



**MINUTES OF
TENTERFIELD SHIRE
COUNCIL ABORIGINAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING (special
meeting)**

THURSDAY 2 MARCH 2023

Minute of the **Tenterfield Shire Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting** held at Koreelah room on Thursday, 2 March 2023 commencing at 12.00 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Uncle Theo Wright
Severn River, Ngarabal and Kwiambal Aboriginal Corporation

Christopher Ghirardello
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Natalia Londono
Community Development Advisor - TSC

Roxanne Bancroft - Stuart
Tenterfield High School

Lee Matters
Manager Arts, Culture & Library Services TSC

Ian Geyer
Connect Northern Rivers

Bronwyn Petrie
Mayor Tenterfield Shire

Aunty Helen Duroux
Fire To Flourish

Daryl Buckingham
Chief Executive Officer TSC

Leon Daley
Armajun AHS

Taylor Cutmore
Armajun AHS

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: -

(1) Acknowledgement / Welcome to country

(2) Disclosures of Interests

(a) Nil

(3) Apologies

Gianna Saccon
Councillor TSC

Wally Binge
Member LALC- Moombahlene

Dianne Duroux
Member LACL – Moombahlene

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
07/12/2022**

BUSSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Discussions:-

Manager Arts Culture and Library Services, Lee Mathers opened the meeting advising that the discussion around the appropriate wording for Tenterfield Shire Council's Acknowledgment of Country had been raised in previous committee meetings with the request to amend the official statement to include all the traditional owner groups located within Tenterfield Shire.

The discussion opened with Uncle Theo asking the panel how many tribes are in Ngarabal Country, suggesting that acknowledging everybody will imply recognising every tribe in Australia. There were discussions between Aunty Helen and Uncle Theo about the lack of credibility on the sources of information for the community, as these have been written by white people, not Aboriginal People, in addition to the fact that it all depends on the context of the history is told. Uncle Theo maintained his perspective that the land we are on in Tenterfield is Ngarabal Country.

Aunty Helen raised the purpose of this meeting is to clarify wording for Tenterfield Council's acknowledgment not other cultural matters. Aunty Helen shared a historical document "*Ngarrabul and other Aboriginal Tribes – Part II – Distribution of the Tribes*" by John MacPherson, published in '*The proceedings of the Linnean Society of NSW, 1904*'. The MacPherson article references the different areas and boundaries of Ngarabal and the various tribes of New England area.

There were conversations between The Mayor, Ian Greyer and Roxanne Bancroft-Stuart about the signs that stand up on the borders of Glen Innes and the West where it is possible to read the welcome to Kamilaroi and Bundjalung. While Aunty Helen mentioned she had conversations with different people that provided historical information on the boundaries of Ngarabal and Kamilaroi, and this information aligned with Ian's suggestion of having two tiers of recognition; the recognition of the traditional owner groups based on the geographical location across the Tenterfield Shire (not just Tenterfield township), which is Ngarabal, and include recognition of the traditional custodians where a meeting could happen out of the town of Tenterfield but around the Shire, like the villages.

The panel was asked about the appropriateness of this approach to be taken by the Council. Once again, discussions about the complexity of our unique heritage and the lack of recognised sources of information pre-colonisation about the existing boundaries and the understanding of the challenge to appropriately acknowledge the various tribes and nations was complex. Aunty Helen advised she will leave the meeting at this time.

Group discussion continued on the appropriate wording that could be adaptable based on where (country) the acknowledgement was being used to appropriately acknowledge and pay respect to each nation and tribe. It was highlighted that Council wishes to formally include and acknowledge Ngarabal but also all other nations or tribes located across the large geographic area of the Tenterfield Shire area.

An agreement and shared understanding for the importance of having recognition for all the traditional custodians across the large geographical area of Tenterfield Shire, including Tenterfield township, being Ngarabal Country, was unanimous. The following wording for Tenterfield Shire Council's official Acknowledgement of Country was agreed upon by the committee:

Tenterfield Shire Council would like to acknowledge the Ngarabal people, the traditional custodians of this land [we are gathering on today], and also pay our respect to the Jukembal, Bundjalung, Kamilaroi, Githabul and Wahlbul people of our Shire, and extend our respect to all people [present].

Agreed Caveats to the above statement will be as follows and dependent on the geographic place the acknowledgement is being used:

1. 'Ngarabal' is changed/replaced to the relative traditional owner group preceding 'the traditional custodians of this land; and
2. 'Ngarabal' added in with the group of names preceding 'people of our Shire'
3. When used for text acknowledgement the wording [we are gathering on today] and [present] will be omitted.

Meeting close.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussions:

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

05 of April 2023

Lee
Mathers
Manager Arts
Culture and Library
Services
