

Public Questions - Council Meeting - Tuesday 23rd January 2024.

Daniela Buters – Mandurah Environment & Heritage Group Inc

Question:

1. The Mandurah Environment & Heritage Group's management committee is concerned about the museum's boat, its motor, battery and equipment, and if any weather damage has taken place, and respectfully ask: When will the boat be relicensed, and the boat and trailer returned to the Mandurah Maritime Annex?

Response:

The Museum boat and trailer were recently inspected and are ready to be transferred from the City's Operations Centre back to the Fisheries Boatshed. It is not believed the boat suffered undue weather damage during this relocation period. The fencing replacement works at the Fisheries boatshed were completed on 8 January 2024.

The City has explored getting the boat licensed and has been advised material changes would be required to the boat under normal circumstances in order to meet licencing requirements. It's understood that if the boat were listed on the National Maritime Museum's Australian Register of Heritage Vessels, the licencing requirements may become more favourable. The City has contacted a representative of the National Maritime Museum and are awaiting advice in regard to the optimal course of action to get the vessel back on the water.

Question:

2. What is the City of Mandurah's plan to respond to producing QR Code Signage for the revised Inner City Walk?

Response:

City representatives walked through parts of the City Centre on 5 February 2024 and viewed first hand that some of the City's Heritage Trail signage is in poor condition. It's acknowledged that improvements are required to ensure signage is accurate, relevant, well placed and in good condition. City Officers will develop a project plan to explore how best to address this, and can engage MEHG in the scoping of this project. Whilst the City does not have a specific plan for QR codes, this could form part of the investigation. The City has not budgeted for this project in this financial year, and it would need to form part of budget deliberations in 2024/25 and/or 2025/26.

The draft City Centre Master Plan and Parking Plan, which is currently open for public comment until 26 February 2024, includes a Wayfinding Strategy and recommendations for trails. Wayfinding encompasses all of the ways in which people orient themselves in a physical space and navigate from place to place. This proposes an opportunity for interactive hybrid signage, such as QR codes.

As part of the implementation of the Master Plan, a detailed signage guide for the City Centre will be developed and this the identification of forms of signage in a consistent manner will help inform any new or revised signage in the City Centre to ensure it meets requirements for suitable type, placement, design and legibility. The consultation documentation can be viewed here: [City Centre Master Plan and Parking Plan | Mandurah Matters](#)

Question:

3. Where and when will the 'Three Vessels of Hope' sculpture by Claire Bailey (1998), commissioned by the City of Mandurah to commemorate the site of the first Government Jetty built in 1897, be back on public display?

Response:

The *Three Vessels of Hope* artwork was removed to allow for the redevelopment of the Eastern Foreshore, and to be repaired. The City is in communication with the artist in relation to complications that have arisen regarding the artwork, and officers confirm that unfortunately, the *Three Vessels of Hope* cannot be reinstated.

A key action of the City's Art and Culture Strategy is to undertake a strategic review and audit of the city's public art and internal art collection, which will support improved public art display and sustainable public art maintenance practices into the future.

Question:

4. Where and when will the 'Memorial Wishing Well', erected by the Mandurah Progress Association, funded by public subscriptions, and unveiled by the Minister for Tourism Lionel F. Kell on 11 December 1955, be back on public display?

Response:

It is not an intention of the City to reinstate or recreate the Wishing Well.

The 'Wishing Well' was located at the east end of the Old Mandurah Traffic Bridge and removed during construction of the new bridge.

Question:

5. Where and when will the Mosaic Artwork by Jenny Dawson, paying homage to Mandurah's fishing industry, be back on public display?

Response:

It is not an intention of the City to reinstate or recreate the mosaic by Jenny Dawson.

The Bindjareb Fishing site artwork was removed from the location because it was cracked and in poor condition, unsuitable for public display. It has since been kept in storage, waiting further consideration of options. Mosaics are not the longest lasting artworks, particularly when on the ground in a heavy use area. The Artists were contacted, and advised they were happy to permanently decommission the artwork, and that they could not repair the cracked tiles. The artwork is 27 years old and was not expected to last this long.

A key action of the City's Art and Culture Strategy is to undertake a strategic review and audit of the city's public art and internal art collection, which will support improved public display and sustainable public art maintenance practices into the future.

Question:

6. What is the City of Mandurah's plan involving the plaque for the 'Charles Olaf Wilson and the Leviathan' mural, by Jarome Davenport seen on the Museum Wall in the Dalrymple Park?

Response:

The City acknowledges the request for a plaque.

The City has noted some condition concerns regarding the external wall, and this is being investigated for repair. After this is investigated and subsequently repaired, the City will contact the artist about retouching the mural and potential for a plaque.

Question:

7. What is the City of Mandurah's plan for the brass heritage plaques that went into storage during the foreshore redevelopment?

Response:

The City does not have any current plans for the plaques that are currently in storage.

Question:

8. What is the City of Mandurah's planning for Heritage Week (between 18 April and 19 May 2024) which used to be a prominent event on the City's calendar, and can it include details about the Guided Inner City Walk which has been upgraded to include 44 places and objects of interest.

Response:

The City is planning to feature an upcoming exhibition which will display some of the marine engines from the Museum's maritime collection to coincide with the 2024 National Trust Australian Heritage Festival. The City will also continue with its displays and educational services at the Museum through that week. Officers will explore opportunities for more direct participation in the 2025 festival.

Question:

9. Where and when will the heritage boat 'Canopus', which was restored at considerable cost by the Maritime Annex Volunteers with 2,700 hours of volunteers' time, be put on public display instead of having it languishing in a volunteer's shed on a bush block in Bouvard?

Response:

The City of Mandurah has been committed to the preservation of Canopus since the boat was initially offered for donation. The City supported the Museum's Maritime Volunteers who worked with goodwill to ensure that the boat was saved. The City appreciates their efforts, and the Friends of Mandurah Museum who have assisted with contributions. The effort and commitment by the City, the Museum, and the volunteers in cooperation has meant that we have retained the Canopus in a condition that will ensure its longevity.

The City understands that the current storage of Canopus is not permanent and relies on the goodwill of residents, who may at any time determine boat storage is no longer agreed, or sell the land. In the event this occurs, the City will liaise directly with the landowner and endeavour to secure different arrangements to store Canopus.

When the City agreed to preserve Canopus, it did not have a suitable location to house it for public display, and this is still the case. The Canopus is a large boat, and would require a purpose-built space. The City Centre Master Plan proposes a heritage precinct which may provide opportunities for the display of Canopus and other items.

On Friday 2 February 2024, an on-site visit to view Canopus was attended by the property owner, City's Coordinator Libraries and Heritage, City's Museum Development Officer, and two Museum volunteers instrumental in restoring Canopus. This visit presented an opportunity to understand what size storage would be suitable for the Canopus and all her fixings. It was identified that additional to the vessel Canopus, storage would be required for the mast, engine, launch trolley, anchor and steps. It's noted that the current storage poses three main issues: (1) potential sale of property by the private landowner at any time; (2) Bushfire risk; and (3) inability for public viewing.

Question:

10. When will the Local Heritage Survey be updated to include the correct address for the heritage boat 'Canopus'?

Response:

The City's most recent heritage was undertaken in May 2014 – the Mandurah Heritage Register as a review of the previous Local Heritage Inventory that was prepared in 1999. This Heritage Register combines a 'Heritage List' which are buildings and sites identified in the local planning scheme that require consideration as part of development approval process; the 'Heritage Inventory Place Records' – places of interest in respect to the development and history of Mandurah; and 'archived places' – those that have been previously identified in heritage inventory's but have been demolished.

The reference to the Canopus boat is provided as a part of the historic notes for Heritage Site 4 – the Peninsula Hotel, former boatshed and Stingray Point. The boat itself is not included within the Heritage Register.

The Heritage Act 2018 was introduced and changed the names of heritage inventories to a Local Heritage Survey; and changes to naming conventions in the local planning scheme regulations have also taken place since the 2014 Heritage Register. City officers consider a desktop review may be necessary to update terminology and references, but little further changes to the built heritage have taken place since the 2014 Register was completed. This City will consider updating the address of Canopus, although this may not be considered favourably given it is currently on private land.

Question:

11. When will the 'Old Fisheries Boatshed' (listed in Herit P26585, Portion of Lot 500 on DP 70514 on CT LR3019/763) be added to the Local Heritage Survey?

Response:

If the Old Fisheries Boatshed is accepted on the State Register of Heritage Places, then the place can be added to the City's Local Heritage Survey as part of a periodic review.

Question:

12. Where and when will the 8 heritage boats including 2 kayaks and other heritage items that are in the Mandurah Maritime Annex be put on public display?

Response:

The City does not currently have plans to place these large items in public display as the City does not have a suitable space available. The City Centre Master Plan proposes a heritage precinct which may provide opportunities for the display of items.