organise a meeting with Stuart, Deb, Teresa and Lois to work out priorities of building works within two weeks and bring back to the next meeting. Also discuss the signage and get the main signs underway.	Madeleine Kitchener	July	
4.	Conservation Management Plan	Director, Capital Assets and Contract Services to draft up costings for priorities. Teresa to organise landscape architect and soil expert to attend a future meeting regarding options. Media release from SLHD and Committee advising of decision based on scientific evidence.	Deb Flood Teresa Anderson Committee	July 2014 June	Ongoing Pending Pending Expert
5.	Open Day	Roger to work with Lois to organise open house.	Roger Garsia Lois Michel	August	
6.	Workplan and Goals planning session	Investigate where Dame Edith Walker used to have her gardens.	Stephen Soldatos	April	Ongoing
7.	Parking	An options paper for parking areas is to be developed GM Concord to work on a parking and access paper to maximise access for the community.	Deb Flood Deb Flood	July July	Ongoing Ongoing

No.	ISSUE	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
8.	Consultation	Director, Communications and Strategic Relations to draft consultation plan.	Corryn McKay	July	
9.	Other	Explore opportunities for permanent or temporary coffee shops/small business.	Madeleine Kitchener	July	
10.	Photos at Yaralla	Send link to photos website to committee members and draft a media release.	Madeleine Kitchener	July	
11.	Other	Dr Garsia to discuss Open Yaralla House with staff.	Roger Garsia	June	Complete