



Australian Government



Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area Advisory Committee Communique, February 2017

The Advisory Committee of the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA) met for two days on Island this week. The Programme included inspection of the site, discussions with the KAVHA Works Team, the Norfolk Island Museum Trust and the Regional Council.

The KAVHA Advisory Committee discussed at length the information gathered during recent community and stakeholder consultations regarding the Site Master Plan and the Heritage Master Plan for this important site. The Committee considered this against the five strategic priorities of the KAVHA action plan:

1. **Heritage Conservation** – *“protect and conserve the integrity and authenticity of KAVHA’s heritage values”*
2. **Life in the Community** – *“Respect local traditions and encourage positive community engagement in the management of KAVHA”*
3. **Sustainable Tourism** – *“Provide positive and engaging visitor experiences which communicate heritage values, support local traditions and provide benefits to local people”*
4. **Education and Information** – *“Strengthen appreciation and respect of KAVHA’s heritage by presenting a full range of stories and transmitting heritage values to future generations”*
5. **Governance and Capacity** – *“Support arrangements to foster collaboration, shared information, accountability and transparency”*

The KAVHA Advisory Committee is determined governance arrangements on the site need greater clarity and further on site resourcing to achieve results as outlined by the five elements of the action plan. This resourcing includes additional financial, trade and technical specialists.

Details surrounding short, medium and long term goals for KAVHA were discussed and further advice to government will be better informed by these additional resources. New signage and a new website will soon be evident on and off the Island and will assist with advertising KAVHA as a vital part of the Norfolk Island tourism sector. We want KAVHA to provide the lead many have been waiting for since the World Heritage Listing.

Of importance to the Advisory Committee is resourcing best practice use of heritage spaces by the community and we are seeking practical guidance on enhancing core infrastructure support (eg. power, water, Wi-Fi) for the community and visitors across the site. The Advisory Committee wants work to continue on an interpretation plan for the site to assist in the framing of the agreed narrative around KAVHA. This narrative must recognize the multiple layers of the site from the early Polynesian visitors and settlement through to the important 1788-1814 first fleet settlement, the iconic convict penal settlement era from 1824-1855, the important story of the Pitcairner settlement after 1856 and the development of the current ‘living, working and playing’ uses of the site.

An interpretation plan is an important part of the development of a long awaited accreditation standard for those presenting the site to visitors. Visitors will be the financial life blood of KAVHA. Commercial tourism services and new commercial opportunities on the site need to provide a financial return to KAVHA from their onsite profit taking activities to assist in the resourcing of ongoing KAVHA site improvements.

Also seen as important is the development of a traffic and pedestrian management plan for the site, the creation of pedestrian safe precincts and the repair of the important riparian corridor and water quality through Arthur's Vale.

The Advisory Committee will meet on Norfolk Island again in August as will the Australian Convict Sites Steering Committee.

The Hon Gary Hardgrave
Chair KAVHA Advisory Committee
24 February 2017

Part of



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Australian Convict Sites
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2010