Minutes of the Tourist Attraction Signposting Assessment Committee
Western Region meeting

Wednesday 17 February 2016 in Committee Room 1, Cowra Shire Council
116 Kendal Street, Cowra

Members
David Douglas Regional Coordinator TASAC and Drive, Destination NSW
Phil Oliver Guidance and Delineation Manager, Roads & Maritime Services (RMS)
Maria Zannetides TASAC Secretariat

Also present
Sharon Grierson RMS Western Region
Marty Cassell RMS Western Region
Donna Wilson Technical Officer, Roads, Cowra Council
Lawrence Ryan Grants and Executive Projects Officer, Cowra Council and Lachlan Valley Railway Society
Andrew Grinter Information Officer, Cowra Tourism
Bill Twohill Director of Engineering, Weddin Shire Council
Auburn Carr Economic Development Officer, Weddin Shire Council
David Newberry Tourism Manager, Young Shire Council

Apologies
Felicity Baines Tourism Manager, Bathurst Regional Council
Sean Haylan Tourism Manager, Yass Valley Council

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DELEGATIONS / PRESENTATIONS & REGIONAL SIGNPOSTING ISSUES

1.1 Donna Wilson, Cowra signposting issues

Donna submitted two signposting applications for attractions that are operated by Cowra Council and these are discussed below. The following matters were also discussed:

a. Australia’s World Peace Bell

Australia’s World Peace Bell, which is installed in the Civic Square adjacent to Cowra Council’s offices in Darling Street, Cowra between Kendal Street (Mid Western Highway) and Bartlett Avenue. The bell is made of coins provided by member countries of the United Nations, which were melted down and cast into the bell. Peace bells are usually erected in capital cities. However, the Australian World Peace Bell was awarded to Cowra in 1992 for its long standing contribution to world peace and international understanding. An audio presentation explains the significance of the bell and its association with Cowra.

While tourist signposting for the Bell could be considered, there is limited parking in Darling Street adjacent to the site of the bell and consideration would need to be given to how to direct motorists to appropriate parking locations. RMS commented that it might also be difficult to locate tourist signs because of congestion at appropriate intersections.
b.  **POW Theatre and Hologram**

Once the current review of existing tourist signs in Cowra has been completed, Council is welcome to submit a signposting application for an attraction known as the POW Theatre and Hologram, which is located at the Cowra Visitor Information Centre. The theatre is inside a small tin hut that is a replica of the Nissan huts found at the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp during World War II. The theatre screens a nine minute hologram that tells the story of the Cowra Breakout from a local perspective and using original artefacts from the camp.

There was some discussion about whether “POW Theatre and Hologram” was the most effective wording for text on any tourist signage and Council was asked to further consider this aspect before submitting an application.

c.  **Process for signage removal**

Donna asked about the process for removing redundant tourist signs from State roads. Marty explained that once TASAC determines that tourist signage is no longer appropriate, for example in the case of destinations that are no longer operating, RMS arranges for its contactor (which may be the local Council) to remove the signage.

### 1.2 Weddin Shire signposting issues

RMS noted a number of concerns regarding non-standard white on green destination signage in Grenfell and it was agreed that RMS will work with Weddin Council to address the matter of non-standard destination signs.

TASAC has also been made aware of the presence a number of white on brown tourist signs on State roads in Grenfell (see item 1.4 below for more details) for attractions that are not currently authorised to have such signage and/or where the signs are of a non-standard design.

It was agreed that Auburn would review Grenfell tourist signs on State roads and provide a list to Maria with information for each signposted destination to indicate the location and legend on each sign, the name and contact details of the operator and opening hours and days. This would enable TASAC to review the material and to write to Weddin Council about the tourist signposting process and request that tourist signposting applications be submitted to TASAC to allow the future of the signs to be determined.

In general terms, tourist signposting on State roads is available for defined categories of tourist attractions that are set out in the NSW Tourism Signposting Manual. Eligible attractions must be open for a minimum of five days per week including both weekend days for six hours per day during 11 months of the year. They must also offer a tourism experience that is supported by written interpretive information at the site and be promoted by hardcopy or digital promotional material.

**Action:** Secretariat to write to Council about existing tourist signs in Grenfell as above.

### 1.3 Olympic Highway Signage

Further to discussions at the 16 July 2014 TASAC meeting about Young Council’s concerns regarding the adequacy of directional signage to Young from Canberra and Yass, David
Newberry asked if RMS planned to review directional signage on the Olympic Highway. Phil indicated that he would make some inquiries and respond to David.

1.4 Members’ report on site inspections

David and Phil conducted site inspections the day prior to the meeting as follows:

i. **Existing tourist signage in Grenfell**

- O’Brien’s Lookout
- Historic Mines
- Endemic Garden
- Iris Garden
- Historic Main Street
- Historic Railway Station
- Weddin Mountains National Park.

Please refer to item 1.2 for the discussion on these signs.

ii. **Sofala**: The town is one of the oldest surviving gold rush towns. However, interpretive information that presented and interpreted the town’s heritage to visitors was not apparent. Specifically, buildings did not have plaques to interpret their history and David and Phil were advised at Café Sofala / Tourist Information Centre that a self-guided tour leaflet had run out.

A copy of a leaflet titled “Sofala Historical Walking Tour”, which guides visitors through 18 stops in the town was subsequently collected from the Bathurst Visitor Information Centre. Unfortunately, the information in the leaflet for a number of the stops is brief and general in nature without sufficient detail about their heritage attributes. A leaflet titled “Sofala Australia’s Oldest Surviving Gold Town” was also collected from the visitor information centre. The leaflet presents a self-drive tour along the Turon River, where gold mining was conducted and its focus is the district around Sofala rather than the town itself.

It is understood that Felicity Baines, Tourism Manager at Bathurst Regional Council, is preparing a tourist signposting application for Sofala in the **Historic Towns and Villages** category. To be eligible for tourist signposting in this category it is necessary to that a town demonstrates:

- At least one of a number of historical themes developed by the Heritage Branch of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

- A well-developed interpretive system in place relating to its historical theme(s). The system should use a combination of information sources such as interpretive signposting, information bays, guided or self-guided heritage walks, information panels at key locations, museums etc. For example a sample model would include a central information point (map, introduction to the town and overview about its heritage) and interpretive panels at each significant location in the town.
- A sense of history to the visitor through the architecture and/or physical evidence that reflects the heritage nature of the town. A town can support this sense of place by ensuring that a consistent style of interpretive information is presented throughout the town.

- A current brochure (hard copy and/or digital downloadable format) that indicates on a legible map the historic sites and places to visit, with details of opening hours and contact details.

Based on the inspection and the leaflets, it would appear unlikely that Sofala could currently demonstrate that it meets the eligibility requirements and considerable development will be necessary for the town to acquire appropriate interpretive information, sense of place and promotional material to support a signposting application.

**Action:** David to advise Felicity of the above concerns.

iii. **Railway Heritage Centre:** Following the meeting David, Maria and Donna undertook a tour of the Centre, which was conducted by Lawrance Ryan and Eddie Guilfoyle.

iv. **Prisoner of War Campsite and War Cemeteries:** Maria visited both sites prior to the meeting.

### 2. NEW TOURIST SIGNPOSTING APPLICATIONS

#### 2.1 Lachlan Valley Railway Heritage Centre, Cowra

Dilapidated signage for “Steam Museum” was identified in Cowra Council’s 2015 signage audit and an application has been lodged to review the eligibility of the Lachlan Valley Railway Heritage Centre for tourist signage.

The Centre is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm throughout the year. It is managed by the Lachlan Valley Railway Society Co-Operative Ltd and is based at the 1923 built Cowra Locomotive Depot and Roundhouse. The roundhouse and adjacent carriage shed house the Society’s collection of steam and diesel locomotives and approximately 40 items of rolling stock, dating from the 1870s to 1960s. There is also a War Memorial fountain at the site, which honours railway workers who gave their lives during World War I and II. The memorial was extensively renovated and an accompanying interpretive display unveiled on Anzac Day 2015.

Members of the Society carry out work to keep locomotives and other items of rolling stock in running order and to refurbish the depot’s buildings and gardens. There is a plan to open a short section of a former rail line so that heritage steam trains can be run in the area.

Interpretive information includes laminated sheets for large display items (locomotives, steam crane, accident crane etc.) and displays with captions of smaller items such as photographs and other railway memorabilia. Guided tours are provided at 11 am and 2 pm and self-guided tours are available on demand. The brochure for self-guided tours also serves as a general brochure for the Centre. It is currently being revised and a new version will be launched at an open day on 21 May 2016.
While the exhibits of large items such as locomotives and carriages remain constant, there are changing displays of historical or contemporary photographs as well as smaller exhibits that change and evolve. As stored items such as carriages are restored, they are placed on display. Recent funding from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage will allow a major renovation of the former staff amenities block to be carried out to develop it into a display space for memorabilia.

TASAC members made the following comments:

i. **Brochures**: It is desirable to have a separate brochure for general promotional purposes and another for self-guided tours and Lawrance advised that work was progressing to achieve this. General promotional brochures should give a street address, phone, fax, and email and website contact details and opening hours / days and general information about the collection for visitors. A locality map is also helpful. Self-guided tour brochures can provide more detailed information about the collection to guide visitors through the exhibits.

ii. **Entry signage**: The entry sign simply says “LVR Lachlan Valley Railway Heritage Centre Open 9 -5” without the word daily and it does not give contact details e.g. a phone number or website address.

iii. **Collection policy or mission statement**: The museum does not have a collection policy or mission statement. However, work on this has commenced and the Society has sought advice from David Scobie, Council’s Heritage Advisor, to prepare the documents.

iv. **Website**: As well as an improved general promotional brochure and the planned new self-guided tour brochure, the Centre would benefit from improvements to its website. Currently the website focusses on heritage steam train rides in Sydney, Cootamundra and the Hunter Valley. The rides use rolling stock owned by the Society but which is based at locations other than Cowra. More emphasis should be given to the existence of the Centre, its location, opening hours/days and the experience available for visitors. This could be done by developing a new website for the Centre or by introducing a separate, prominently located section for it on the current website.

v. **Text on tourist signposting**: It was agreed that the legend on any tourist signposting would be for “Railway Heritage Centre”.

A site inspection report is not necessary in view of David and Maria's visit to the Centre after the meeting.

Decision: The Railway Heritage Centre is potentially eligible for tourist signposting in the Museums category subject to the views of Museums and Galleries NSW (MGNSW). The applicant is to provide copies of a new general brochure and self-guided tour brochure for TASAC’s records as soon as they are available.

Action: Secretariat to advise the applicant as above and finalise the application if appropriate after MGNSW’s comments are received.
2.2 Cowra Prisoner of War Campsite

Cowra Council’s signage audit found that the Prisoner of War Campsite at Sakura Place, Cowra has existing unserviceable signage that needs to be replaced. The attraction is operated by Cowra Council and is open daily during all hours. It covers about six hectares of mostly open land, which is about a quarter of the site area of a former World War II prisoner of war camp at the location.

The former camp, one of 28 built in Australia, housed prisoners and internees from many countries, and in particular, Japan, Italy, China, Korea, Indonesia and Albania. There were four separate compounds each designed to hold 1,000 prisoners. It included stores, kitchens, mess huts, ablation blocks, canteens, theatre, recreation huts, medical and dental centres, playing fields and vegetable and formal gardens.

By August 1944, 1,104 Japanese prisoners of war and civilian internees were confined in the camp, which had become significantly overcrowded. On 5 August 1944, 334 Japanese prisoners escaped. Of these 107 were wounded and 231 were killed. Four Australian soldiers were killed and four others wounded during the incident, which became known as the Cowra Breakout and four others were wounded. The site is the location of the only land engagement on the Australian mainland during WW II. After the breakout, most remaining Japanese prisoners were transferred to Victoria and the camp was officially closed at the end of February 1947.

During the breakout most buildings in the Japanese compound were burnt to the ground and remaining buildings and structures were relocated or sold after the camp closed in 1947. None of the original fences, paths or structures remain to any appreciable level above the ground, although remnants of floor slabs, footings and drainage lines have been identified using aerial photographs. A single, ruinous but above ground structure is located at the north western end which is constructed of a variety of material including stone, rubble, salvaged bricks, and concrete blocks.

The Cowra POW Campsite is listed on the State Heritage Register and in Cowra LEP 2012 (“Stone building – ruin and Cowra POW camp site”) as an item of State Heritage significance.

An interpretive area is located on high ground at the north western edge of the campsite. This includes:

a. A replica guard tower at the arrival area along with an audio commentary on a continuous loop.

b. Two monuments.

c. Two large free-standing overview interpretive panels, one titled “War” and the other “Peace”. “War” covers the general events of WW II and the establishment and development of the Cowra Camp up to the end of the war. “Peace” covers the years following the war’s end, the repatriation of prisoners, developing relationships between the peoples of Cowra and Japan and the establishment of the Cowra Peace Precinct.

d. A large covered open-sided viewing area with additional interpretive panels about the main nationalities associated with the site, i.e. Australian, Italian, Japanese and Indonesian. For example, a panel titled “The Italians” contains information about Italian prisoners at the camp, including work they undertook at local farms and bonds established with Cowra families.

e. Seating and a table
Beyond the interpretive area at the entry, a further 16 interpretive panels are located at various points throughout the site, which can be accessed by walking or cycling.

The following concerns were discussed:

i. **Toilet facilities**: There are no toilet facilities at present but Council has secured grant funding for this purpose and facilities are planned to be constructed later this year.

ii. **Promotional brochure**: The application form indicates that the attraction does not have a promotional brochure. There is a leaflet that gives information about the campsite, the War Cemeteries and the POW Theatre. However, it does not give basic information such as the campsite’s address, opening hours / days, and contact details for further inquiries and there is no locality map. To be eligible for tourist signposting attractions must have a hard copy and / or digital downloadable brochure, which gives the street address, opening hours / days, and contact details (phone number and website address) for further information. It is also desirable if brochures include a map showing the location of an attraction and a brief description of the visitor experience. In this case it would also be useful for a brochure to indicate that there is no entry free to the campsite.

iii. **Text on tourist signage**: If space permits, the appropriate name for any tourist signposting would be “Prisoner of War Campsite”.

Decision: The Prisoner of War Campsite is potentially eligible for tourist signposting in the Historic Properties and Sites category subject to the provision of additional information to address the issues identified at “i” and “ii” above. The Heritage Branch of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage will also be consulted on the application.

Action: Secretariat to request additional information as outlined above and finalise the application if appropriate after receipt of the information from the applicant and the views of the Heritage Branch.

### 2.3 Cowra War Cemeteries

Cowra Council’s signage audit found that two Cowra War Cemeteries off Doncaster Drive Cowra have existing unserviceable signage that needs to be replaced. The cemeteries, which are managed by Cowra Council and are open daily during all hours, are located adjacent to the general Cowra cemetery on Doncaster Drive at the northern end of the township.

One cemetery contains the graves of Japanese military personnel who died at the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp either before, during or after the Cowra Breakout as well as those who died during the Battles of Darwin and Borneo. Japanese civilians who died while interned at the Cowra camp or elsewhere in Australia are also buried there. The cemetery is on land ceded to Japan in 1963 and is the only Japanese War Cemetery outside Japan.

The Australian War Cemetery adjoins the Japanese War Cemetery and contains the graves of Australian military personnel who died while serving at a military camp in Cowra during World War II due to illness, accident or during the Cowra Breakout. Interpretive panels with information about the War Cemeteries are located in front of a brick fence at the entry to the Japanese War Cemetery, on a bronze plaque at the Australian War Cemetery and on a panel located inside the entry to the general Cowra Cemetery.
The following issues were discussed:

i. **Heritage protection**: The cemeteries are not currently listed on heritage registers. However, Council is in the process of listing several additional heritage sites, including the cemeteries, on State and national heritage registers and this will subsequently be reflected in the Cowra LEP.

ii. **Promotional brochure**: The War Cemeteries are included in a general leaflet that gives information about them, the campsite and the POW Theatre but it does not give all necessary information such as a street addresses. To be eligible for tourist signposting attractions must have a hard copy and/or digital downloadable brochure, which gives the street address, opening hours / days, and contact details (phone number and website address) for further information. It is also desirable if brochures include a map showing the location of an attraction and a brief description of the visitor experience.

iii. **Public toilets**: Facilities are available at the adjacent general Cowra Cemetery and it would be desirable for information to this effect to be placed on small signs at the Australian and Japanese War Cemeteries.

**Decision**: The War Cemeteries are potentially eligible for tourist signposting in the *Historic Properties and Sites* category subject to the provision of additional information to address the issues identified at “ii” and “iii” above. The Heritage Branch of the Office of Environment and Heritage will be consulted on the application.

**Action**: Secretariat to request additional information as outlined above and finalise the application if appropriate after receipt of information from the applicant and views of the Heritage Branch.

### 2.4 Kalari Wines, Cowra

Cowra Council’s 2015 signage audit identified dilapidated signs for Kalari Wines on State roads and the application was submitted at TASAC’s request to determine the future of the existing signage, which is located at the corners of Carro Park Road and Darbys Falls Road; Fitzroy Street and Olympic Highway (A41); and Brougham and Fitzroy Streets, all in Cowra.

Kalari Wines is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm and on Monday by appointment. It is understood that the hours were recently amended to meet TASAC guidelines. The cellar door is located adjacent to a vineyard on the banks of the Lachlan River, which produces grapes for Shiraz, Verdelho and Chardonnay style wines.

The following concerns were noted:

i. **Opening hours / days**: The brochure states that the business is open seven days, which is not correct in that visitors need to make appointments to visit on Monday. Also, the brochure does not give the opening hours for Tuesday to Sunday and it requests visitors to phone ahead on weekdays, which is not consistent with the provisions of the Tourist Signposting Manual. Additionally the business’ website includes the following information, which needs to be revised:

   *We are open 10.00am to 5.00pm 7 days a week, every weekend and most days during the week.*

   *Phone ahead 0414 630 390 to confirm open on weekdays.*
ii. **Photos of entry signage**: Photos of an entry sign showing the opening hours / days and the car parking area were not provided. Images of the interior of the cellar door would also be appreciated.

iii. **Interpretive information**: While the winery has detailed tasting notes that are sufficient to meet the eligibility requirements relating to interpretive information, it would be desirable for the operator to develop a greater variety of written interpretive information to enhance the visitor experience, e.g. books and journals, posters about grapes or winemaking, an album showing the vineyard at different times of the year etc.

iv. **Signage locations**: The operator has requested signage at five locations on the Mid Western and Olympic Highways and Lachlan Valley Way, which would be beyond what is allowable under the Manual’s provisions. The operator will be advised that RMS will determine appropriate signage designs and locations once eligibility is established.

**Decision:** To complete TASAC’s assessment of the application, more information is required to resolve the concerns at “i” to “ii” above.

**Action:** Secretariat to request additional information as above.

2.5 **Eden Road Wines, Murrumbateman**

Eden Road Wines, which has a winery on site, is south of the village of Murrumbateman and north west of Canberra.

The following issues were discussed:

i. **Opening hours / days**: The winery is open Wednesday to Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. It is understood that the hours have been modified recently to meet TASAC guidelines. A new flyer style brochure showing these hours is being printed. Unfortunately, the flyer does not include a locality map or descriptive information about the cellar door to encourage visitation. While art work for the revised flyer was provided, it is not known when printed flyers will be available.

ii. **Interpretive information**: A copy of a tasting list was provided but this only gives the wine name, vintage year and price without any tasting notes. Interpretive information appears to rely on uncaptioned displays e.g. wine barrels, three large wall mounted prints showing stages in the wine making process and three soil samples, which indicate the origins of the soils but no other information. These are used by staff to explain aspects of grape growing and wine making to visitors but, without verbal elaboration, they provide little in the way of explanatory information for visitors. TASAC’s requirements regarding the provision of written information at destinations are intended to allow visitors to learn about the attraction they are visiting without needing to rely on explanations by operators or their staff. The interpretive information currently available at the cellar door does not appear to satisfy this requirement.

iii. Images of the interior and exterior of the cellar door, winery and car parking area would be appreciated along with information about the size and composition of the vineyard.
Decision: To complete TASAC’s assessment of the application, more information is required to address the concerns at “i” to “iii” above.

Action: Secretariat to request additional information as above

2.6 Toorale National Park, near Cobar

An application has been lodged requesting tourist signposting for Toorale National Park. The park, which is 70 km south west of Bourke, covers 91,000 ha of land with frontages to the Darling and Warrego Rivers. The area has great significance to Aboriginal people and the park comprises a series of individual pastoral (sheep) runs, which were established in the 1850s along the two rivers and which, by the late 1800s, had become one of the largest pastoral properties in the country.

The park’s main access is from Bourke travelling north west along the Bourke Hungerford Road, then turning towards Louth and accessing the park via the unsealed Toorale Road. A secondary access is from the village of Louth, crossing the bridge over the Darling River and travelling 30 km on Toorale Road towards Bourke.

The park is open daily during all hours and visitor facilities include:

i. **Mount Talowla Lookout and Walk:** Mount Talowla provides sweeping views from Dunlop Range in the south to Mount Gunderbooka in the east and is an important spot for birdwatching. Views from Mount Talowla are interpreted through the placement of panels on the ground. There are toilets and parking for 20 cars.

ii. **Darling River Drive:** The drive allows visitors to explore the Darling River and there are locations for picnics (12 tables) and a river campsite. Interpretation is erected at strategic points along the drive and images of two panels were provided. Fish traps and paddle steamers which were important to life along the river are also interpreted through sculptures with labels. NPWS has indicated that toilet facilities for the campsite are planned for June 2016.

iii. **Toorale Homestead:** NPWS has advised that a significant interpretive facility along with a car park and toilet will be opened at the Toorale Homestead in March 2016.

The primary landscape features of Toorale National Park include its extensive system of wetlands, which support a rich variety of plants, animals and birdlife in an otherwise arid environment. There are also red sand hills of various sizes and shapes that developed over many years from natural deposition influenced by large floods and strong winds and these provide refuge for many native animals during flood events, as well as providing protection for the camp grounds of the Aborigines that lived in the area.

The park is adjacent to Toorale State Conservation Area and near Gundabooka National Park. Mount Talowla is within the Conservation Area whereas the Toorale Homestead and Darling River camp appear to be in the National Park itself. The area is in a remote part of the State with patchy mobile reception that only works with Telstra services.

It was noted that access to the park is via long lengths of unsealed roads that are suitable for 2WD vehicles in dry conditions only. In wet periods a closure sign is placed on the NPWS road.
into the park, and a closure is placed on the alerts section across its website. The Bourke NPWS office lets the visitor centres and tourism business data base know that the park is closed, and renotifies them when the park is reopened. The NPWS office in Bourke also has a road open / closed board outside their office, which is accessible 24/7. The public access roads are managed by Bourke Shire and closures are noted on their website with closed signs erected by Council staff at the exits from Bourke. Bourke Shire circulates those updates to their own visitor and business network.

Marty visited the park on 10 February 2016 and considered that it would be feasible to provide tourist signposting subject to the provision of way finding signage at all intersections leading to the park and arrangements made to place “Park Closed” signs below signage at the Mitchell Highway Hungerford Road intersection when Toorale Road is not trafficable.

Decision: Toorale National Park is eligible for tourist signposting in the National Parks, State Conservation Areas, State Forests and Major Water Storage Areas category.

Action: Secretariat to advise the applicant as above.

2.7 Bungonia National Park, near Goulburn

An application has been lodged requesting tourist signposting for Bungonia National Park. Currently, the destination has existing signage in the name of Bungonia State Conservation Area and the purpose of the application is to secure new signage to reflect the area’s status as a National Park since May 2010.

Information provided by RMS Southern region suggests that there may be some 20 existing signs for the Bungonia State Conservation Area, including some near Goulburn and some on the Hume Motorway. It would appear that the former Conservation Area has more signage than allowable under the provisions of the Tourist Signposting Manual but as TASAC has not considered a signposting application for the former SCA in more than five years, any previous eligibility for the signage has lapsed.

The park is near the village of Bungonia, south of Marulan, 20 km south east of Goulburn, 62 km from Bundanoon, 77 km from Bowral and 140 km from Canberra. NPWS has advised that the park is accessed from the Hume Motorway, which is north of the park.

The park attracts visitors for its dramatic gorge landscapes, which provide caving and canoeing opportunities and is well known for the popular Bungonia Slot Canyon walk and other walks along the Shoalhaven River. It covers a strip of the Southern Tablelands from the limestone landscape of Bungonia Creek southwards along the escarpment west of the Shoalhaven River. Parts of the park were originally protected as a water reserve (1872) and for the preservation of caves (1902). However, many of the Bungonia Caves are steep and precipitous and can only be explored by well-equipped and experienced cavers.

Visitor facilities / pursuits include:

i. **Several bushwalking tracks** (Green, Red, Yellow, White and Orange tracks)

ii. **A number of lookout**s around the escarpment edge. The three main lookouts can be accessed via short paved pathways from the main car parks.
iii. **David Reid, Adams and De Kerrileau Day Use Areas**, which offer picnic tables, BBQ shelters and toilets and are the key track heads for many of the walks around the park.

iv. **Bungonia Campground**, which has flush toilets, picnic tables, BBQ areas, drinking water, a communal kitchen and hot showers. The campground also gives access to the Green Track, which takes walkers through to Adams Lookout and the Lookdown Lookout. Bookings are required for the campground, which is located within 200 m of the junction of Bungonia Creek and the Shoalhaven River.

v. **Activities** such as rock climbing, canyoning, canoeing and abseiling.

The park is open daily during all hours and near the entrance there is an office / visitor centre, which is open on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and weekends from 9 am to 4 pm. All day use areas have interpretive shelters and interpretive information is also located at the main car park and office veranda, where brochures are available 24 x 7. An image was provided of a large interpretive panel that describes the walking tracks and includes a map of the “Bungonia State Conservation Area”. Art work was provided for other interpretive panels at the Marulan South limestone mine and works, which borders the northern edge of the park and Bungonia lookdown (two panels).

As bookings are required for Bungonia Campground, it would therefore not be appropriate to include a tent symbol on any signage for the park. Appropriate symbols would include those for walking tracks, picnic tables, lookouts, toilets and drinking water.

It would be desirable for NPWS to change the title on the large interpretive panel which currently refers to “Bungonia State Conservation Area” instead of the current name of the facility, i.e. Bungonia National Park.

**Decision:** Bungonia National Park is eligible for tourist signposting in the *National Parks, State Conservation Areas, State Forests and Major Water Storage Areas* category.

**Action:** Secretariat to advise the applicant as above.

### 2.8 Historic Gundagai

Gundagai Council has lodged an application seeking tourist signposting for the town of Gundagai. An earlier application in 2008 lapsed because the LGA did not, at that time, have any heritage protection measures in its local environmental plan. Such measures are included in the current Gundagai LEP 2011.

The applicant has identified the following historical themes as being relevant to the town of Gundagai:

- **Exploration**: Hume and Hovell passed through Gundagai in 1824 during their journey to Port Phillip. In 1829 Sturt crossed the Murrumbidgee River at the spot where Gundagai now stands. In 1928 the Dog on the Tuckerbox Monument to Pioneers was opened.

- **Transport**: Gundagai had been a historic crossing and meeting place for thousands of years for Aboriginal people. It also became the original crossing place on the Murrumbidgee River for travellers on the old Hume Highway from Sydney to Melbourne.
and the Victorian goldfields and the town grew around the crossing place. In 1849 a
public ferry service commenced and the Prince Alfred Bridge opened in 1867. In 1903 a
railway viaduct opened and 1977 saw the opening of the Sheehan Bridge. While the
Hume Highway now bypasses Gundagai, the town is relatively close to the new highway
alignment and Council still considers it to be a highway resting place and a river crossing
place.

An extract from Gundagai LEP 2011 shows that statutory provisions are in place to protect
the town’s heritage. The LEP lists 14 heritage items, including one of State significance (the
Gundagai Railway Bridge over Murrumbidgee River) most of which appear to be public
buildings or government owned infrastructure items. There are also two heritage conservation
areas, i.e. the Gundagai Railway Station and Yard and the Old Gundagai Town Site. Council
has provided 5 letters from community groups and one 18-signature petition in support of the
application.

Copies of the following promotional materials were provided:

a. The Explore Gundagai’s Built Heritage guide - a double sided, colour A3 folded sheet, which
describes the 27 stop Main Street walking tour and the 15 stop Heritage Houses Walk / Drive. The
brochure includes brief descriptions of each item, a map showing the routes of each tour and photos
of a few stops on the Main Street Walking tour.

b. The Gundagai Visitor Guide – 13 page A5 colour booklet which includes many heritage items.

c. Audio tour of the Old Gundagai Gaol.

d. Four page brochure and interpretive panel for Rusconi’s Marble Masterpiece.

e. A brochure on the bushranger Captain Moonlite.

f. Interpretive panels for five main street buildings, the Rail Bridge over the Murrumbidgee River and at
the Dog on the Tuckerbox Memorial.

The following matters were noted:

i. While signage has been requested for “Gundagai Historic River Crossing Town” text on
any tourist signposting is a matter for RMS to determine. The most commonly used
wording would be “Historic Gundagai”.

ii. Of the 27 items on the Main Street Walking Tour, only seven are protected by the LEP’s
heritage measures and none of the 15 items on the Heritage Houses Walk / Drive
appear to have heritage protection.

iii. The Visitor Guide’s section regarding the Dog on the Tucker Box should be improved
during the next update to the guide (expected in winter/spring 2017) to better describe
the item (it is referred to as a Memorial in the LEP heritage schedule) and better explain
its heritage significance.

iv. While individual heritage items in Gundagai have their own listings on visitnsw, there
does not appear to be a separate listing for “Historic Gundagai”. Such a listing would
enhance the coherency and ease of access to information for visitors who are interested
in the town’s heritage.
Decision: Historic Gundagai is potentially eligible for tourist signposting in the *Historic Towns and Villages* category subject to the views of the Heritage Branch in the Office of Environment and Heritage.

Action: Secretariat to advise the applicant as above and finalise the application if appropriate after the views of the Heritage Branch have been received.

3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 20 JANUARY 2016**

The minutes of TASAC’s meeting of Wednesday 20 January 2016 in Parramatta were confirmed. The Committee members and Secretariat advised that they had completed all the actions attributed to them from the meeting.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

4.1 **Darbys Falls Observatory, Cowra**

Cowra Council’s signage audit showed that existing tourist signs for Darbys Falls Observatory were unserviceable. The operator has been contacted and asked to submit a signposting application by 2 March 2016.

4.2 **Port Stephens Winery and Wonganella Wines**

RMS Hunter advised that there was existing tourist signage for Port Stephens Winery and Wonganella Wines on Nelson Bay Road (a State road). TASAC has not considered the eligibility of either business in the last five years so any prior eligibility has lapsed. Therefore, the operators of the two businesses were contacted and asked to submit applications for consideration by 23 March 2016.

4.3 **Koala Park Sanctuary, West Pennant Hills**

As discussed at the January 2016 meeting, David contacted the Department of Primary Industries on 22 January regarding concerns in the media about the welfare of animals at the sanctuary. He was informed that the sanctuary has the appropriate licence to exhibit animals and that this expires on 30 June 2016. The department is currently investigating complaints regarding the treatment of animals and David was asked to contact the department again in mid-June when it was anticipated that further advice would be available.

Action: David to contact the department again in mid-June.

4.4 **Bunker Cartoon Gallery, Coffs Harbour**

The operator of the Bunker Cartoon Gallery contacted the Secretariat about tourist signposting for the gallery on and from Harbour Drive. RMS Northern Region advised that Harbour Drive is a local road in Coffs Harbour Council’s control so signage on it is a matter for Council. After confirming that the operator was not seeking signage from the Pacific Highway, she was advised to contact the Council.
4.5 West Wyalong Visitor Radio

Information provided by Jeff Stien, Bland Shire Council’s Senior Economic Development and Tourism and Ian Munro, operator of the West Wyalong Visitor Radio Service, confirms that negotiations between the parties are continuing about the content of the radio service’s broadcast, which needs to be updated. Jeff provided detailed comments to Ian about the draft broadcast content on 2 February including advice about material that needs to be updated or corrected and new material that should be included.

The Committee agreed to grant an extension of time to finalise the broadcast content prior to submitting an application by 11 March 2016 for consideration at the 17 March meeting.

4.6 Revised brochure for Eden Lookout

Shannon Woloshyn, Manager of Eden Visitor Information Centre has advised that a digital downloadable promotional brochure for Eden Lookout has been published at www.visiteden.com.au/eden-lookout and may be accessed from any page on the “visiteden” website from the “Things to Do” tab by clicking on a link to “Eden Lookout and Rotary Park”.

The application will be finalised after receipt of a site inspection report.

**Decision:** Eden Lookout is potentially eligible subject to receipt of a site inspection report.

**Action:** Secretariat to advise the applicant as above and finalise the application if appropriate after receipt of a site inspection report.

*Note:* A site inspection report was received on 2 March 2016 and the application will be finalised accordingly.

4.7 Milparinka Heritage Precinct, advice from NSW Heritage Branch

On 10 February the NSW Heritage Branch advised of its support for an application for tourist signposting for Milparinka Heritage Precinct. The application was finalised and a letter sent to the operator to inform her of the precinct’s eligibility for tourist signposting the following day and RMS Western Region was also informed of the outcome.

**Decision:** TASAC noted that Milparinka Heritage Precinct is eligible for tourist signposting in the Historic Towns, Villages and Precincts category.

4.8 Tourist Drive 9 (Tilba Tilba to Pambula)

Further to discussions at the December 2015 meeting, Maria indicated that the Sapphire Coast website has been amended so that the promotional material for Tourist Drive 9 can now be accessed via a tab for “Trails and Tales” and selecting a link for “Tourist Drive 9 - Coastal Wilderness Drive”. This link previously only referred to “Coastal Wilderness Drive” without giving the tourist drive number.
Signage for the drive on local and regional roads is complete and digital promotional material for it is also published on Eurobodalla Shire’s tourism website. The amendment of the Sapphire Coast website described above completes the outstanding matters affecting the tourist drive.

**Decision:** Signage for “Tourist Drive 9” may be installed on the Princes Highway at the northern (near Tilba Tilba) and southern (at Pambula) ends of the drive. In accordance with signage guidelines for tourist drives, the highway signs may only refer to “Tourist Drive 9” and not “Coastal Wilderness Drive”. RMS Southern Region may now make the appropriate arrangements for installation of the signage on the Highway with costs to be met by Bega Valley Shire Council.

**Action:** Secretariat to inform both Bega Valley and Eurobodalla Shires as above and advise RMS Southern Region.

### 4.9 Opal Centre, Korora

Susan Colby, Destination Development and Marketing Coordinator at Coffs Harbour City Council, provided a site inspection report for the Opal Centre. She also advised that the business is for sale and is looking to move to a new location at the Big Banana. Any changes to the existing tourist signposting should await further information about the timing of the proposed relocation, which has been requested from Susan.

## 5. INQUIRIES RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING

The following inquiries received in the period since the last meeting were noted:

- 5.1 National Shrine of Divine Mercy, Kyeamba, near Wagga Wagga
- 5.2 Donganella Wines, Port Stephens (RMS)
- 5.3 Bungonia National Park (RMS)
- 5.4 Mayfield Mews, Mayfield Cottage and Historic Bowning (Yass Valley LGA)
- 5.5 Ben Hall Cave (RMS)
- 5.6 Weddin Mountains National Park (RMS)
- 5.7 Hunter Valley Horse Riding, Rothbury
- 5.8 Middle Creek Reserve, Narrabeen (RMS)
- 5.9 Eden Road Winery, Murrumbateman
- 5.10 Upper Clarence Light Horse Memorial, Tabulam (RMS)
- 5.11 Port Stephens Winery, Bobs Farm (RMS)
- 5.12 Window on the Wetlands Centre, Warren

## 6. POLICY ISSUES

### 6.1 Western Region Tourist Drives

The position with respect to the review of numbered tourist drives in Western Region was discussed and the following matters noted:

- **Tourist Drive 5 (Orange Stuart Town-Wellington)** shared by Wellington, Orange and Cabonne Councils) – RMS has confirmed that signage the installation of tourist drive signage on the Burrendong Way has been completed to the requirements of the audit.
• **Tourist Drive 2 (Mudgee, Rylstone, Kandos, Glen David, Capertee)** shared by Lithgow and Mid Western Regional Councils – RMS will arrange for Prue Britt, Network Safety Officer to check and report on the installation of signage improvements on local roads in Mid Western and Lithgow Councils’ areas.

A summary report on the status of all Western Region tourist drives is at Attachment 2.

6.2 **Destination Southern Highlands’ videos to promote its Tourist Drives**

The members noted that Destination Southern Highlands has produced four short videos to promote some of its tourist drives. The videos may be viewed at www.southern-highlands.com.au/visitors/drives. Each video is about 3 minutes long and uses “behind the wheel” and drone aerial footage to give an excellent indication of the key attractions and experiences along the drives. The videos are a welcome addition to hardcopy or downloadable material that are traditionally used to promote tourist drives.

6.3 **Tourist Drive 8 (Albion Park to North Nowra via Macquarie Pass and Kangaroo Valley)**

The Committee noted a draft promotional brochure that Shoalhaven Council has prepared for Tourist Drive 8, which it shares with Shellharbour and Wingecarribee Councils. The draft brochure includes a map of the drive and describes attractions along the way (not just in Shoalhaven’s area). Vicki Elton of Council has advised that the brochure will be uploaded to the www.shoalhaven.com.au website in the near future.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

7.1 **TASAC meeting schedule**

Please refer to Attachment 1 for the schedule of meetings for the next six months. The next Western Region meeting will be held on 24 August 2016 in Bourke.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next TASAC meeting will be held on **Thursday 17 March 2016** at Bega (Southern Region).

The meeting concluded at 1.45 pm
## Attachment 1 – TASAC Meeting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Bega</td>
<td>17 March 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Mullumbimby</td>
<td>20 April 2016</td>
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<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Blue Mountains</td>
<td>18 May 2016</td>
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<td>Hunter</td>
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<td>15 June 2016</td>
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<td>South West</td>
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<td>6 July 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Bourke</td>
<td>24 August 2016</td>
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