

CULTURAL HISTORY PLAN

2018–2023



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CULTURAL HISTORY PLAN

2018–2023

BACKGROUND

In 2008 Council endorsed the Clarence Cultural History Plan 2009-2013 (2009 Plan). The 2009 Plan was developed following comprehensive community consultation. This ensured that it had a specific focus on the areas of cultural history that were identified by the community as having the greatest importance and relevance.

KEY STATEMENT

The purpose of the Cultural History Plan 2018–2023 (2018 Plan) is to provide strategic direction for Clarence City Council (CCC) for the recognition, management and promotion of cultural history within the City.

The focus of the 2009 Plan was on sharing the stories, both indigenous and non-indigenous, that are important to the history and development of Clarence.

As a result of the 2009 Plan a Cultural History Advisory Committee (CHAC) was formed in 2009 to assist with implementation, monitoring and review of the strategies and actions contained within the plan.

REVIEW

A review of the 2009 Plan has been undertaken. Whilst the aim of the 2009 Plan and the intent of the strategies contained within it are still relevant, there was a need to review and update the actions in light of what had (and hadn't) been achieved and to identify new actions to take the Plan into the next five years.

It is also acknowledged that the current 'planning landscape' is quite different to when the original plan was written in 2008. Since the 2009 Plan was endorsed the CHAC was created, a part-time History Officer has been employed by Council, technology has changed and social media is now much more prevalent. In addition, when the original plan was written there was no earlier plan to work from thus the plan was breaking new ground for Clarence City Council in this area.

Despite these differences the 2009 Plan has proven to be both a useful and well-used framework for the preservation and promotion of the City's Cultural History. It provides an excellent basis from which to develop a new plan to take CCC and the community into the next five years and beyond.

WHY IS A CULTURAL HISTORY PLAN NEEDED?

The recognition, preservation and promotion of the cultural history of a community encourages a sense of pride and participation in that community's cultural life. The conservation of cultural history includes not only the preservation of the old but also the need to acknowledge the evolution of the new. It is this balance between old and new that is the hallmark of a rich and productive culture.

Recognising, valuing and sharing the rich inheritance from the past enables and encourages participation in the cultural history of Clarence.

Historical values are found in a variety of forms within any community, for example:

- landscape;
- sites of significance to the Aboriginal people of Tasmania;
- influences and contributions of different migrations;
- places that reflect the cultural memory of diverse groups within the community; and
- the cultural icons of settlement.

The specific focus of the 2018 Plan relates to those areas of cultural history that have been identified by the community as having most importance and relevance to them.

**See Note on page 8 regarding natural and built heritage*

WHAT DID THE 2009 PLAN ACHIEVE?

The 2009 Plan resulted in a number of significant achievements including:

Establishing the Cultural History Advisory Committee

This committee, established in 2009, meets quarterly to assist Council with implementing the actions of the 2009 Plan.

Engaging a part time History Officer

Council employed a part time (2.5 days/week) History Officer in 2010 to assist with implementation of the 2009 Plan, support local history groups and societies and respond to community requests.

Instigating a city wide interpretation project

The street names interpretation project commenced in Bellerive and has subsequently been implemented in Lindisfarne, Rokeby, Lauderdale, Risdon Vale and South Arm. Each year the CHAC nominates a new area for the interpretive signage. Originally the project focused on explaining the origins of important street names. The scope has since been broadened to include general historical information and features of interest. Funding is allocated for one new location per year.

Staging three major and several smaller exhibitions

Three major exhibitions relating to cultural history have been staged during the life of the 2009 Plan.

'A City Divided: The Tasman Bridge Disaster' which included rarely seen memorabilia and specially recorded oral histories. This exhibition, held at Rosny Barn, attracted record crowds of 3400 people to its first showing. Due to its popularity it was subsequently shown in a trimmed down version in January 2015 for the 40th anniversary of the disaster. A further 1100 people attended the second showing.

'Centenary of Anzac: Service at Home and Abroad' to mark the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign.

'What would you take: The 67 Bushfires' retold the stories of the 1967 Black Tuesday bushfires through a unique mix of community participation and archival material.

Other smaller exhibitions have included Art Deco and the Jazz Age held in the Schoolhouse Gallery.

Hosting or participating in a number of special events

A very successful gala dinner was held to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Australia's first cookbook which was written by Edward Abbot, the first Warden of Clarence.

Other events included:

- the Bicentennial celebration of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's 1811 tour of Van Dieman's Land held in November 2011 at Lauderdale.
- a walk and talk along the South Arm Heritage Trail titled 'Tragedy, transportation and triumph - a rediscovery of the life of James Kelly' was held for Heritage Month 2016.

Receiving \$44 650 in Federal and State funding to assist with major projects

Funding of \$22 350 was received to develop an exhibition and commission a sculpture at Montagu Bay Park to commemorate the Tasman Bridge disaster and the impacts of the disaster for the eastern shore and community of Clarence. Under a separate grant, \$10 000 was received to develop the major Anzac Centenary Exhibition. \$12 000 was received to assist in the development of a project to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Bushfires which was held at the Schoolhouse Gallery in January 2017.

Developing an Interpretation Plan for the city

A Cultural Heritage Interpretation Plan was produced in 2012. It identified key messages/ themes to be presented and reinforced citywide whilst still allowing site-specific stories to be told.

Improving the history content on the CCC website and providing articles for various newsletters

To complement the actions in the Plan, Council has improved the history content on its website and included regular stories of historical interest in its rates newsletter, Arts newsletter, eNewsletter and Council's social media platforms. Oral histories recorded for the 'Tasman Bridge Disaster' exhibition have also been added to the CCC website.

Providing advice and assistance to many individuals and groups within the community

The History Officer has given an average of 45 presentations per year to history and other interest groups. He also assisted community groups with preparing grant applications and newsletters, event promotion, collection advice and technical support.

WHAT DIDN'T THE 2009 PLAN ACHIEVE?

Whilst the review of the 2009 Plan revealed some significant achievements, it also helped identify areas where further action is required, including:

Resolution around a history room/visitor information centre

The 2009 Plan identified a strong desire by some members of the community for a history room/visitor information centre. During the life of the original plan (and indeed prior to the development of the plan) various proposals have been put forward and some investigations have been undertaken but there has as yet been no resolution as to the best way to proceed.

Interpreting Aboriginal heritage

In terms of interpreting Aboriginal heritage, there are differing views within the Aboriginal community, as there are within any community group. This has unfortunately resulted in less focus on Aboriginal heritage than might otherwise have been the case. However there is no reason why this should impede Council from progressing sensitive interpretation of the rich Aboriginal heritage within Clarence. Recent discussions with Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) have opened a positive path forward, which is identified in Strategy 1, Action 4 of the new plan (see page 10).

Promotion of the Bowen Historical Site

This site is historically significant but challenging to promote and interpret due to the issues raised above. Land ownership and access issues are also part of the challenge here (see scoping report by Gabrielle Balon 2013). Resolution of this issue would best be approached by the proposed Aboriginal heritage consultant (See Strategy 1, Action 4, page 10).

OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE OF THE 2018 PLAN

The Cultural History Plan aims to characterise Clarence as a place, both today and in the past. It seeks to bring history to life, to encourage active engagement with it and make history both accessible and relevant to the community.

The objectives and intention of the 2009 Plan are still relevant and have been retained with minor modifications in response to findings of the consultation process. However, the delivery of these objectives will change in the 2018 Plan with a new set of actions to move into the next five year planning cycle and beyond.

Key Objectives

The 2018 Plan has the following objectives:

Identify the stories that hold significant cultural/historical value for the people of Clarence

Recognise the places, events and objects that reflect the cultural memory and history of the diverse groups that make up the Clarence community

Develop a framework for the preservation and promotion of the unique cultural history of Clarence

Encourage the community to participate in the history of their city

Consider the scope for further development of cultural tourism within the City of Clarence

Find better pathways for acknowledging and interpreting the city's Aboriginal heritage and history

It is intended that the 2018 Plan will provide Council with:

- A **framework** for the development of programs which value the living history of Clarence
- A strategic, long-term approach for **engagement** with the community
- An opportunity to make the most of available **resources**
- Direction for seeking and attracting **funding** from State and Federal governments
- Direction to develop strategic **alliances** with business, tourism ventures and community groups
- Direction to meet the **expectations and aspirations** of a target community within Clarence

*Note: It is beyond the practical scope and outside the area of responsibility of the 2018 Plan to include approaches to the built or natural heritage of Clarence (as was the case with the 2009 Plan). This area is the responsibility of Council's City Planning Group with advice from Council's heritage architect and informed by the Clarence Interim Planning Scheme 2015.

However this plan recognises that CHAC members may from time to time wish to make recommendations to different Council areas in regard to such matters as development in areas of high cultural significance as well as parks, reserves and monuments.

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

Cultural History Plan for Clarence 2009 – 2013	2009 Plan
Cultural History Plan for Clarence 2018 – 2023	2018 Plan
Clarence City Council	CCC or 'Council'
Cultural History Advisory Council	CHAC
Parks and Wildlife Service	PWS
Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania	AHT
Aboriginal Heritage Council	AHC

KEY STRATEGIES

STRATEGY 1

Capture and retell stories

Capture and retell the stories of Clarence's rich and diverse living and evolving history.

ACTIONS

High priority actions

- 1. Consult with history and community groups as to the envisaged usage of a community history centre, storage and display facility, and what resources would be required, for local history collections in a local context.**

LONG TERM

*All considerations must be made in the context of ongoing debate regarding possible council amalgamations/shared services and it is not appropriate to progress this action until resolution is reached.

*Any consideration for a community history facility has to be made in the context of previous research conducted by Council as to the feasibility of a 'Visitor Information Centre' which clearly concluded that the combination of history centre and visitor information centre has now been rendered obsolete by advances in digital technology. However, as discussed in *Key Findings* there is a very strong desire in the community for a central history centre which could allow for a shared space for all history groups in the city to meet, store collections, and mount displays. Refer to *Business Case Analysis into the Establishment of a Visitor Information Centre at Richmond Historic Village* (Creating Preferred Futures 2011)

*In addition, any discussion regarding such a facility must be made in the context of the *Kangaroo Bay – Rosny Park Cultural Precinct Strategic Development Framework* which is being developed by Council. (Creating Preferred Futures Draft 2016)

2. A formal offer has been received from the State Government for the transfer of the managing authority of the Kangaroo Bluff Historic Site from Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service to Council.

MEDIUM
TERM

Prior to a formal consideration of consent to transfer the Council will undertake further due diligence regarding the proposal. Council has committed funds to carry out due diligence including the updating of the Strategic Asset Management Plan.

Any proposals for the future use of the site must be considered in the context of the *Kangaroo Bay – Rosny Park Cultural Precinct Strategic Development Framework* and *Economic Development Plan 2016-2021*. Such proposals should seek the input of Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania to ensure the inclusion of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

3. Ensure that the ongoing redevelopment of Kangaroo Bay includes creative interpretation of the rich history associated with this site.

LONG
TERM

This history includes Aboriginal heritage, ferries, railways and more. Consider how these stories could be reflected through design elements, art installations, performance and events rather than just panels. Interpretation of Aboriginal cultural heritage to be undertaken with the input of Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania. Interpretation to be included in Council assets and private developments where possible. Council to liaise with private developers on the inclusion of interpretive elements and public art.

4. Engage the services of a suitably qualified person with expertise in Aboriginal heritage on a needs basis to liaise between Council and Aboriginal communities, organisations and individuals.

SHORT
TERM

A key role of this consultant will be to develop and implement a plan to interpret Aboriginal heritage within Clarence and provide advice to Council on culturally appropriate content in Council projects.

The proposed Aboriginal heritage consultant will engage with Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, which is the organisation responsible for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Tasmania under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975. The AHT and associated Aboriginal Heritage Council have expressed an interest in working with Council in this area.

Two of the key issues that such a plan should consider are:

- Interpretation options for Bedlam Walls. This reserve is now wholly managed by CCC, after PWS completed removal of the old walkway infrastructure in 2012 (due to safety issues) and cancelled their lease over this area.
- Opportunities to better promote the Risdon Cove Historical Site in cooperation with Aboriginal communities, organisations and individuals.

- 5. Develop an action plan for Richmond which identifies the priority actions for celebrating, promoting and interpreting cultural history for the next 5 years in collaboration with existing stakeholders such as the Richmond Advisory Committee and Richmond and Coal River Valley Promotions Group.**

LONG
TERM

Examples of such actions might include:

- A well researched self guided walk for Richmond (see www.stanleyheritagewalk.com.au for an example of such a walk) available as a phone/tablet app.
- A cycle/drive trail through the Coal River Valley to explore the agricultural heritage, both past and present.
- Explore options for the interpretation of Aboriginal heritage in the Coal River Valley.

Lower priority actions

- 6. Consider the following aspects when planning for interpreting Clarence's history:**

ONGOING

- What is the best way to tell the story? Static panels are often used but is there a better way e.g. through design elements as part of an associated structure, through art installations, a performance or an event? Think creatively.
- Explore options for promoting community interest in Clarence's history through emerging digital media.
- Be responsive to the setting and consider how the interpretation will 'sit' within the site. It can sometimes be good to include some interpretation which is slightly hidden or provides a sense of discovery or reward for those people who look more closely.
- Ensure that for all new interpretation structures there is a budget allocation for future maintenance and replacement.
- Carefully consider the need for publications, as these can often end up stockpiled/unused. Where/how will hard copies be distributed? Is there a better alternative e.g. web based information, QR codes etc.

- 7. Identify which of the reserves that CCC manages have significant cultural heritage values and advise Council's Asset Management staff of this list.**

ONGOING

When Reserve Activity Plans are being prepared or reviewed for these reserves Asset Management staff should liaise with the History Officer and Aboriginal heritage consultant to enable consideration of how the site/area's history could be incorporated into these plans and interpreted onsite in whatever manner is appropriate to that site.

- 8. Encourage and support history groups and community members to record and preserve the knowledge/stories/information/photos of life in Clarence held by Clarence residents who have a rich/extensive knowledge base before it is lost.**

ONGOING

9. Remove the out of date '150 year' signs at the airport and on the Tasman Bridge exit.

SHORT
TERM

10. Explore ways to utilise new media and digital platforms to provide regular history articles and also allow community members to upload their own stories, images, etc., in order that they may be shared with the community and safely stored for posterity. This action may include the use of websites, social media and smart phone 'apps', depending on the suitability of any given platform to the tasks required of it.

SHORT
TERM

HOW SHALL WE MEASURE THE PLAN'S SUCCESS?

Consultations have been carried out with history and other community groups and other relevant stakeholders to ensure their views are considered in the ongoing development of the Cultural/Creative precinct

Council to consider options for the management of the Bellerive Bluff Fort based on the completion of due diligence

The history of Kangaroo Bay has been interpreted in varied and creative ways

An Aboriginal heritage consultant has been engaged and a plan to interpret Aboriginal heritage has been developed and is being implemented

An action plan to interpret cultural history at Richmond has been produced and is being implemented

Cultural history interpretation in Clarence is creative, responsive to setting, provides a sense of discovery and has an attached allocation for future maintenance and replacement

All historically themed publications produced by Council are well used and not stockpiled

A list of reserves that CCC manages that have significant cultural heritage values has been compiled and this information is being used by Asset Management staff when preparing Reserve Activity Plans

The '150 year' signs at the airport and on the Tasman Bridge exit have been removed/replaced

Appropriate new media platforms have been established which allow for digital publication of regular history articles and allow for the storage and sharing of contributions from the community such as stories and images

STRATEGY 2

Encourage participation

Invoke a sense of identity and place in the community by encouraging the community (and visitors) to participate in the cultural history of Clarence in meaningful and relevant ways.

ACTIONS

Higher priority actions

1. **Improve public access to Council's History Officer.**

SHORT
TERM

2. **Continue to provide support to history groups and societies with regular talks, assistance with grant applications and newsletters, events and event promotion, collection advice and technical support in any manner that will assist them to preserve and promote the City's history.**

ONGOING

3. **Continue to support the CHAC.**

ONGOING

4. **Raise awareness of the CHAC, CHP and History Officer across Council, Aldermen and broader community.**

Explain what the CHAC does (and doesn't do) and how people can raise issues for consideration. Do this via the Council website, media articles, letters to history groups and via internal staff communication opportunities. Investigate opportunities for holding CHAC meetings in the community.

SHORT
TERM

5. **Participate in Heritage Month, coordinated by the National Trust (Tasmania), each year and any other significant and relevant events coordinated by other bodies.**

ONGOING

Lower priority actions

<p>6. Where possible, link events into existing celebrations e.g. hold a History Walk during Seniors Week. This will maximise promotion and potentially attract new audiences.</p>	ONGOING
<p>7. Aim for a mixture of events across Clarence.</p>	ONGOING
<p>8. Develop a timeline of significant dates in Clarence to enable events to be planned around these. John Sargent's publication 'Days gone by in Clarence – a chronological history of significant dates and events' is a useful resource for this.</p>	SHORT TERM
<p>9. Contact local schools to raise awareness about what Council can provide to help support their teaching about local history e.g. publications, presentations by the History Officer etc.</p>	SHORT TERM
<p>10. Actively seek opportunities to cross promote activities across Council committees and programs. The CHP and its associated activities have natural links to Council's policies relating to positive ageing, community health and wellbeing, tracks and trails amongst others.</p>	MEDIUM TERM
<p>11. Investigate ways to encourage younger members of the community to engage with cultural history.</p>	MEDIUM TERM
<p>12. Ensure that the celebration of the cultural history of Clarence is both inclusive and representative. Be aware that some aspects of our history e.g. our multicultural heritage or some locations in Clarence may have been overlooked in the past, yet their history is equally valid and important.</p>	ONGOING
<p>13. Regularly consider and actively seek out opportunities to partner with other organisations/groups/private industry on history projects. This can help limited resources to stretch further and increase the number and range of people involved with, and aware of, a project.</p>	ONGOING

HOW SHALL WE MEASURE THE PLAN'S SUCCESS?

Access to the History Officer has been increased

225 (45 /year based on current estimates) talks/presentations have been given to history groups and societies

Assistance with grant applications and newsletters, events and event promotion, collection advice and technical support has been provided where needed to history groups and societies

5 events have been held during Heritage Month

5 events during Seniors Week have been held

A mixture of events across Clarence have been held

20 meetings of the CHAC have been held – several of these have been held in the community

Each of the Aldermen have received a copy of the final 2018 Plan with an associated letter outlining the role of the CHAC and History Officer

Each of the history groups and societies in Clarence have received a letter advising that the 2018 Plan has been finalised and outlining the role of the CHAC and History Officer

Information about the role of the CHAC and History Officer has been placed on the CCC website

A timeline of significant dates in Clarence has been compiled and events to acknowledge these have been held

All local schools have been contacted to raise awareness about what Council can provide to help support their teaching about local history e.g. publications, presentations by the History Officer etc.

Links between the CHP and other areas of Council (e.g. positive ageing, community health and wellbeing, asset management and city planning etc.) have been strengthened

An increased number of younger members of the community are engaging with cultural history

Celebration of the cultural history of Clarence is both inclusive and representative

Partnership opportunities with other organisations/groups/private industry involved with cultural history have occurred

STRATEGY 3

Improve collection management

Improve the management and preservation of collections and records.

ACTIONS

Higher priority actions

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Encourage and facilitate sharing of skills and knowledge between history groups and societies about recording oral histories and maintaining these recordings. | ONGOING |
| 2. Continue to assist local history groups where required in the conservation, promotion and cataloguing of their collections. | ONGOING |
| 3. Coordinate with local history groups to encourage digital storage of oral histories on Council facilities in order to provide a backup system. | ONGOING |

Lower priority actions

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 4. Acknowledge that collections management is a huge task, especially for volunteer groups. Assist groups to prioritise collection management tasks. | ONGOING |
|---|---------|

HOW SHALL WE MEASURE THE PLAN'S SUCCESS?

History groups and societies are sharing their skills and knowledge about recording oral histories and how to maintain these recordings

A digital database has been created by Council to store backup copies of oral history recordings held by history groups and societies

Groups have been assisted to prioritise collection management tasks

DEFINING CULTURE, HERITAGE AND HISTORY

For the purposes of this Plan, cultural history is taken to mean the community's inheritance from the past, relating to stories and knowledge, whether this is in written or oral form.

CULTURE

There are many definitions of culture. However the common feature is a recognition of the integral relationship of culture to human society – it is evolutionary, it is diverse, it is an essential part of who we are and a way of defining who we are. It is about how the environment impacts on us and how we react to our environment as individuals and as a community.

Culture includes:

- Education
- Religion and beliefs
- Urban and environmental design
- Heritage
- Arts and entertainment
- Sports and leisure
- Tourism
- Politics
- The media (TV, radio, social media)

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cultural heritage is the community's inheritance from the past which provides evidence of human occupation or endeavour. Cultural heritage can exist in many forms including:

- Built heritage
- Cultural landscapes
- Moveable heritage (artefacts)
- Intangible heritage (folklore, ideas, customs and knowledge)
- Rituals and ways of life
- Archaeological sites

HISTORY

History is the stories and knowledge of the past, whether this is in written or oral form. History contributes to the understanding and awareness of places of cultural heritage.

SCOPE

This Plan is intended to value the living history of the City of Clarence.

The main historical themes identified during the consultation for the 2009 Plan were:

- Indigenous relationship with the land and early European activity
- Early settlers, farming and townships
- The development of Clarence
- Times of hardship
- Shipping and transport
- Industry
- Significant events in the history of Clarence e.g. the Tasman Bridge disaster

In developing the 2009 Plan there were also a number of key aspects of cultural heritage that were considered for inclusion. These were:

- Built heritage and urban character
- Cultural landscapes
- Moveable heritage (artefacts)
- Intangible heritage (folklore, ideas, customs and knowledge)
- Rituals and ways of life

These themes and key aspects also apply to the 2018 Plan.

The above themes and aspects of cultural heritage are, to some extent, represented in this Plan. However, the extent of each varies, and has been informed by the results of consultation with the community, Aldermen and Council staff.

As outlined on page 8 it is beyond the practical scope of the 2018 Plan to include approaches to the built or natural heritage of Clarence. Built heritage is the responsibility of Council's City Planning group with advice from Council's heritage architect and informed by the Clarence Interim Planning Scheme 2015 and natural heritage is the responsibility of the Asset Management Group.

However, it is acknowledged that this was a concern that presented itself during community consultation for both plans and this concern is addressed on page 8 of this plan.

CONSULTATION

Consultation for the 2009 Plan

There was thorough community consultation during the preparation of the 2009 Plan including:

- A call for written submissions from a large number of stakeholder groups
- 15 interviews with selected key stakeholder representatives
- Distribution of 130 questionnaires

There was also consultation with Council staff across all areas that the plan was expected to intersect.

Key findings from this consultation process demonstrated that the current management of cultural history in Clarence by Council was regarded as good in some areas, though lacking in others. The strengths were considered to include the interest that CCC is taking in its cultural history and the implementation of interpretation signs. Weaknesses included a lack of strategic direction. Built heritage was of a particular concern, including the threat of inappropriate development. Lack of management and the threat of loss of records, stories and photographs were also of concern.

Consultation for the 2018 Plan

Due to the comprehensive nature of consultation for the 2009 Plan the themes and key findings were not expected to have changed significantly. The focus of the consultation for the review of the plan was to assess how the existing plan had performed and generate ideas and actions to take the plan into the next five years.

The review process for the current Plan is outlined below.

Strategy review of the 2009 Plan

Each action under the three strategies in the 2009 Plan were examined to determine what progress had occurred and whether the action should be included in the 2018 Plan.

CONSULTATION

Consultation with Council staff

A workshop and meeting with CCC staff from work areas that interact with the 2009 Plan were conducted in December 2015. Staff from the following areas attended: *Marketing and Communications, Arts and Events, Asset Management, City Planning and Youth and Community Development.*

Council staff were asked to:

- Identify the area/s of the plan relevant to, or that had crossovers with their work area
- Provide feedback or input on actions that had impacted upon their area
- Offer suggestions on how better to take an integrated approach across work groups
- Report on how the plan impacted on or was impacted upon by other Council plans relevant to their area
- Provide suggestions on possible new programs/strategies for taking the plan into the next five years.

This event generated a range of ideas and revealed some interesting crossovers with different work areas.

Alderman workshop

A workshop was held with Aldermen to seek input and approve the community consultation approach for the review.

Community consultation workshop

A community consultation workshop was held on 5 April 2016 at the Rosny LINC. Letters of invitation were sent out to key stakeholders including: CHAC members, local history group representatives, relevant state government agencies, Aboriginal organisations and interested community members.

The workshop was advertised in The Mercury and Eastern Shore Sun newspapers, through Council newsletters and social media platforms. People who were unable to attend the workshop were invited to send written or verbal comments.

A list of workshop attendees and people who submitted feedback after the workshop can be found in Appendix A.

At the workshop a summary of what the 2009 Plan had achieved was presented and an explanation of why a review was needed was discussed. Each of the actions under the three strategies in the 2009 Plan were assessed to determine what was still relevant, what wasn't complete and what should be carried forward into the new plan. This was followed by a brainstorming session to generate new ideas to take the 2018 Plan into the next five years.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

The key findings from the CCC staff workshop and meeting, the community workshop, plus a small number of written comments from people who were unable to attend the community workshop are listed below:

History room/Visitor information centre

Over the years there have been a number of community representations for a history room/visitor information centre. The community workshop strongly supported addressing this once again in the 2018 Plan. It was acknowledged that a centre would require significant resources to establish and staff. It was also acknowledged that the audiences for local history interpretation and visitor information, whilst having some overlap, are quite different. A need to scope all the different options was identified with particular recognition that the landscape for interpretation has changed significantly since the 2009 plan, and it was widely recognised that there is a much greater emphasis now on digital resources rather than a 'bricks and mortar' approach.

Aboriginal heritage

There is an incredibly rich and significant Aboriginal heritage in Clarence e.g. Risdon Cove, Bedlam Walls, numerous midden sites etc. Interpreting and celebrating this has always been challenging for CCC as there are differing views within the Aboriginal community. There is a strong desire to acknowledge and interpret this better but uncertainty as to how best to approach this.

Working with other agencies/organisations

How can CCC strengthen links and work better with agencies such as Parks and Wildlife Service. (PWS)

Richmond

There is significant potential/need to increase the interpretation of the cultural history of the town plus the Aboriginal and agricultural heritage of the region.

Community Halls and other buildings/assets

Council holds a stock of community halls and other assets some of which have a rich history but are underutilised. (refer Appendix B)

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Design and maintenance of interpretation

Interpretation needs to be responsive to the setting, creative and allow for discovery i.e. think beyond 'signs on sticks'.

Cultural History Advisory Committee

Agreement that this is working well but there is a need to raise awareness about its existence/ role (and what it doesn't do) in the wider community and with Council's elected members.

History Officer

There is strong support for the History Officer role.

Celebrating/acknowledging lesser known aspects of Clarence's cultural history

Clarence's cultural history includes often overlooked areas such as multicultural heritage and the cultural heritage of areas of lower privilege such as some of the broad acre housing developments from the 1950s onwards.

PRINCIPLES

The Plan is based on six principles:

1. Council recognises that the cultural history of Clarence is a living and evolving history, comprising both oral and material sources. It includes the significance of indigenous and non-indigenous (both early and more recent) stories, artefacts, rituals, ways of life and land use.
2. Council recognises that Clarence has a rich and diverse history, encompassing the city as a whole, as well as individual areas, places and stories within it. Council also recognises that there are many pasts, and many different stories of the past. Different perceptions, places, people and experiences all combine to tell us different aspects of our past, and each is valid.
3. Council recognises that appropriate management and conservation is fundamental to preserving the collections and records of the cultural history of Clarence.
4. Council recognises that the cultural history of Clarence provides the community with a sense of identity and place. As such, cultural history needs to be accessible to the community in relevant and meaningful ways, to further their understanding and appreciation.
5. Council will encourage the participation of the community in their cultural history, and will seek to support and promote activities and events which foster this in order to enrich the community and their sense of pride.
6. Council will offer support to local groups and organisations to further the collection, documentation and preservation of the rich and diverse heritage of Clarence. Council will also seek the involvement and consultation of groups in Council's approach to cultural history.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The review of the 2009 Plan and development of the 2018 Plan is consistent with Council's Strategic Plan 2016-2026. It is strongly linked to Council's vision and mission statements, viz:

Vision

Clarence... a vibrant, prosperous, sustainable city

Mission

Responding to the changing needs of the community through a commitment to excellence in leadership, advocacy, innovative governance and service delivery

Goal: Clarence is a city that fosters creativity, innovation and enterprise.

Strategy 5.7: Develop a framework for the identification, preservation and promotion of the unique cultural history of Clarence and further development of cultural tourism.

RELATED POLICY

This Cultural History Plan relates to and intersects with a number other Council plans, studies and policies including:

- Cultural Arts Plan 2012-16
- Cultural Heritage Interpretation Plan 2012
- Economic Development Plan 2016-2021
- Clarence Events Plan 2014-2018
- Clarence Tracks and Trails Strategy 2012
- Clarence Bushland and Coastal Strategy 2011
- Clarence Interim Planning Scheme 2015
- Collections Management Policy 2010
- Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2018
- Reserve Activity Plans
- Positive Ageing Plan 2012-2016
- Public Art Code
- Public Open Space Policy 2013
- Richmond Bridge Conservation Management Plan 2010 (DIER)
- Richmond Cultural Resource Management Plan: Volume 1 – Key Issues and Recommendations (2001), Volume 3 – A thematic History of the Cultural Resources of the Township of Richmond & Statement of Cultural Significance (2000)
- Richmond Townscape Study 2014 (updated 2017)
- Disability Access Plan 2014-2018
- Youth Plan 2008-2012

IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING AND REVIEW

The 2018 Plan identifies a number of strategic actions which aim to protect, promote and celebrate the cultural heritage of Clarence. The 2018 Plan should not be considered an end in itself, but a living and evolving document.

Each action in the 2018 Plan has a clear review timeline and indicators for measuring its success.

It is the role of the Cultural History Advisory Committee to assist Council with the practical implementation and review of the Plan.

Reporting

Community and organisations will be provided updates through the following avenues:

- Annual Report
- Quarterly newsletters
- Other means as appropriate throughout the year i.e. regular updates in council rates newsletter, website etc.

Council:

- Minutes will be distributed quarterly for all committee and working party meetings to all committee members, aldermen, relevant council officers, other relevant council advisory committees, and relevant organisations associated with the plan.
- An annual report shall be submitted to the Council outlining the committee's operations and activities and its forward objectives.
- The activities of the committee will also be highlighted in Council's quarterly reports and Annual Report.
- Any other reports required will be on an as needed basis.

Funding

Activities and projects in support of the 2018 Plan's strategies should be implemented and funded through Council's Annual Plan and capital works program.

In addition, funding and grant opportunities through other organisations, including Arts Tasmania, the Tasmanian Community Fund and various Commonwealth Government grants should be sought where applicable.

Communication on Budget matters

The committee, when forward planning and considering upcoming actions should communicate recommendations to Council on a timely basis prior to annual budget deliberations.

APPENDIX A

Community workshop (5 April 2016) attendees plus list of people who submitted written/verbal comments:

Anna Hodgman	Student & resident
Lois Green	Coal River Valley Historical Society
Maurice Appleyard	Tas Family History Society
Jenni Burdon	Parks & Wildlife Service, Heritage Officer
Allan Smith	Bellerive Historical Society
Anne Marmion	Bellerive Historical Society
Pene Marshall	Cultural History Advisory Committee/South Arm Peninsula History
Philip Sweetingham	Lindisfarne Historical Society
Jim Lamont	Hobart Vintage Machinery Society
Andy Hocken	Hobart Vintage Machinery Society
Malcolm Dillon	Hobart Vintage Machinery Society
John Sargent	Bellerive Historical Society
Margaret Petrovic	Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
Steve Gall	Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
Kaye McPherson	Lia Pootah Community
Alan Townsend	History Officer CCC
Tracey Cockburn	Arts & Cultural Development Coordinator CCC
Gabrielle Balon	Workshop facilitator/interpretation consultant
Written/verbal comments were provided by:	
Allan Smith	Member, Bellerive Historical Society
Margaret Reynolds	Member, Coal River Valley and Richmond Promotion Group
Jane Armstrong	Resident, Dulcot
Margaret Petrovic	On behalf of Steve Gall, Director, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
John Wadsley	Heritage Consultant

APPENDIX B

Key findings – actions which fall outside the area of the CHP

Some of the findings identified in the consultative process would require actions which either fall outside the scope of the CHP or require actions coordinated across multiple business units within Council.

Three such actions are:

- Work with Council's Asset Management Group to undertake an audit of assets (e.g. community halls, public buildings, event spaces) owned by CCC to identify those which are underutilised. Once identified, promote these assets for use by community groups and individuals. Using these assets helps keep their history alive.
- Investigate ways to increase the use of community halls in Clarence. These were once the centres of their communities and they have the potential to fulfil this role again. Using these buildings helps to keep their history, and the history of the surrounding community, alive.
- Develop a corporate policy framework for dealing with cultural heritage issues within the city.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Clarence City Council would like to thank the staff and community members who assisted with the review of the Plan through the consultation process and by providing feedback on the draft plan.



