



Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area Advisory Committee (KAC) February 2025 Meeting Communiqué

The Advisory Committee for the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA) chaired by Norfolk Island Administrator George Plant, met on island on 10 and 11 February, with positive discussions on key matters including project and works updates, the Norfolk Island Tourism Strategy and Draft Heritage Management Plan (HMP) for KAVHA.

The committee acknowledged the passing of Duncan Edward and paid tribute to his hard work and dedication to preserving Norfolk Island's rich heritage through his contribution to the KAC as a Cultural Expert. His deep knowledge will be missed. The committee extended their thoughts and wishes to Duncan's family and friends. The position of cultural expert will be filled from Council of Elders nomination.

The committee welcomed the reappointment of cultural heritage expert members Ms Janet Carding, Dr Jane Harrington and community member Ms Susan Prior for a further two years.

The committee also welcomed as an observer Rebecca Rush, Assistant Secretary of the Norfolk Island and Mainland Territories Branch of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts. Ms Rush has previously represented Australia at UNESCO and brings a wealth of Moveable Cultural Heritage knowledge to the role and her participation in the KAC.

The final public consultation stage for the Draft Heritage Management Plan is now complete. The committee will review the final version after all submissions have been addressed before it is reviewed by the Australian Heritage Council and submitted to the Australian Government Minister for Environment and Water for endorsement. The KAC would like to extend its thanks to all who made submissions to the Draft Plan and their ongoing commitment to the Historic Area.

The committee discussed a draft policy for managing memorials in KAVHA. The policy was developed in response to recommendations from the KAVHA Cultural Landscape Management Plan (CLMP) 2019, Development Control Plan 2020 and safety concerns with memorials across the site, an initial version was first circulated to the KAC during the August meeting last year. Feedback has since been collated, and used to inform this second iteration of the policy. The policy will be put out for public consultation after further refinement.

Water quality was also discussed following the visit from CSIRO to Norfolk Island last year and the release of its updated water quality report. The committee agreed balancing heritage needs and water quality was a priority for the site. The committee discussed engagement opportunities on



Australian Government
Kingston Cultural Area
Norfolk Island

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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Australian Convict Sites
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2010



water quality and access to effective community engagement, to better communicate how water in KAVHA is being managed.

KAC received an update on the Food and Beverage EOI advertised in November last year to seek interest from community members for additional food and beverage services on site. Members reflected on current food and beverage 'pop up' initiatives over summer and heard community feedback on, and engagement with, these is extremely positive – an additional proposal is currently being considered. The KAC noted that while these represent an excellent opportunity for community activation of the Historic Area, key issues such as waste management and impact on the site must be closely monitored.

Key works and projects in Kingston which were discussed included planned upgrades to 8 Quality Row and 11 Quality Row, and upgrades to the Lone Pine and Compound Toilets. The future of Surgeons Quarters and the Lions Club were also discussed and the committee were supportive of its continued use by the Club once the assessed essential works were completed. It was agreed to meet with the Lions Club to update them on the building assessment and advise them of the committee's support. A progress update on the much-anticipated Bounty Street Bridge upgrades was presented to the committee and the committee also visited the Slaughter Bay seawall rebuild and were briefed on major projects, including the future sewer works now stage one is complete.

One of the key topics covered were the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Guidelines, which are used to evaluate and understand the impact of potential development on the heritage value of world heritage properties. The committee agreed on the importance of ensuring any works undertaken on site align with heritage values and consider heritage attributes.

The Cultural Development Association of Norfolk Island provided an update for the artist in residence program. The KAVHA Secretariat will continue to support the association in development of the program as an opportunity to further activate the site.

The next committee meeting is anticipated to take place on island in July 2025.

The committee includes community members Susan Prior, Fiona Anderson, George Parsons, Helen Pedel and Simon Bigg and expert members Janet Carding and Dr Jane Harrington. It is chaired by the Administrator of Norfolk Island.

For KAVHA site matters, contact the KAVHA secretariat on KAVHASecretariat@infrastructure.gov.au or on 23315. For further information or discussion, please contact the Office of the Administrator (phone 22152 or email office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au).

George Plant
Chair, Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area Advisory Committee