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General Manager
Walgett Shire Council
PO Box 31
WALGETT NSW 2832

Attn: Matt Clarkson, Town Planner

Dear Matt,

Walgett Shire LEP 2013 – Heritage Schedule
Recommendations regarding amendments to the schedule

Below are recommended amendments to the Walgett Shire LEP 2013 Heritage Schedule.

Removal of items

The following items have been demolished or are no longer viable and are recommended for removal from the LEP Heritage Schedule.

Locality	Item	Address	No.	Reason
Collarenebri	Old bakery complex	18 Wilson Street	125	Partly demolished & unstable – financial hardship
Walgett	House	3 Warrena St	129	Dwelling uninhabitable – financial hardship

Inclusion of new items

The following items have been recorded since the Community Based Heritage Study was completed and are recommended for inclusion in the LEP Heritage Schedule.

1. Collarenebri Aboriginal Cemetery

Address: Gundablouie Road, Collarenebri

Property description: Lot 100 DP 1162159, Lot 63, 64, 65 DP 46643

State Heritage Register Listing: 01934 **Gazetted:** 19 December 2014

2. Collarenebri Racecourse Grandstand

Address: Lightning Ridge – Collarenebri Road, Collarenebri

Property Description: Lot 2 DP 1106775

State Heritage Inventory forms for both items are included as attachments to this letter.



I also recommend that a full review of the Community-Based Heritage Study be undertaken within the next five years.

I am happy to discuss any of the above recommendations.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Ray Christison", followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends to the right.

Ray Christison
Heritage Advisor Walgett Shire
19 October 2015

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ITEM DETAILS							
Name of Item	Collarenebri Aboriginal Cemetery						
Other Name/s Former Name/s							
Item type (if known)	Built						
Item group (if known)	Cemeteries and Burial Sites						
Item category (if known)	Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground						
Area, Group, or Collection Name							
Street number							
Street name							
Suburb/town	Collarenebri					Postcode	2833
Local Government Area/s	Walgett Shire						
Property description	Lot 100 DP 1162159, Lot 63, 64, 65 DP 46643						
Location - Lat/long	Latitude	S29° 32.635'			Longitude	E148° 37.431'	
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Easting		Northing		
Owner	Community Group						
Current use	Cemetery						
Former Use	Cemetery						
Statement of significance	The Collarenebri Aboriginal Cemetery has been in use as a burial ground since the death and burial of baby Myrum Mundy in 1907. This site replaced an earlier burial ground that had been used by the Murri community of Collarenebri from the time of the establishment of an Aboriginal Reserve in 1899. The existence and location of the cemetery are reminders of the strict racial segregation that once characterised the Town of Collarenebri. They also reflect the resilience of the Murri community and the development of new ways to express traditional burial and mourning practices. The cemetery has direct associations with prominent Aboriginal rights activist and Collarenebri resident Isabel Flick. Isabel is buried in the cemetery, and her memory recognised in the name of the road to the cemetery and in a monument set near the cemetery entrance. The cemetery demonstrates a technique of grave decoration and remembrance that appears to be unique to the north-west of New South Wales. The clustering and alignment of graves represents the associations of the people buried there and the use of "crystalled" glass reinforces family ties and the memory of the departed. It is a place of memory that lays out a collective testament of the local Aboriginal community's relationships with one another and with their country. The well documented layout of the cemetery, the use of "crystalled" glass and ongoing practice of preparing glass for grave decoration on site provide unique opportunities to demonstrate burial practices that reflect the melding of traditional Aboriginal culture and techniques with new technologies imported by European settlers. The Collarenebri Aboriginal Cemetery is one of only six places in which the use of "crystalled" glass has been recorded. It is representative of the process in which marginalised Aboriginal community maintained traditions and developed new techniques to mark the transition to death and memory. It is also representative of the resilience of the						



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	Murri community of Collarenebri which has claimed the place as its own and is actively managing it for the future. The place has state historical association, aesthetic and technical/research significance, rarity and representativeness. It also has local historical and social significance and a high degree of integrity.	
Level of Significance	State ☒ X	Local ☐

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DESCRIPTION						
Designer	-					
Builder/ maker	-					
Physical Description	The Collarenebri Aboriginal Cemetery is situated within Portion 65 of the Parish of Collarindabri County of Finch. The cemetery is fenced and contains a large number of graves which are generally decorated with shattered glass and objects relevant to the lives and interests of the persons remembered there. Graves are arranged on various alignments determined by the origins of the deceased, family groupings and community connections. The decoration of the graves is highly unusual and, with the alignment of graves is consistent with Gamilaroi burial practice.					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	The site has little archaeological potential.					
Construction years	Start year	1907	Finish year		Circa	X
Modifications and dates						
Further comments						

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HISTORY

Historical notes

In her study of the Collarenebri Aboriginal Cemetery Heather Goodall noted that, prior to the occupation of the land by British settlers, traditional burial practice included placing the remains of the deceased within hollow trees and marking these trees with "elegant, concentric designs" particular to various areas. "This practice became more difficult under the surveillance of white settlers. Burial was more common, with some buried in mounds or gravelly ridges but others buried in soft ground, in the sandhills along watercourses." In the North West burials were generally "in small clusters". The practices of burial within family groups and active tending of gravesites continued despite the invasion of Europeans and accompanying disruption of traditional culture. (Goodall 2001:3)

The establishment of an Aboriginal camp on a lagoon east of the Town of Collarenebri led to the development of a burial ground in which the local people could maintain the graves of departed loved ones. The death of an infant named Myrum Mundy in 1907 led to the development of a burial ground much closer to the camp. The racial segregation actively imposed in the Town of Collarenebri reinforced the desire of Aboriginal people to maintain their own cemetery. The separation of this cemetery from the town cemetery "allowed the community the freedom to mourn and remember their dead in their own way" (Goodall 2001:4)

The cemetery is laid out in patterns that reflect the relationships between groups of people within the Aboriginal community and reflects patterns of community and mourning. Heather Goodall noted Aboriginal community leader Isabel Flick's view of the cemetery "as a collective testament, laying out, in the most concrete way, her community's relationships with each other and with their place, the land on which Collarenebri stands, their country" (Goodall 2001:5).

Rituals of mourning practiced at Collarenebri include the elaborate process of burning and shattering glass bottles to provide covering and decoration for the graves. Bottles and jars with glass of an appropriate colour is carefully selected for each grave. These receptacles are washed and dried and a fire lit within a pit excavated for the purpose. Once the fire has burnt to hot coals the receptacles are carefully placed on the hot bed and covered with more coals and ashes. "They are left for an hour or so, then removed with a long handled shovel and then quickly plunged into cold water, so that the glass crazes with tiny internal cracks. Isabel described it as 'crystallising' and this sense of turning ordinary glass into something special, an alchemy which makes it into 'crystal' conveys the beautiful effect and intention. Only then are the bottles carefully placed between hessian bags and struck to break them into regular pieces, large or small depending on each family's preference, and packed densely onto the top of the grave. When regularly maintained and replenished, the glass forms an impenetrable cover, keeping weeds from growing on the grave and protecting it from disturbance by animals or weather. But it is not only for protection. On approaching the graves from any direction, the 'crystallised' glass catches the light, sparkling like water". (Goodall 2001:7)

Careful tending and decoration of graves is a practice first recorded at Keera near Bingara in 1857. The use of "crystallised" glass has been noted at Euraba, Toomelah, Goondabluie, Angledool and Dungalea. Unbroken and broken bottles have also been noted on early graves at Goodooga and Burra Bee Dee. Families relocated from Angledool to Brewarrina in the 1830s introduced the use of "crystallised" glass in their own mourning practice. Goodall suggests that the use of "crystallised" glass was a progression from the earlier practice of decorating graves with carefully selected pebbles. She noted a possible progression in the use of grave adornments at Angledool and at Dungalea and suggests that the use of glass at Angledool may date from 1912 when the government station was established there. She also noted that the practice of "cooking" the glass in pits is reminiscent of traditional cooking methods. (Goodall 2001:8-9)

The practise of other traditions is also evident at Collarenebri. These include the requirement that graves be dug by hand and that the digging be done by members of the community not immediately connected with the deceased. Preferably the grave is dug in one day. Graves are also arranged in order that the deceased will "be with their mob". Families are group together and graves are decorated

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	thematically to identify family ties. People with incomplete or disputed connections to the Collarenebri community have traditionally been buried in the north-eastern section of the cemetery. Long before her death community leader Isabel Flick and her partner Ted Thorne determined that they would be buried "just beyond the 'strangers' place". Isabel clearly stated that this was a deliberate gesture aimed to gather the strangers into the wider community. It was a gesture that reflects her life of activism to achieve justice for the Aboriginal community. (Goodall 2001:7) The Aboriginal community of Collarenebri began agitating for improved access to the cemetery from the 1970s and in the early 1980s Mangankali, the Collarenebri Aboriginal Housing company refused to accept any further funding for its building program until the cemetery was provided with an all weather road. This was achieved in 1983 and the road later named Bel's Way in recognition of the huge impact of Isabel Flick on the Collarenebri community. The issue of land tenure was also raised from the late 1970s. Isabel Flick commenced negotiations with the holder of a Western Lands Lease on the property, Mrs Copeman, including the two cemetery sites and former camp site while Mangankali brokered negotiations to have Aboriginal title to the three sites recognised. In 1982 a formal recognition of Aboriginal interest in the three portions was agreed between the Western Lands Commission, Aboriginal Lands Trust and Mrs Copeman. Following extensive negotiations between the Collarenebri LALC and Mrs Copeman the three designated portions were excised from Mrs Copeman's lease and dedicated as vacant Crown Land. A land claim under the Land Rights Act was subsequently submitted for these portions. (Goodall 2001:19-20) On 27 May 1996 three portions of land within Western Lands Lease WLL5739 incorporating the Collarenebri Aboriginal burials were granted to the Collarenebri Local Aboriginal Land Council. The area was designated as Aboriginal Land Claim 3698. (Parish of Collarindabri).
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THEMES	
National historical theme	Peopling the Continent Marking the Phases of Life
State historical theme	Aboriginal Cultures and Interactions With Other Cultures Birth and Death, Persons – Isabel Flick

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APPLICATION OF CRITERIA	
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	The Collarenebri Aboriginal Cemetery has been in use as a burial ground since the death and burial of baby Myrum Mundy in 1907. This site replaced an earlier burial ground that had been used by the Murri community of Collarenebri from the time of the establishment of an Aboriginal Reserve in 1899. The existence and location of the cemetery are reminders of the strict racial segregation that once characterised the Town of Collarenebri. They also reflect the resilience of the Murri community and the development of new ways to express traditional burial and mourning practices. The place has local historical significance.
Historical association significance SHR criteria (b)	The cemetery has direct associations with prominent Aboriginal rights activist and Collarenebri resident Isabel Flick. Isabel is buried in the cemetery and her memory recognised in the name of the road to the cemetery and in a monument set near the cemetery entrance. The place has state historical association significance.
Aesthetic significance SHR criteria (c)	The cemetery demonstrates a technique of grave decoration and remembrance that appears to be unique to the north-west of New South Wales. The clustering and alignment of graves represents the associations of the people buried there and the use of "crystalled" glass reinforces family ties and the memory of the departed. The cemetery is arguably the most intact of places demonstrating this practice and has state level aesthetic significance.
Social significance SHR criteria (d)	The cemetery is a place of memory for the Aboriginal community of Collarenebri. It lays out a collective testament of the local Aboriginal community's relationships with one another and with their country. It has local social significance.
Technical/Research significance SHR criteria (e)	The well documented layout of the cemetery, the use of "crystalled" glass and ongoing practice of preparing glass for grave decoration on site provide unique opportunities to demonstrate burial practices that reflect the melding of traditional Aboriginal culture and techniques with new technologies imported by European settlers. The place has state significance in this regard.
Rarity SHR criteria (f)	The Collarenebri Aboriginal Cemetery is one of only six places in which the use of "crystalled" glass has been recorded. The Collarenebri site is the most intact of these places.
Representativeness SHR criteria (g)	The cemetery is representative of the process in which marginalised Aboriginal community maintained traditions and developed new techniques to mark the transition to death and memory. It is also representative of the resilience of the Murri community of Collarenebri which has claimed the place as its own and is actively managing it for the future.
Integrity	The place has a high degree of integrity.

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HERITAGE LISTINGS

Heritage listing/s	

INFORMATION SOURCES

Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.

Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Written	Goodall, H.	Mourning, Remembrance and the Politics of Place. A study in the significance of Collarenebri Aboriginal Cemetery	2001	Collarenebri LALC
Written	Kass, T.	Thematic History of Walgett Shire – Final Report	2003	Walgett Shire Council
Written	LPMI	Parish of Collarindabri County of Finch Third edition		Online

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	
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SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION

Name of study or report	Collarenebri Aboriginal Cemetery Assessment of Significance	Year of study or report	2013
Item number in study or report			
Author of study or report	Ray Christison		
Inspected by	Ray Christison		
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?		Yes X	No ☐
This form completed by	Ray Christison	Date	20 November 2013

IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	A general view over the cemetery.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Jennifer Christison	Image copyright holder	Walgett Shire Council





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IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	View eastwards looking over highly decorated graves.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Jennifer Christison	Image copyright holder	Walgett Shire Council



IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	An older grave decorated with broken glass				
Image year	2013	Image by	Jennifer Christison	Image copyright holder	Walgett Shire Council



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Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	Stored glass and apparatus used in the glass shattering process.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Jennifer Christison	Image copyright holder	Walgett Shire Council



IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	Monument and plaque dedicated to the memory of cultural activist and custodian Isabel Flick.				
Image year	2013	Image by	Jennifer Christison	Image copyright holder	Walgett Shire Council



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ITEM DETAILS							
Name of Item	Collarenebri Racecourse Grandstand						
Other Name/s Former Name/s							
Item type (if known)	Built						
Item group (if known)	Recreation and Entertainment						
Item category (if known)	Grandstand						
Area, Group, or Collection Name							
Street number							
Street name	Lightning Ridge – Collarenebri Road						
Suburb/town	Collarenebri					Postcode	2833
Local Government Area/s	Walgett Shire						
Property description	Lot 2 DP 1106775						
Location - Lat/long	Latitude	S29° 32.181'			Longitude	E148° 34.725'	
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Easting		Northing		
Owner	Community Group						
Current use	Grandstand						
Former Use	Grandstand						
Statement of significance	The Collarenebri Racecourse Grandstand was constructed in the late 1890s as part of the development of a racecourse south of the Barwon River. In 1909 or 1910 the grandstand was relocated to the racecourse reserve north of Collarenebri. The structure has associations with George Wilks who is credited with founding the original Jockey Club in Collarenebri, and with his son Joe Wilks who arranged for dismantling of the grandstand and its relocation to its current location. The grandstand is a Federation carpenter style structure which, regardless of additions to the rear the main structure retains a high degree of integrity. It has been a gathering place for district sport and entertainment since the 1890s. The grandstand has local historical, historical association, aesthetic and social significance, rarity, representativeness and a high degree of integrity.						
Level of Significance	State ☐				Local ☒		



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DESCRIPTION						
Designer	-					
Builder/ maker	-					
Physical Description	The Collarenebri Racecourse grandstand is a fairly typical Federation era carpenter style structure. It is constructed entirely in milled timber with a hipped and gabled roof clad in corrugated galvanised iron. The Lysaght galvanised iron covering the roof appears to have been fitted in the 1920s.					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	The site has little archaeological potential.					
Construction years	Start year	1898	Finish year		Circa	X
Modifications and dates	Relocation to present site circa 1910 Extension of bar area to the south					
Further comments						

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HISTORY

Historical notes

The town of Collarenebri developed from the 1860s around a crossing of the Barwon River located towards the northern end of the Bundinbarrina run. This rocky ford acted as a funnel and was a place at which the tracks between Maitland and Narrabri converged on their way to Walgett, the Narran and places further north. A deep waterhole was also located near the ford. Some time before 1861 William Earl established an inn named The Squatters Arms on a piece of high ground above the waterhole. He also established a store. During the early 1860s Edward Fletcher and a Mr Smith acquired a parcel of land that straddled the track from Maitland and Narrabri on the southern side of the river. Like Earl they established businesses to attract trade from those using the track. In an article appearing in the Maitland Mercury in 1866 Fletcher described the locality in December 1865 as follows: "We have two stores, a public house, with another nearly finished; the timber is also lying at Collarinbri for a Government punt; several houses and a population of about 50 people stationary." (Newman 1985:3) Collarindabri continued to develop during the 1880s with the establishment of new stores. The establishment of a Provision School was approved in June 1884 and Collarindabri Public School established in February 1885. A police station was established in the early 1880s. (Newman 1985:40)

A Permanent Common was dedicated on Crown Land located south of the Barwon River on 11 December 1895 (Parish of Pokataroo 1893). This common developed as a showground for Collarenebri and a grandstand was constructed here during the late 1890s. A separate racecourse was dedicated beside the Angledool Road north of Collarenebri on 19 October 1894 (Collarenebri Charting Map) and a Jockey Club existed in Collarenebri as early as 1888. In that year publican George Wilks was President of the club. A report in the Sydney Morning Herald on 22 May 1906 indicated that the Collarenebri Amateur Turf Club had disbanded. The club's funds, comprising £30, had been "divided between the hospital and the racecourse". (Sydney Morning Herald 22 May 1906) It appears that this was re-organised in 1909. Not long after this Joe Wilks and three others pulled the grandstand apart and re-erected it at the Collarenebri Racecourse.

An intense thunderstorm struck Collarenebri on 6 January 1912. Numerous buildings were damaged and, according to reports in the Sydney Morning Herald, the racecourse grandstand was blown away. (Sydney Morning Herald 8.1.1912) The grandstand was repaired and has been in continuous use since that time.

THEMES

National historical theme

Developing Settlements, Towns and Cities
Marking the Phases of Life

State historical theme

Towns, Suburbs & Villages
Recreation and Entertainment/Sports

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APPLICATION OF CRITERIA	
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	The Collarenebri Racecourse Grandstand was constructed in the late 1890s as part of the development of a racecourse south of the Barwon River. In 1909 or 1910 the grandstand was relocated to the racecourse reserve north of Collarenebri. The grandstand has served the racing community of Collarenebri for well over 100 years and has local historical significance.
Historical association significance SHR criteria (b)	The grandstand has associations with George Wilks who is credited with founding the original Jockey Club in Collarenebri, and with his son Joe Wilks who arranged for dismantling of the grandstand and its relocation to its current location. It has local historical association significance.
Aesthetic significance SHR criteria (c)	The Collarenebri Racecourse Grandstand is a Federation carpenter style structure. Regardless of additions to the rear the main structure retains a high degree of integrity. It has local aesthetic significance.
Social significance SHR criteria (d)	The Collarenebri Racecourse Grandstand has been a gathering place for district sport and entertainment since the 1890s. It continues in this role and has local social significance.
Technical/Research significance SHR criteria (e)	-
Rarity SHR criteria (f)	Carpenter style grandstands are becoming increasingly rare in New South Wales. The Collarenebri Racecourse Grandstand has local significance in relation to rarity.
Representativeness SHR criteria (g)	The grandstand is representative of the development of the Collarenebri district in the late 19 th century. It is also representative of country racecourse facilities developed in this era.
Integrity	The grandstand has a high degree of integrity.



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HERITAGE LISTINGS

Heritage listing/s	

INFORMATION SOURCES

Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.

Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Written	Newman, C.	<i>Collarindabri 1861-1886. The Years of Struggle.</i>	1985	
Written		Sydney Morning Herald – various editions		
Written	LPMI	Parish of Pokataroo		
Written	LPMI	Town of Collarenebri, Western Division		

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	The structure should be managed as part of the Collarenebri Racecourse. Current maintenance strategies should be continued.
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SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION

Name of study or report		Year of study or report	
Item number in study or report			
Author of study or report	Ray Christison		
Inspected by	Ray Christison		
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?		Yes X	No ☐
This form completed by	Ray Christison	Date	29 September 2013

IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	The northern side of the grandstand.				
Image year	2012	Image by	Ray Christison	Image copyright holder	Young Shire Council





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IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	The building viewed from the northeast.				
Image year	2012	Image by	Ray Christison	Image copyright holder	Young Shire Council





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IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	The building viewed from the northwest				
Image year	2012	Image by	Ray Christison	Image copyright holder	Young Shire Council





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IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	The southern side of the building.				
Image year	2012	Image by	Ray Christison	Image copyright holder	Young Shire Council

