
**GRIFFITH PIONEER PARK MUSEUM COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 4:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Councillor Laurie Testoni, Councillor Jenny Ellis, Denis Couch (Community Representative), Dolf Murwood (Community Representative), John Nikolic (Community Representative), Jenna Thomas (Zoom) (Community Representative), Neil Dal Nevo (Community Representative), Virginia Tropeano (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Business, Cultural & Financial Services, Matthew Hansen, Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Manager, Jenny O'Donnell, Curator, Fox Darcy, Administration Officer, Tabitha Williams and Minute Secretary, Antoinette Galluzzo

1 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

Absent: Desma Newman (Community Representative), Michael Rohan (Community Representative), Peter Taylor (Community Representative), Robyn Turner (Community Representative).

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and Councillor Laurie Testoni that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 November 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

Members making a pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members making a significant non-pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members making a less than significant non-pecuniary interest declaration may stay in the meeting and participate in the debate and vote on the matter.

There were no less than significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 COMMITTEE MEMBER AGENDA ITEMS - NEIL DAL NEVO

Mr Nikolic entered the meeting at 4:05pm.

Mr Dal Nevo explained the issue of kangaroos at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum. The two main issues are the ongoing maintenance to the facility and the safety for visitors.

Ms O'Donnell noted that there has been an increase in kangaroos at the Park and informed the Committee they are able to jump over the fences and come back in.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Neil Dal Nevo and Denis Couch that staff investigate options and liaise with Committee members in regards to the kangaroo issue at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum.

The Committee also discussed the current Prickly Pear issue at Pioneer Park. In response Ms O'Donnell informed the Committee that she has discussed this issue with Council's Biosecurity Officer and he has provided advice on how to attend to this issue.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Neil Dal Nevo and John Nikolic that the Committee note the issue of the Prickly Pear eradication and an update be reported back to the next Committee Meeting.

Mr Nikolic left the meeting at 4:20pm and returned at 4:22pm.

CL02 POSSIBLE FUTURE ATTRACTION FOR GRIFFITH PIONEER PARK - COMMITTEE MEMBER AGENDA ITEM - VIRGINIA TROPEANO

Ms Tropeano advised the Committee that she had recently attended a light show in another town and suggested that a similar event could be successfully delivered at the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum. Staff advised the concept aligns with the organisation's Strategic Plan and has the potential to enhance community engagement and increase visitation to the Museum.

Mr Hansen left the meeting at 4:32pm and returned at 4:34pm.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Denis Couch and Councillor Jenny Ellis that the Committee support the investigation of night time events at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum, including regional vivid and light show experiences.

CL03 Q2, VISITATION STATISTICS OCT-DEC 2025 (EXCLUDING CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY USE)

Ms Thomas asked how the figures in the report for the last quarter compare with the year before in regards to tourism? This was **TAKEN ON NOTICE** and the response will be circulated via email to Committee members.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Denis Couch and Neil Dal Nevo that the Committee note the report.

CL04 Q2, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE STATISTICS OCT - DEC 2025

The Committee discussed the statistics presented in the report, acknowledging the participants and usage of the park during the second quarter of the 2025/26 reporting year.

Councillor Blumer asked if an Outdoor Play Park at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum is being considered in the Park Plan. This was **TAKEN ON NOTICE**.

Mr Murwood requested the previous statistics be circulated to compare the figures.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Laurie Testoni and Dolf Murwood that the Committee note the report.

CL05 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FREE LOCAL ENTRY TRIAL

Mr Couch expressed his concerns in regards to the lack of advertising for the free entry initiative. In response Ms O'Donnell informed the Committee there has been a media release, radio advertising, billboard advertising, social media posts via Facebook, and information published on the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum website.

Mr Hansen suggested there is further opportunity to continue and enhance the advertising efforts.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and Jenna Thomas that the Committee note the report.

CL06 SPRINGFEST CATERING SERVICE

The Committee discussed the catering service provided during the Springfest visitation period. The Committee acknowledged the significant contribution of the volunteers and commended the initiative as a successful event.

Councillor Blumer suggested the promotion of how to become a Council volunteer during volunteer week.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Jenna Thomas and Virginia Tropeano that the Committee note the report.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The action report was discussed and noted.

Jenna Thomas left the meeting at 5:18pm.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 2030 Strategic Plan for Griffith Pioneer Park Museum

Mr Couch suggested that the Committee start exploring and preparing for the 2030 Strategic Plan. In response Councillor Blumer and Mr Hansen suggested reviewing the current strategic plan.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and John Nikolic that a review of the implementation and progress of the current Griffith Pioneer Park Strategic Plan be carried out on a quarterly basis.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Committee is to be held on Wednesday, 20 May 2026 at 4:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 5:25pm.