
**GRIFFITH PIONEER PARK MUSEUM COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST 2026 COMMENCING AT 3:30 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Councillor Laurie Testoni, Councillor Jenny Ellis, Denis Couch (Community Representative), Jenna Thomas (Community Representative), John Nikolic (Community Representative), Michael Rohan (Community Representative), Neil Dal Nevo (Community Representative) Rina Mercuri (Invited Guest)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

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

Absent: Desma Newman (Community Representative), Dolf Murwood (Community Representative)

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and Councillor Laurie Testoni that apologies be received from Virginia Tropeano (Community Representative), Peter Taylor (Community Representative) and Robyn Turner (Community Representative).

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Jenna Thomas and John Nikolic that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 May 2026, 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 RESIGNATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Denis Couch and Michael Rohan that the Committee accept Peter Taylor's resignation, the Terms of Reference be updated and a letter of thanks be created.

CL02 COMMITTEE MEMBER APPLICATION - RINA MERCURI

RECOMMENDED on the motion of John Nikolic and Denis Couch that the Committee accept Rina Mercuri as a member of the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Committee and the Terms of Reference be updated.

CL03 QTR 2 REVIEW - FREE LOCAL ENTRY TRIAL

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Laurie Testoni and Councillor Jenny Ellis that the Committee note the report.

CL04 Q4, VISITATION STATISTICS - APR - JUN 2026 (EXCLUDING CULTURAL & COMMUNITY USE)

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and Michael Rohan that the report be noted.

Mr Nikolic left the meeting at 3:52pm and returned at 3:53pm.

CL05 Q4, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE VISITATION STATISTICS - APR - JUN 2026

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and Michael Rohan that the Committee note the information.

CL06 2025/26 END OF YEAR MARKETING REPORT & 2026/27 MARKETING OUTLOOK - ADMINISTRATION COORDINATOR

The Committee discussed the marketing and media for Griffith Pioneer Park Museum, noting that staff are developing a marketing strategy, including target demographics and budget considerations.

Ms Thomas suggested installing signage to promote the Museum's opening hours and upcoming events, ensuring it is clearly visible to passing traffic. Ms O'Donnell took this on Notice and will look into it.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Shari Blumer and Jenna Thomas that the Committee note the Museum's 2025/26 marketing results and the expanded marketing activity planned for 2026/27.

CL07 STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Laurie Testoni and John Nikolic that the information be received.

CL08 PUBLIC PROGRAM - TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC - JULY 2026

The Committee discussed the first Teddy Bears Picnic, noting that it was a successful event and has the ability to grow.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Neil Dal Nevo and Jenna Thomas that the Committee note the outcomes of the 2026 Teddy Bear Picnic evaluation.

CL09 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT SCOPE

Fox Darcy informed the Committee that the scope is currently being reviewed to determine the most appropriate approach moving forward.

Positive progress has been made through engagement with Western Riverina Arts (WRA), which has agreed to support the project but no interviews have been completed at this stage. It was also noted that Council already holds a significant number of oral histories relating to European families and community members.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and Councillor Laurie Testoni that the Committee note the report.

CL10 HISTORICAL OPINION - THOMAS MICHAEL MACNAMARA AND 'CLANCY OF THE OVERFLOW'

The Committee discussed the reports presented relating to Thomas Michael MacNamara and Clancy of the Overflow, as the Griffith Business Chamber had sent a letter requesting investigation and historical opinion.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Denis Couch and Councillor Jenny Ellis that the Committee:

- (a) Note and endorse the report.

(b) Write to the Griffith Business Chambers providing them with the report.

CL11 FREE LOCAL ENTRY TRIAL SURVEY RESULTS - PRESENTATION

Mr Hansen left the meeting at 4:27pm and returned at 4:29pm.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the results of the free local entry trial 6-month survey, analysing the results.

Ms Thomas left the meeting at 4:33pm and returned at 4:34pm.

It was suggested that at the 12-month survey, a question may be: If entry to the park wasn't free, what would you pay for (what would you like to see)?

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Jenna Thomas and Denis Couch that the free local entry trial be extended until a report on the outcomes of the 12-month review is presented to the Committee and considered by Council for determination.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The Committee noted the Outstanding Action report.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Neil Dal Nevo Resignation

Mr Dal Nevo informed the Committee that he will be resigning from the Committee. Formal resignation to be presented at the next meeting.

7.2 Prickly Pear Eradication

Mr Hansen informed the Committee that a report will be presented at the 11 August 2026 Council meeting regarding the Prickly Pear eradication at the Museum.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Committee is to be held on Wednesday, 18 November 2026 at 4:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 4:55pm.