

SYDNEY HARBOUR FEDERATION TRUST

42<sup>nd</sup> MEETING

Georges Heights – Public Meeting

16 May 2006

MINUTES

True & Correct Record of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the  
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

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Chair

Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust held at Georges Heights at 10:00 am on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

Present

Mr Kevin McCann	Chair
Mr Peter Lowry	Member
The Hon. Barry O'Keefe	Member
Clr Susan Hoopmann	Member
Brigadier Kevin O'Brien (ret'd)	Member
Mr Bob Conroy	Member
Dr John Moriarty	Member

In attendance

Mr Geoff Bailey	Executive Director
Mr Nick Hollo	Deputy Executive Director
Mr Patrick Fletcher	Director Communications
Ms Sally Hamilton	Community Consultation Manager
Ms Kate Stuart	Secretariat
Mr John Pastorelli (for Agenda Item 6)	Principal, Ochre Heritage Training Consultants
Mr Mark Branson (for Agenda Item 7)	Project Manager, Birds Australia
Members of the general public	

The meeting opened at 10:05 am.

- 1. Introduction** (Agenda Item 1)  
The Chair introduced the Board members.
- 2. Welcome** (Agenda Item 2)  
The Chair welcomed the Board members and the general public to the meeting.
- 3. Apologies** (Agenda Item 3)  

Ms Di Talty	Member
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- 4. Declarations of Interest** - (Agenda Item 4)  
No declarations of interest were made.
- 5. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 February** (Agenda Item 5)  
**Agenda Item 7 – Lease signing delegations to Executive Director**  
The Trust RESOLVED to remove the phrase 'up to 500sqm' from the Minutes.  
  
Item 40.1      K. O'Brien has met with Defence regarding the status of the Royal Australian Artillery National Museum. Meeting notes have been forwarded to G. Bailey.

Item 40.4 The 25km/hour speed sign limit east of Cobbittee Street will be retained. The repair to the footpath on the southern side of Middle Head Road east of the Headland Park entrance will be included in the works program as a high rather than a medium priority.

The location of the Council property was clarified as a 1m strip parallel to the road. The Trust property boundary is 1m inside the kerb.

Item 40.8 The Chair, Dr Moriarty and Mr Bailey will meet to discuss the feasibility of arranging an exhibition of art on the interaction between Aboriginal and European cultures.

## **6. Historic Interpretation – Presentation of proposed approach by John Pastorelli (Agenda Item 6)**

The key aim of interpretation was stated as ‘facilitating an experience such that there is a meaningful gain for people, the organisation, and the place’.

Key points raised were:

- a) that the stories told about particular locations need to be true to the place;
- b) that the Trust can use ‘signature sites’ to attract attention and then lead people to explore further; to learn about other stories; Museum of Sydney was an example;
- c) that the Trust needs to carefully consider what messages they want the public to take from the site.

B. Conroy noted that using re-enactment societies as characters on site can be very successful in attracting attention.

Physical interaction with a site was also raised as an experience visitors enjoyed.

The suggestion of setting up a hospital ward at the Georges Heights site was encouraged by B. O’Keefe and seconded by the Chair. G. Bailey confirmed that space had been allocated for it.

## **7. North Head – Presentation by Birds Australia (Agenda Item 7)**

A presentation was given by Mr Mark Branson, Project Manager at Birds Australia.

Questions raised:

a) Is it possible to reintroduce smaller birds into the North Head area? (Chair)  
Answer: yes, but habitat needs to be addressed before doing so.

b) What is the role of fire? (J. Moriarty)  
Answer: it is probably the most important aspect of habitat management in encouraging plant regeneration and bird diversity.

c) Is there a problem with Indian/Common Mynah birds in bushland? (B. O'Keefe)

Answer: no, these birds do not invade bushland, they prefer urban habitats.

## **8. Executive Director's Report (Agenda Item 8)**

The report was noted and the following points raised:

- a) Re 1.1 HMAS Platypus – engagement of consultant to scope contaminated land (B. O'Keefe). Leachate from the site to the south of HMAS Platypus is an ongoing problem. If the cost of remediation is high, and found to be in part caused by the site to the south of HMAS Platypus, then the Trust should not bear the whole cost. G. Bailey confirmed that the consultant would be monitoring this leachate and determining its make-up and source.
- b) Re 3.1 Relocation of Scout Rock on Middle Head Road. Why is the time capsule to be opened so soon? (B. O'Keefe) P. Fletcher replied that the Scouts wanted to open it. The Trust RESOLVED to provide an alternate location and plan a translocation rather than an opening ceremony if required.
- c) Sydney Harbour Ferries – regular services to Trust sites (S. Hoopmann). Discussions have been held with Sydney Harbour Ferries about transportation to Trust sites. In August/September a regular service will begin operation to Cockatoo Island.
- d) Media reports. The one negative report listed was because of an error on the part of the SMH. (B. O'Keefe) It was noted that any future errors in the media need to be responded to immediately so that any errors can be corrected.

## **9. Other Business (Agenda Item 9)**

There was no other business raised.

The meeting closed at 11:40 am.