

MINUTES

of the **Botany Historical Trust**
held in the Mascot Library and George Hanna Memorial Museum
2 Hatfield Street, Mascot
on **Monday 5 May 2025 at 6:30 PM**

Present

Robert Hanna, President
Jacqueline Milledge, Senior Vice President
Christopher Hanna, Vice President
Richard Smolenski, Treasurer
Warren Hensley, Secretary
Amanda Wilson, Member
Lenore Daley, Member
Jo Jansyn, Community Representative
Jenny Muscat, Community Representative
Nathan Brown, Community Representative
Christina Curry, Councillor

Also present

Bobbi Mayne, Manager Libraries and Lifestyle
Pascal Van de Walle, Coordinator Development Assessment
Cate Kloos, Administration Officer Libraries and Lifestyle

The Chairperson opened the meeting in the Mascot Library and George Hanna Memorial Museum at 6:30pm.

1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson affirmed that Bayside Council acknowledges the Bidjigal Clan, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and work and acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. Bayside Council pays respects to Elders past and present.

2 Apologies, Leave of Absence & Attendance Via Audio-Visual Link

Apologies

The following apologies were received:

Scott Morrissey, Councillor

Leave of Absence

There were no applications for Leave of Absence received.

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 - 3 February 2025****Committee Resolution**

Moved by Richard Smolenski and Warren Hensley

That the Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust meeting held on 3 February 2025 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

4.2 Business Arising

The BHT Committee notes that the Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust of Monday 3 February 2025 were received and the recommendations therein were adopted by the Council at its meeting of 26 March 2025.

5 Reports**BHT25.009 Planning, Development & Compliance Matters**

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

Council Resolutions and Notice of Motions

1. Post Exhibition Report - Draft Mutch Park Masterplan
2. Draft Astrolabe Park Masterplan
3. Notice of Motion – ICI Management of Legacy Contamination
4. Notice of Motion – Scoping/Feasibility Report on Heritage Review and Local Character Assessment

Development Applications

5. DA-2025/69 55 - Gardeners Road Daceyville
 - 5 submissions including one from the BHT Committee opposing the proposal were received
 - The DA application is currently being assessed by Council Officers

- Updates on the status of the assessment will be provided to the BHT Committee once available

Other items tabled

6. AMAC House
 - Councillor Curry provided information on a Notice of Motion she presented at the April Council meeting to ensure the Local History items in AMAC House Botany are treated, preserved and relocate items prior to the building's demolition.
 - Manager Libraries and Lifestyle, Bobbi Mayne advised that work is underway with a status report going back to Council shortly.
7. Botany Police Station
 - The BHT Executive Committee remain very concerned about the deteriorated state of the heritage listed Botany Police Station owned by Housing NSW.
 - Members suggested the Police Station should be restored and used as a local history museum.

Committee Recommendation

Moved by Jo Jansyn and Jenny Muscat

That Council provides the Botany Historical Trust Committee more information and status updated about plans ICI - Orica site.

Committee Resolution

Moved by Jo Jansyn and Jenny Muscat

1. That the BHT President, Rob Hanna write to Housing NSW on BHT Executive's behalf advocating for the Police Station to be restored and used as a Local History Museum.
2. The BHT Executive Member, Nathan Brown propose a streamlined process the enables the BHT Committee to receive, review and provide feedback on Development Applications that are of Heritage / Historical significance within the notification time frame.

BHT25.010 President's Report - Robert Hanna

The key points of the President's report were:

- Welcoming the new Community Representatives Jenny Muscat, Jo Jansyn and Nathan Brown.
- The BHT Executive may like to review the BHT Constitution in the future to enable an archivist to be included as a Committee Member.
- The President has received an offer from BHT member Nerina Skrabut for a possible performance by the Lakes Singers. Jacqueline Milledge suggested that the performance could be included in the BHT Christmas Function.

Rob Hanna advised that he laid wreaths on behalf of the BHT at the ANZAC Day commemorations in Botany and Mascot.

Committee Resolution

That the BHT Committee notes the President's Report.

BHT25.011 Local History Update

Bobbi Mayne provided additional updates on Local History projects:

- Council is calling for information and stories from the community about women from the Bayside area who served during WWI or WWII. As responses have been limited so far, the BHT is encouraged to continue to reach out through their networks to help promote this initiative:
www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/form/women-in-war-efforts
- Local History Librarian Kirsten Broderick has been assigned to work with the BHT President and other key stakeholders to update the names on Botany War Memorial. Information from the President as well as additional research by Kirsten has been collated. A detailed project plan is being prepared and will be shared with the President and BHT Committee once finalised.

Committee Resolution

That the BHT Committee notes the Local History Report and updates that were discussed at the meeting.

BHT25.012 Program and Activities for 2025

The Committee discussed the program and activities program for 2025:

- Richard Smolenski suggested organising an excursion to the Prince Henry Hospital Nursing and Medical Museum in Little Bay. The Committee proposed doing this as part of the Local History Week in September 2025.
- Amanda Wilson AM advised that David Burdon, The National Trust NSW Director of Conservation, has offered to give a talk to BHT members, either at the NT's headquarters at Observatory Hill or at one of Bayside's venues.
- Jo Jansyn suggested, to include local history talks in future exhibitions and invite schools to attend the exhibitions as an excursion with BHT Members volunteering to talk to the schools.
- Jacqueline Milledge will follow up with the Hon. Ron Hoenig to organise a tour of Parliament House for BHT Members.

Committee Resolution

Moved by Jenny Muscat and Richard Smolenski

1. That the BHT Committee notes the Program and Activities for 2025 report.
2. That the BHT Committee supports the recommendation to include local history talks as part of future exhibitions at the Mascot Library and George Hanna Museum.
3. The BHT Committee supports the invitation of schools to undertake an excursion to visit future exhibitions.
4. That Executive Member, Richard Smolenski investigate undertaking an excursion to Prince Henry Nursing and Medical Museum in September 2025 and report back to the Committee.
5. Executive Member, Amanda Wilson AM to coordinate with the Local History Librarians to invite David Burdon, The National Trust NSW Director of Conservation to give a talk to BHT Members.
6. Executive Member, Jacqueline Milledge to follow up with Hon. Ron Hoenig to organise a tour of Parliament House for BHT Members.

BHT25.013 Other Business**1a Non-Executive memberships**

A number of applications for non-executive memberships were received.

Committee Recommendation

Moved by Richard Smolenski and Lenore Daley

That Council approves the non-Executive memberships as mentioned in the confidential attachment to the minutes.

1b Expired non-Executive memberships

The Manager Libraries and Lifestyle provided information on expired non-executive memberships.

BHT general memberships expire after 5 years in accordance with the BHT Constitution. Numerous attempts were made to notify and invite members to renew their membership including handing out renewal forms at the annual Christmas function, sending them a letter, information in the BHT Newsletter and phoning them (where applicable).

The members who have not renewed their membership will remain on the membership list as inactive members.

Attachments

- 1 Non-Executive membership details(confidential)

6 General Business**BHT25.014 General Business - Collaboration with the St George Historical Society**

Warren Hensley advised that the St George Historical Society host network meetings with other Trusts / Societies at Lydham Hall. The purpose of the meetings is to exchange information, discuss areas of common interest and explore collaborative opportunities.

Committee Resolution

Moved by Jacqueline Milledge and Christopher Hanna

That the BHT approve Warren Hensley to represent the BHT at the network meeting and report back to the Committee.

BHT25.015 General Business - Engagement Strategy

Amanda Wilson AM has developed an engagement strategy for the BHT Executive's consideration. The objectives include growing membership numbers and improving member experience and engagement.

Committee Resolution

Moved by Jacqueline Milledge and Jo Jansyn

That the BHT Committee meet on 19 June 2025 in Eastgardens Library to discuss and provide input and feedback on the engagement strategy as well as agree on and prioritise recommended actions.

7 Next Meeting

That the next BHT Executive meeting be held in the George Hanna Memorial Museum at Mascot Library at 6:30pm on Monday, 4 August 2025.

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 8:45pm.