

---

## MINUTES

of the **Botany Historical Trust**  
held in the Mascot Library and George Hanna Memorial Museum  
2 Hatfield Street, Mascot  
on **Monday 6 May 2024** at **6:30 PM**

---

### Present

Christopher Hanna, Senior Vice President and Chairperson  
Jacqueline Milledge, Vice President  
Richard Smolenski, Treasurer  
Warren Hensley, Committee Member  
Jennifer Muscat, Councillor

### Also present

Laura Browning, Acting Manager Libraries and Lifestyle  
Natalie Funston, Senior Specialist Librarian  
Marta Gonzalez-Valdes, Coordinator Development Assessment

---

The Chairperson opened the meeting in the Mascot Library and George Hanna Memorial Museum at 6.41pm.

### 1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson affirmed that Bayside Council acknowledges the traditional custodians: the Gadigal and Bidjigal people of the Eora nation, and pays respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The people of the Eora nation, their spirits and ancestors will always remain with our waterways and the land, our Mother Earth.

### 2 Apologies and Attendance via Audio Visual link

#### Apologies

The following apologies were received:  
Robert Hanna, President  
Carole Nestor, Committee Member  
Jo Jansyn, Councillor

#### Attendance Via Audio Visual Link

There were no Committee members in attendance via audio-visual link.

### 3 Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

## 4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

### 4.1 Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust Meeting - 5 February 2024

#### Committee Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust meeting held on 5 February 2024 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

### 4.2 Business Arising

There was no Business Arising.

**Note:** That Committee note that the Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust of Monday 5 February 2024 were received and the recommendations therein be adopted by the Council at its meeting of 27 March 2024.

## 5 Reports

### 5.1 President's Report - Christopher Hanna

The President Rob Hanna was an apology to the meeting. Senior Vice President Chris Hanna presented the President's report on his behalf. The key points were:

- The sad loss of Alice McCann and Dr Peter Orlovich. Both served with dedication on the Executive and are missed.
- Application for grant funding to assist with changes to the Botany War Memorial
- A request to firm up dates for member excursions
- ANZAC Day wreath placements at Mascot RSL ANZAC Day service and Botany RSL dawn service.

Rob would like to amend the report to say that he is back on board and recuperating well.

Richard Smolenski read out the eulogy that he read at Dr Peter Orlovich's funeral. See attachment 1.

#### Committee Resolution

1. That the President's Report be noted.
2. That the report be amended to reflect that Rob is recuperating well.

Moved by Jacqueline Milledge  
Seconded by Christopher Hanna

## 5.2 Planning, Development & Compliance Matters

Planning, Development and Compliance matters were tabled for discussion with the BHT Executive.

- DA-2024/9 - 31 Colonel Braund Crescent, DACEYVILLE NSW 2032:
  - Revised plans accepted by Council
  - Reduced height of extension and removed dormer window
  - Porch to remain open
  - No issues raised by the BHT
  
- DA- 2024/17 – 160 King Street, MASCOT NSW
  - Supported by heritage advisor
  - New DCP doesn't encourage these types of additions
  - No issues raised by BHT
  
- DA-2024/54 - 150 King Street Mascot NSW 2020
  - Supported by Heritage Advisor – improvement
  - Still under assessment
  - No issues raised by BHT
  
- DA-2024/53 - 33 Banks Avenue Daceyville NSW
  - Old Marist Brothers site
  - Regional Development because of cost
  - Should be looked at mid-century in terms of heritage
  - Plan to incorporate heritage nature of existing buildings
  - BHT Executive would like to see the DA so they can provide a submission

### Committee Resolution

That the Committee notes the information provided about heritage related planning, development and compliance matters.

Moved by Councillor Jennifer Muscat  
Seconded by Richard Smolenski

### **5.3 Local History Update**

Christopher Hanna informed the Executive about Alison Wishart leaving Council. He thanked Alison for her work.

#### **Committee Resolution**

1. That the BHT Executive note the report.
2. That the BHT sends flowers to Alison Wishart to thank her for her support.
3. That the BHT requests that the Sir Joseph Banks Archaeological Artefacts and materials is to be returned into the Botany area to be available for Botany residents to access.

Moved by Richard Smolenski  
Seconded by Warren Hensley

### **5.4 Program and Activities for 2024**

#### **Committee Resolution**

1. That the Committee note the report.
2. That the date for the Nancy Hillier Lecture be corrected to 24 October 2024.
3. That 10 days before the AGM notification has to be sent to general members to notify them of vacancies.
4. That Council provide information in the Community Newsletter about vacancies on the BHT Executive and encouraging interested people to join. Any existing members can nominate to be an Executive Member in accordance with the BHT Constitution.

Moved by Councillor Jennifer Muscat  
Seconded by Richard Smolenski

## **5.5 General Business**

### **Committee Resolutions**

1. That the BHT accept the nomination from Nathan Brown as general (non-Executive) member.
2. That the BHT note the general items discussed.
3. That the discussions about the Grant for the Botany War Memorial is to carry over to the next meeting.
4. That outstanding actions from previous meetings carry over to the next meeting.

Moved by Councillor Jennifer Muscat  
Seconded by Richard Smolenski

## **6 General Business**

### **6.1 ANZAC Day**

- Cllr Muscat appreciative that Matt Thistlethwaite MP spoke about a female 1<sup>st</sup> World War veteran.
- Little Bay Dawn service is a good service
- Chris attended the ANZAC day service at Mascot War Memorial. The Botany Historic Trust was called, instead of Chris' name but before Chris could get there to lay the wreath, someone else had done it.

## 6.2 Dr Peter Orlovich

- The BHT would like to do something to honour and remember Dr Peter Orlovich such as a Dr Peter Orlovich History Award for Mascot and Botany history, or name a room at Eastgardens or Rockdale Library after him. Or investigate a collaboration with UNSW to commemorate Dr Orlovich, similar to Nancy Hillier Lecture.
- Eulogy for Dr Peter Orlovich to go in minutes.

### Committee Recommendation

1. That Council recognise female veterans in naming places.
2. That there be research and investigation into whether there are female veterans on the War Memorial to ensure proper recognition.
3. That Council clearly labels flowers at the ANZAC Day services with the representative's name.
4. It be noted that the new railings at the cenotaphs are much appreciated.

### Committee Resolution

1. That discussion in relation to recognising Dr Peter Orlovich to be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

Moved by Jacqueline Milledge  
Seconded by Richard Smolenski

## 7 Next Meeting

That the next meeting be held in the George Hanna Memorial Museum at Mascot Library at 6:30pm on Monday, 5 August 2024.

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.48pm.

**Attachment 1: Rob Hanna's Eulogy for Dr Peter Orlovich**

I regret I am not able to be here today to farewell Peter. Health issues have currently restricted me to home base.

Until his retirement earlier this year due to his declining health, Peter was probably the longest serving member of the Botany Historical Trust Executive Committee. In fact, Peter was a foundation member of the Executive. Peter was appointed for his skills as a professional archivist and his excellent knowledge of local historical and heritage matters.

I was a foundation member of the BHT, and joined the Executive some 15 years ago. In my time on the Executive I not only became a friend of Peter, but also was one who appreciated his passion, commitment, professionalism and crusader for the management, classification and preservation of the archives of the City of Botany Bay, incorporating the former Municipalities of Botany and Mascot. Peter also had access to the minutes of the Botany Progress Association which advocated for the establishment of the Municipality of Botany in 1888.

Although I was a student of history, it was through Peter I gained a more thorough understanding of the preservation of historical archives, and their many uses in interpreting the history of those times. Our archives are our primary source of historical documents. Imagine how our knowledge of our history and heritage would have suffered without the preservation of the Magna Carta, or the journals and ship logs of early European navigators from the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

Through the recent turbulent year, including council amalgamations, Peter pursued with a passion his crusade to have the archives of the City of Botany Bay preserved and stored in such a way as to allow access to them for historical research. Peter's perseverance on these matters largely overcame the bureaucratic obstacles that were often put in his way.

Peter's role as an academic archivist at the University of New South Wales should also not be overlooked. In the early years of my executive membership I enrolled in and attended one of Peter's archives courses, from which I gained a greater understanding of the preservation, storage and uses of archives.

Peter's passing will leave a significant loss to the functioning of the BHT, its goals and its achievements. Peter has left a legacy that hopefully will last, and it is up to those of us still on the Executive to ensure that it continues.

As President of the BHT I will ensure that Bayside Council takes steps to honour Peter's service in an appropriate way.

Farewell Peter. I shall miss your friendship, your knowledge and your contribution to our history and heritage. May you rest in peace in the knowledge that you will not be forgotten.

Rob Hanna

President  
Botany Historical Trust