

Ordinary Meeting of Council Agenda

**to be held on Tuesday 5 June 2018 at 7.00pm
Richmond Town Hall**

Arrangements to ensure our meetings are accessible to the public

Council meetings are held at either the Richmond Town Hall or the Fitzroy Town Hall. The following arrangements are in place to ensure they are accessible to the public:

- Entrance ramps and lifts (off Moor Street at Fitzroy, entry foyer at Richmond).
- Interpreting assistance is available by arrangement (*tel. 9205 5110*).
- Auslan interpreting is available by arrangement (*tel. 9205 5110*).
- A hearing loop is available at Richmond only and the receiver accessory is available by arrangement (*tel. 9205 5110*).
- Proposed resolutions are displayed on large screen.
- An electronic sound system amplifies Councillors' debate.
- Disability accessible toilet facilities are available at each venue.

Recording and Publication of Meetings

An audio recording is made of all public Council Meetings and then published on Council's website. By participating in proceedings (including during Public Question Time or in making a submission regarding an item before Council), you agree to this publication. You should be aware that any private information volunteered by you during your participation in a meeting is subject to recording and publication.

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Order of business

- 1. Statement of recognition of Wurundjeri Land**
- 2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence**
- 3. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)**
- 4. Confidential business reports**
- 5. Confirmation of minutes**
- 6. Petitions and joint letters**
- 7. Public question time**
- 8. General business**
- 9. Delegates' reports**
- 10. Questions without notice**
- 11. Council business reports**
- 12. Notices of motion**
- 13. Urgent business**

1. Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land

"Welcome to the City of Yarra."

"Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Owners of this country, pays tribute to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra and gives respect to the Elders past and present."

2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

Anticipated attendees:

Councillors

- Cr Daniel Nguyen (Mayor)
- Cr Misha Coleman (Deputy Mayor)
- Cr Danae Bosler
- Cr Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei
- Cr Jackie Fristacky
- Cr Stephen Jolly
- Cr Mike McEvoy
- Cr James Searle
- Cr Amanda Stone

Council officers

- Vijaya Vaidyanath (Chief Executive Officer)
- Andrew Day (Director - Corporate, Business and Finance)
- Ivan Gilbert (Group Manager - CEO's Office)
- Adrian Murphy (Acting Director - Community Wellbeing)
- Chris Leivers (Director – City Works and Assets)
- Bruce Phillips (Director - Planning and Place Making)
- Jane Waldock (Assistant Director - Planning and Place making)
- Mel Nikou (Governance Officer)

3. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)

4. Confidential business reports

Nil

5. Confirmation of minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 May 2018 be confirmed.

That the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29 May 2018 be confirmed.

6. Petitions and joint letters

7. Public question time

Yarra City Council welcomes questions from members of the community.

Public question time procedure

Ideally, questions should be submitted to Council in writing by midday on the day of the meeting via the form available on our website. Submitting your question in advance helps us to provide a more comprehensive answer. Questions that have been submitted in advance will be answered first.

Public question time is an opportunity to ask questions about issues for which you have not been able to gain a satisfactory response on a matter. As such, public question time is not:

- a time to make statements or engage in debate with Councillors;
- a forum to be used in relation to planning application matters which are required to be submitted and considered as part of the formal planning submission;
- a forum for initially raising operational matters, which should be directed to the administration in the first instance;

If you wish to raise matters in relation to an item on this meeting agenda, Council will consider submissions on these items in conjunction with and prior to debate on that agenda item.

When you are invited by the meeting chairperson to ask your question, please come forward and take a seat at the microphone and:

- state your name clearly for the record;
- direct your questions to the chairperson;
- ask a maximum of two questions;
- speak for a maximum of five minutes;
- refrain from repeating questions that have been asked previously by yourself or others; and
- remain silent following your question unless called upon by the chairperson to make further comment or to clarify any aspects.

8. General business

9. Delegates' reports

10. Questions without notice

11. Council business reports

Item		Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
11.1	Notice of Intention to declare a special charge - Bridge Road	6	16	Bruce Phillips – Director Planning and Place Making
11.2	Future use of the bocce courts in Hardy Gallagher Reserve	22	30	Justin Hanrahan – Manager Open Space and Recreation
11.3	Development of Community Greenhouse Action Plan	68	71	Michael Oke – Manager Sustainability and Strategic Transport
11.4	WW1 Field Gun	72	82	Siu Chan – Business Unit Manager Arts, Culture and Venues
11.5	Council Membership of Regional Bodies	103	107	Ivan Gilbert - Executive Manager - Chief Executive's Office
11.6	Report on Assemblies of Councillors	108	109	Ivan Gilbert - Executive Manager - Chief Executive's Office

The public submission period is an opportunity to provide information to Council, not to ask questions or engage in debate.

Public submissions procedure

When you are invited by the meeting chairperson to make your submission, please come forward and take a seat at the microphone and:

- state your name clearly for the record;
- direct your submission to the chairperson;
- speak for a maximum of five minutes;
- confine your remarks to the matter under consideration;
- refrain from repeating information already provided by previous submitters; and
- remain silent following your submission unless called upon by the chairperson to make further comment.

11.1 Notice of Intention to declare a special charge - Bridge Road

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) note the Draft Bridge Road Business Plan (2018 – 2024) prepared by Bridge Road Mainstreet Incorporated (BRMS);
- (b) consider the submission by BRMS for the reintroduction of a Special Charge for Bridge Road, Richmond; and
- (c) commence the statutory process under the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)* to reintroduce a Special Charge.

Key Issues

Given the relatively low participation rates of rateable properties in the review process, the level of support for the reintroduction of the scheme is unclear.

Financial Implications

Council is currently supplementing the Special Charge Scheme proceeds to the value of approximately \$70,481 annually. It is proposed that Council continues to contribute but at a reduced fixed rate of \$60,000 per annum for the life of the Scheme.

BRMS has requested that the proposed Scheme raise \$217,000 per annum, which is \$35,322 less than the amount raised by the current Scheme.

Based on the 587 rateable assessments included in the Scheme, this would raise an amount of \$157,000 per annum. With Council's annual contribution of \$60,000, a total of \$1,302,000 would be raised over the period of the Scheme.

PROPOSAL

That Council:

- (a) notes the letter received from Bridge Road Mainstreet Incorporated (BRMS) requesting the reintroduction of a Special Charge for Bridge Road in the form of the attachment to this resolution (being **Attachment 1**) and, having otherwise considered all relevant matters, commences the statutory process under the Local Government Act 1989 (Act) to reintroduce a Special Charge to and for the properties within the defined Bridge Road precinct, such Special Charge to raise an amount of \$217,000 annually for the period of 6 years, commencing 1 October 2018 and ending 30 September 2024 (**Special Charge**);
- (b) acting in accordance with sections 163 (1A) and 163B(3) of the Act, directs that public notice be given in "The Age" newspaper of the intention of Council to declare at its ordinary meeting to be held on 21 August 2018 in accordance with the proposed declaration of Special Charge in the form of the attachment to this resolution (being **Attachment 2**) (**Proposed Declaration of Special Charge**), such Special Charge to be for the purposes of defraying expenses to be incurred by Council in providing funds to the incorporated body known and operating as the Bridge Road Mainstreet Incorporated (BRMS), which funds, administratively only and subject always to the approval, direction and control of Council, are to be used for the purposes of contracted support, promotional, advertising, marketing, business development and other incidental expenses as approved by and agreed to from time to time between Council and the BRMS, all of which are associated with the encouragement of commerce, retail, professional activity and employment in the Bridge Road Shopping precinct;

- (c) directs that, in accordance with section 163 (1C) of the Act, separate letters enclosing a copy of the public notice are to be sent to the respective owners and occupiers of the properties referred to in the listing of rateable properties set out in the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge, advising of the intention of Council to declare the Special Charge at its ordinary meeting to be held on 21 August 2018, the amount for which the property owner or the occupier (being a person who as a condition of a lease under which the person who occupies the property is required to pay the Special Charge) will be liable, the basis of the calculation and distribution of the Special Charge and notifying such persons that submissions and/or objections in writing in relation to the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge will be considered and/or taken into account by Council in accordance with sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Act;
- (d) advises the BRMS of the matters specified in paragraphs a, b and c of this resolution;
- (e) notes the funding implications of the Special Charge and further, that these will be considered as part of Council's 2018 - 2024 budgeting process;
- (f) authorises the CEO, or nominated delegate, to
 - (i) carry out any and all other administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 163A and section 163(1A), (1B) and (1C) and sections 163B and 223 of the Act; and
 - (ii) prepare a funding agreement between Council and BRMS to formalise the administrative operations of the Special Charge, such agreement being to ensure that at all times, and as a precondition to the payment of any funds by Council to the BRMS, Council is, and remains, responsible for approving, directing and controlling the expenditure of the proceeds of the Special Charge in accordance with its obligations under the Act to do so; and
- (g) directs the agreement specified in paragraph 1 (f) of this resolution to be submitted to Council for subsequent approval and sealing by Council.

11.1 Notice of Intention to declare a special charge - Bridge Road

Trim Record Number: D18/64878

Responsible Officer: Manager City Strategy

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - (a) note the Draft Bridge Road Business Plan (2018 – 2024) prepared by Bridge Road Mainstreet Incorporated (BRMS);
 - (b) consider the submission by BRMS for the reintroduction of a Special Charge for Bridge Road, Richmond; and
 - (c) commence the statutory process under the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)* to reintroduce a Special Charge.

Background

2. The *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)* enables Council to levy a Special Rate or Charge on properties within a defined area if Council considers that the land in that area will receive a 'special benefit' from the expenditure of the funds raised in accordance with the functions of Council.
3. A Special Charge Scheme has operated in the Bridge Road precinct since 1997. The current Special Charge Scheme is a 10 year program that expires on 30 September 2018. This Scheme has raised \$130,100 for its first year, with increases of 4% per annum thereafter applying, raising in total an amount of approximately \$1,561,972 over the ten years for the period of the Scheme.
4. This amount has been supported by a Council contribution of \$50,000 for the first year with an annual increase of 4% for the life of the Scheme. The combined amount has been used for the purposes of funding a part time centre coordinator, promotional, advertising, marketing business development and other incidental expenses.
5. From March to August 2017, Council's Economic Development Unit in partnership with BRMS conducted an evaluation of the Bridge Road Special Charge Scheme, in preparation for Council's consideration of a likely renewal request from the BRMS. The evaluation report (*Report*) was presented to a Council Briefing at its meeting on 2 October 2017.
6. The Report identified that nine years is a long time for BRMS to have continued delivering a range of programs.
7. It has been suggested that, despite operating in very challenging and turbulent times, the BRMS committee has shown great resilience and persistence, particularly given the number of vacancies and some level of local business 'angst'.
8. The Report concluded that Bridge Road is a precinct that has benefited from the collective marketing and promotion, and although success has been inconsistent at times and business engagement has varied, the fundamentals for a program are in place and are well supported by Council's management and governance approaches.

Review Outcomes

9. As a result of the evaluation it was determined that further improvement is required if BRMS is to pursue a renewal of the program beyond 2018.
10. An improvement plan outlined within the Report detailed a range of specific and practical actions for BRMS to implement. In summary, the areas for action are categorised broadly under the following key areas:
 - (a) Business engagement and communication;
 - (b) Marketing; and

- (c) Management and governance.
11. Council officers and BRMS have been working together to implement the review findings and recommendations so that BRMS could:
 - (a) Build a more compelling case for why the program and BRMS as an organisation is relevant and required beyond 2018; and
 - (b) Be better positioned and equipped to support and confidently pursue a successful Special Charge renewal.
 12. It has been reported that progress has been made by BRMS with the implementation of the improvement plan. In particular, it is noted that BRMS engaged the services of Maznik Consulting (the same consultant engaged by Council to undertake the evaluation) to assist in developing the draft Bridge Road Business Plan that responds to the Report findings and incorporates its recommendations.

Submission from BRMS to reintroduce Special Charge

13. Accordingly, Council has now received a written request from the BRMS to reintroduce a Special Charge Scheme for the Bridge Road Shopping Precinct along with the Draft Bridge Road Business Plan (see **Attachment 1**).
14. The submission by BRMS, which is presented for Council's preliminary consideration, proposes that the Special Charge continues to be collected for the same area that is currently within the Scheme.
15. BRMS also proposes in its submission that the new Scheme operates over a six year period, commencing on 1 October 2018 and ending 30 September 2024.
16. Additionally, the letter requests that the amount to be levied against properties to be included in the Special Charge Scheme if Council proceeds with the Scheme, is \$300p.a. (for ground floor properties on Bridge Road), \$200p.a. (for other than ground floor properties on Bridge Road) and \$100p.a. (for properties on an address other than Bridge Road) for the life of the Scheme.

Bridge Road Business Plan

17. The draft Bridge Road Business Plan 2018 -2024 (*Business Plan*) sets the framework for how BRMS will manage, operate and deliver outcomes as a business association over the next three years. The results and recommendations from the review process were also considered in shaping the key directions of the business plan, specifically this includes:
 - (a) Clarifying and communicating the role and funding of BRMS;
 - (b) Creating a more strategic focus to build and measure responsive, targeted, engaging and relevant marketing, communications and management;
 - (c) Clearly communicating a 12 month marketing plan;
 - (d) Increasing communication mechanisms and engaging with business operators and owners in all BRMS activities;
 - (e) Further developing capacity to measure and review BRMS outputs and seeking formal feedback from participants and businesses; and
 - (f) Working with Council and advocating on the importance of an activated, well presented, accessible and vibrant precinct.
18. The proposed key directions for the next three years will be underpinned by a focus on the following:
 - (a) Re-engaging – making genuine connections with the businesses community – owners, operators to motivate their involvement and interest in engaging with BRMS, generating their participation in activities and delivering value;

- (b) Re-positioning – building a new story and communicating a new dialogue for Bridge Road that is supported by targeted, responsive marketing, new branding, events and campaigns that attracts customers and community and excites businesses;
 - (c) Re-invigorating – developing the relevance of the BRMS association and building membership to support inclusiveness, ownership, shared responsibility and workload; and
 - (d) Re-imagining – working with property owners, businesses, Council and other key stakeholders on how Bridge Road “works” as a commercial precinct and can deliver in the future as a great place to work, live and play.
19. The Business Plan will guide the precinct’s business and marketing activities over the next three years in the event that a new Special Charge Scheme is successfully declared.
20. The Business Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted accordingly, as key actions are achieved or modified. In the third year, a more thorough review will be undertaken with consideration of other external factors, changes in the environment, and future opportunities. A revised Business Plan will be developed to guide the final three years of the six-year program.
21. It is noted that the Business Plan will be finalised before Council makes its decision on whether or not to declare a new Special Scheme at its ordinary meeting to be held on 21 August 2018. The Funding Agreement articulates that the funds raised from the Scheme are to be used in accordance with the purposes that have been approved by Council. Any significant deviations from the Business Plan must involve consultation with Council and any significant changes must seek the written approval of Council.

External Consultation

22. The recent review of the Special Charge Scheme was undertaken with the full cooperation and support of the BRMS committee. The review recommendations have informed the development of the Business Plan.
23. The review and consultation process to date has included:
- (a) 968 hard copies of a survey with supporting marketing material explaining the BRMS Special Charge Scheme, key achievements and the review process was mailed to all rated property owners and business operators;
 - (b) Hard copies of the survey and supporting marketing material were also distributed in person to all business operators on Bridge Road that were open;
 - (c) A workshop was conducted on 21 June 2017, in partnership with BRMS to present the results of the survey findings and recommendations to interested survey respondents; and
 - (d) Business operators and property owners were invited to a meeting of the BRMS on 15 November 2017 to discuss review outcomes.
24. The Business Plan is in draft format and will be available in June and property owners and Business operators will be invited to view and comment on the Plan when the official ‘notice of intention’ letter is distributed.
25. Business operators and owners will receive correspondence from BRMS informing them of the BRMS request to renew the Special Charge Scheme in June 2018.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

26. Specific advice on the renewal process has been sought from officers from Councils Geographical Information Systems, Revenue and Rates, Governance and Communications.
27. Council’s Executive Management team received a briefing on the submission by BRMS for the reintroduction of a Special Charge for Bridge Road Richmond on 16 May 2018.

Financial Implications

28. Council is currently supplementing the Special Charge Scheme proceeds to the value of approximately \$70,481. It is proposed that Council continues to contribute but at a reduced fixed rate of \$60,000 per annum for the life of the Scheme.
29. The reduction in Council's contribution from the current amount of \$70,481 to \$60,000 is proportional (approximately 15%) to the reduction of the total annual amount raised by the charge to the properties levied.
30. Council would also incur legal costs associated with the consideration, introduction and ongoing management of a Special Charge. There is also the possibility of legal representation being required and funded by Council if this matter is appealed to Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).
31. BRMS has requested that the proposed Scheme raise \$217,000 per annum, which is \$35,322 less than the amount raised by the current Scheme.
32. Based on the 587 rateable assessments included in the Scheme, this would raise an amount of \$157,000 per annum. With Council's annual contribution of \$60,000, a total of \$1,302,000 would be raised over the period of the Scheme.

Economic Implications

33. Collective approaches to the management of main streets, and the role and value of sustainable funding and representative associations is recognised nationally and internationally. There are over 100 formalised main street associations in Victoria, with approximately 60 individual Special Rate and Charge programs spread across 22 Councils.
34. Collaborative programs funded through a Special Rate or Charge Scheme are considered an effective means of facilitating engagement between stakeholders, and promote an integrated and agreed approach to marketing and management of the main street. It is built on a premise that working together to identify collective strengths and opportunities, and with the business community taking a lead role will build offer, appeal and performance of a precinct.

Sustainability Implications

35. There are no known sustainability implications in relation to the subject matter of this report.

Social Implications

36. Council's partnership with BRMS provides the opportunity to promote practices that enables a co-operative approach to the Association's development, management, promotion and marketing for the benefit of the shopping precinct.

Human Rights Implications

37. The "right to take part in public life" is of notable relevance to the BRMS Special Charge.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

38. There are no known CALD Communities implications.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

39. Councils Economic Development Strategy 2015 - 2020 provides the strategic context for working in partnership with BRMS. The purpose of the Agreement with BRMS relates to the theme Vibrant and Thriving Precinct, in particular the objective: *Working with local traders to strengthen the viability of precincts by enhancing the customer experience, improving the business mix, and offering an authentic and continually evolving experience.*

Legal Implications

40. Council requires that BRMS (an incorporated association) have a high level of financial and management accountability of funds. This includes certain requirements outlined in the Funding Agreement (to be entered into between Council and BRMS) and the documentation that must be submitted to Council including:
 - (a) Submission of an annual budget and Business Plan for Council approval;

- (b) Submission of an annual report and independent audited financial report;
- (c) Quarterly activity and financial reporting to Council; and
- (d) Agreement on performance indicators.

Statutory Requirements

- 41. When declaring a Special Charge Scheme, Council must comply with certain requirements under *the Local Government Act 1989 (Act)*.
- 42. Council must be satisfied that:
 - (a) the proposal or scheme accords with the performance of a Council function or power prescribed by the Act;
 - (b) there will be a special benefit to the persons required to pay the Special Charge; and
 - (c) there is a reasonable distribution of the Special Charge amongst those persons who are liable to pay it.
- 43. In this instance, the proposal relates to the proper performance of Council's functions as set out in the *Act*, which relevantly would include:
 - (a) the encouragement of employment opportunities; and
 - (b) the encouragement of commerce and retail activity.

It is otherwise considered that persons required to pay the Special Charge will receive a special benefit and that there is being proposed a reasonable distribution of the Special Charge amongst all contributors.
- 44. If Council was to formally decide to proceed with a Special Charge for the Bridge Road precinct, the statutory process required to be undertaken in order to declare a Special Charge includes:
 - (a) the giving of public notice of Council's intention to declare the Special Charge in accordance with section 163 of the Act. A copy of the notice would also be sent to all property and business owners of properties affected;
 - (b) a person affected by the Special Charge may make a written submission (which may include in it a request to be heard) to Council. Submissions must be considered in accordance with sections 223 of the Act;
 - (c) a person who is required to pay the Special Charge, including a person liable under a lease, may also make an objection to Council;
 - (d) if Council receives a majority (being at least 51%) of objections from persons who are required to pay the Special Charge, Council is prohibited from making the declaration of the Special Charge. (In these circumstances, if Council wished to still proceed with a Special Charge it would need to recommence the statutory procedures and make a general contribution to the Scheme of more than one third of the cost of the Scheme or take other steps);
 - (e) following a consideration of submissions, and having taken into account any objections received, Council may then resolve to adopt, modify or abandon the Special Charge Scheme; and
 - (f) notice of the Special Charge (if adopted) is sent to the property owners or other persons liable for payment of rates who then have 30 days to apply for a review of Council's decision to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal under section 185 of the Act, dealing with whether or not there is a special benefit and/or a reasonable distribution of the Special Charge amongst those persons who are liable to pay it. There are other potential procedural grounds of appeal under section 185AA of the Act and a tenant has standing to appeal also.

45. If the Special Charge is implemented, a formal Funding Agreement will be entered into between Council and BRMS, confirming that the role of the Association in expending the monies raised by the Special Charge is on behalf of Council, is of an administrative nature only and that the Association is, at all times under the direction of, and for Council.
46. Payment of the proceeds of the Special Charge to BRMS is conditional on BRMS entering into such an agreement with Council.
47. Following approval of the Business Plan, annual budget and compliance with other conditions specified in the Agreement, Council would provide BRMS with the Special Charge proceeds in four quarterly instalments per annum. A key aspect of this arrangement is that the Association is an incorporated entity and acts in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

Other Issues

Review feedback on the question on continuation of the Charge.

48. A total of 96 people responded to the Review survey, resulting in an average response rate of 10%. This is considered a relatively small sample (20% is preferred for statistical analysis).
49. When businesses were asked to indicate how important the continuation of the Special Charge with Council funding is to the ongoing development and success of Bridge Road, just under half (25 out of the 56) rated the continuation of the program 'very important' and 'important'. Other responses included:
 - (a) 15 people did not have an opinion on this question ('can't say', or 'neither'); and
 - (b) 16 people rated it 'not very important' and 'not important'.
50. Given the relatively low participation rates in the review process, the level of support for the reintroduction of the Scheme is presently unclear.

Overall Report findings

51. As outlined in the Councillors' Briefing of 2 October 2017, the review indicated that overall the responses received from survey participants were very diverse and with no clear majority view discernible.
52. The Report acknowledged the significant challenges and macro-economic environment that BRMS has been operating within for the duration of the Special Charge program.
53. The key areas of concern that the survey results highlights include:
 - (a) limited awareness of the Special Charge and its purpose;
 - (b) confusion about the role of BRMS and the role of Council in the program;
 - (c) a level of dissatisfaction with some of the marketing activities;
 - (d) inconsistent level of communication and engagement with broader businesses;
 - (e) a strong perception that paid car parking is detrimental to the performance and economic viability of businesses in Bridge Road;
 - (f) dissatisfaction with the outcomes that businesses are receiving; and
 - (g) a general lack of understanding about the value and benefits of the program.
54. The other challenge that is highlighted in the Report is that business associations – like most volunteer organisations today – are often really struggling to sustain their operations, with fewer committee members and a lack of succession planning. In a general sense, quite often committee members are long serving as there is no one to replace them and there is a sense of obligation and loyalty. Any lack of turnover (to rejuvenate) is likely to limit the capacity of the committee to be responsive to new approaches that are required in this dynamic retail environment.

55. Engaging businesses to participate in the activities of the association is another aspect that most trader associations are grappling with across Victoria. There is often a considerable degree of apathy from main street businesses, and for others, they simply do not have the time or are yet to understand the potential value of involvement.
56. The Report indicated that the individual contributions by businesses to the Special Charge are fair and equitable, particularly when compared to programs and charges elsewhere in Victoria. The average contribution for a Special Charge program is estimated to be around \$750 per year (Mainstreet Australia 2015), BRMS businesses are contributing a maximum of \$356 per annum which is one of the lowest for a precinct of this size.
57. It should be noted, that if Council resolves that it will not renew the Charge, no further action is required; however, property and business owners would be advised of Council's decision.

Options

Option 1 – Not Proceed

58. By not proceeding with the renewal of the Special Charge, Council would minimise its contribution in terms of staff and monetary and other resources required for the establishment and management of the Scheme.
59. However, with no source of funding BRMS would be unable to continue its integrated marketing and promotional program for the Bridge Road precinct as a visitor and commercial destination.

Option 2 – To consider the commencement of the statutory process to implement a Special Charge Scheme for the Bridge Road Precinct in accordance with the present request by BRMS

60. BRMS has requested that the proposed Scheme raise \$217,000 per annum, which is \$35,322 less than the amount raised by the current Scheme.
61. Based on the 587 rateable assessments included in the Scheme, this would raise an amount of \$157,000 per annum. With Council's annual contribution of \$60,000, a total of \$1,302,000 would be raised over the period of the Scheme.
62. The key components of the scheme as proposed by BRMS are:
 - (a) The Special Charge would apply to properties from:
 - (i) Bridge Road: 2 to 662 inclusive;
 - (ii) Church Street: 196 to 280 inclusive;
 - (iii) Lennox Street: 172 to 195 inclusive;
 - (iv) Waltham Street: 2a;
 - (v) Burnley Street: 174;



- (b) The Special Charge would apply differentially as follows:
 - (i) \$300p.a. per ground floor property in Bridge Road;
 - (ii) \$200p.a. for other than ground floor properties in Bridge Road; and

- (iii) \$100p.a. for properties located in streets other than Bridge Road;
- (c) It is expected that such a Scheme would raise \$217,000.00 per annum; and
- (d) The Special Charge would be introduced for a period of 6 years and would raise a total amount of \$1,302,000.00.

63. The following rationale seeking a reduced budget was provided by the BRMS Treasurer at the monthly partnership meeting held 10 April 2018:

Rationale for reduction in charge to rateable businesses/properties

- (a) recognition of the impact of global trends on fashion retail that has resulted in sustained high vacancies;
- (b) taking a more strategic approach to marketing activities as outlined within the recent review;
- (c) having a greater focus on instore based marketing events as opposed to delivering expensive large street based activities; and
- (d) inability to deliver a marketing program that is able to attract full engagement from all business owners given the diverse business mix and length of street, particularly those properties situated above ground level and on side streets. To do so would require a significant increase in the overall charge.

Rationale for reduction in council contribution

- (e) responding to the increased fiscal pressures faced by Council; and
- (f) technological advancements in the digital space such as access to social media has significantly reduced the cost of marketing.

64. It is considered that a differential Special Charge would provide for a fairer and more reasonable distribution of the levy and the nature and extent of direct and indirect special benefit.

65. In establishing the criteria as the basis for the declaration of the Special Charge, Council officers consider the appropriate criteria to be:

“the ownership of rateable land that is used, or reasonably capable of being used for commercial, retail or professional purposes”.

66. The following table outlines how the charge would be applied to rateable properties with option 2.

Option 2 - with Council Contribution								
	No. of Properties	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
Ground	462	300	300	300	300	300	300	
1st Level	59	200	200	200	200	200	200	
Side Streets	66	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Council Contribution		60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	
	587	217,000	217,000	217,000	217,000	217,000	217,000	1,302,000

Option 3 – To consider the commencement of the statutory process to implement a Special Charge Scheme for the Bridge Road Precinct in accordance with the present request without providing a Council contribution

67. Not contributing to the Scheme would result in significant savings for Council.

68. There is a strong expectation from the BRMS that Council will continue to contribute funding to the amount raised from the Special Charge. Council's separate contributions have allowed the Association to undertake special projects that the Special Charge proceeds cannot be expended on. For example, Council's contribution was used for employing strategies that address vacancies such as the Renew Bridge Road project that aimed to activate empty spaces, projections on the Richmond Town Hall and the Bridge Road Streetscape Study.
69. Council's separate contributions further strengthens the partnership between Council and BRMS, which is critical to achieving a more strategic and integrated approach to supporting effective marketing activities for Bridge Road.

Conclusion

70. The proposed Special Charge is a positive local economic development initiative, which would continue to provide resources for an ongoing strategic partnership between Council and the Bridge Road Mainstreet Incorporated.
71. It is considered that all of the retail, commercial and professional services properties and businesses located in the Bridge Road Shopping Precinct would derive a special benefit from the expenditure of the Special Charge proceeds. Directly and indirectly, the viability of the Bridge Road Shopping precinct, as a commercial, retail and professional services area would be further enhanced through increased economic activity by:
 - (a) Continued collective marketing and promotion of the Bridge Road Shopping precinct as a whole, which would assist to greater awareness and profile of the area, including what it has to offer to the community and its customers; and
 - (b) All businesses benefiting from the continuation of a Traders' Association that coordinates the daily management of activities and drives the overall strategic direction of the Shopping precinct with the support of Council.
72. It is considered further, that the only persons to derive a 'special benefit' from the imposition of the proposed Special Charge are those persons who are liable or required to pay the Special Charge, whether they be the owners or the occupiers of the land and the commercial and business properties included in the Scheme area in circumstances where there are no other special benefits or community benefits accruing from the Special Charge.
73. It is recommended Council progresses a new Special Charge Scheme for Bridge Road.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) notes the letter received from Bridge Road Mainstreet Incorporated (BRMS) requesting the reintroduction of a Special Charge for Bridge Road in the form of the attachment to this resolution (being **Attachment 1**) and, having otherwise considered all relevant matters, commences the statutory process under the Local Government Act 1989 (Act) to reintroduce a Special Charge to and for the properties within the defined Bridge Road precinct, such Special Charge to raise an amount of \$217,000 annually for the period of 6 years, commencing 1 October 2018 and ending 30 September 2024 (**Special Charge**);
 - (b) acting in accordance with sections 163 (1A) and 163B(3) of the Act, directs that public notice be given in "The Age" newspaper of the intention of Council to declare at its ordinary meeting to be held on 21 August 2018 in accordance with the proposed declaration of Special Charge in the form of the attachment to this resolution (being **Attachment 2**) (**Proposed Declaration of Special Charge**), such Special Charge to be for the purposes of defraying expenses to be incurred by Council in providing funds to the incorporated body known and operating as the Bridge Road Mainstreet Incorporated (BRMS), which funds, administratively only and subject always to the approval, direction and control of Council, are to be used for the purposes of contracted

support, promotional, advertising, marketing , business development and other incidental expenses as approved by and agreed to from time to time between Council and the BRMS, all of which are associated with the encouragement of commerce, retail, professional activity and employment in the Bridge Road Shopping precinct;

- (c) directs that, in accordance with section 163 (1C) of the Act, separate letters enclosing a copy of the public notice are to be sent to the respective owners and occupiers of the properties referred to in the listing of rateable properties set out in the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge, advising of the intention of Council to declare the Special Charge at its ordinary meeting to be held on 21 August 2018, the amount for which the property owner or the occupier (being a person who as a condition of a lease under which the person who occupies the property is required to pay the Special Charge) will be liable, the basis of the calculation and distribution of the Special Charge and notifying such persons that submissions and/or objections in writing in relation to the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge will be considered and/or taken into account by Council in accordance with sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Act.
- (d) advises the BRMS of the matters specified in paragraphs a, b and c of this resolution.
- (e) notes the funding implications of the Special Charge and further, that these will be considered as part of Council's 2018 - 2024 budgeting process.
- (f) authorises the CEO, or nominated delegate, to:
 - (i) carry out any and all other administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 163A and section 163(1A), (1B) and (1C) and sections 163B and 223 of the Act; and
 - (ii) prepare a funding agreement between Council and the BRMS to formalise the administrative operations of the Special Charge, such agreement being to ensure that at all times, and as a precondition to the payment of any funds by Council to the BRMS, Council is, and remains, responsible for approving, directing and controlling the expenditure of the proceeds of the Special Charge in accordance with its obligations under the Act to do so; and
- (g) directs the agreement specified in paragraph 1 (f) of this resolution to be submitted to Council for subsequent approval and sealing by Council.

CONTACT OFFICER: Kim Swinson
TITLE: Coordinator Economic Development
TEL: 9205 5303

Attachments

- 1 Bridge Road Main Street Special Charge Renewal Request - BRMS Inc.
- 2 Proposed Declaration Special Charge



Vijaya Vaidyanath
Chief Executive Officer
City of Yarra
333 Bridge Road
Richmond Vic 3121

Dear Vijaya

Re. Bridge Road Main Street Special Charge Renewal 2018

The current special charge scheme for Bridge Road Main Street Inc expires on 30 September 2018. The Bridge Road Main Street Inc Association are very keen to see this program of marketing and management continue given the many positive outcomes and achievements over the last 9 years, some of which have included:

- Implement new branding and marketing
- Create events to engage and attract visitors and community to the Precinct
- Advocate for improvements, streetscape plans, traffic management plans and precinct plans
- Raise issues that impact on the precinct
- Build relationships with the community
- Communicate and engage with businesses and the broader community
- Create and manage the www.bridgerd.com.au website a digital directory and central communication point
- Implement and maintain social media with Facebook, Instagram and direct mail out.
- Foster and grow relationship with City of Yarra Economic Development Department through event partnership and strategic networking.

Events attract many visitors from our community but also from around Melbourne as Richmond's location and accessibility makes it a destination of choice for many.

Over the last few months the committee has been working with Council's Economic Development Department to review the current scheme, identify any areas for improvement and new opportunities for the future.

Attachment 1 - Bridge Road Main Street Special Charge Renewal Request - BRMS Inc.

The review has included but not limited to:

- During November 2017, all business and property owners received a brochure outlining our programs and activities achieved with the Special Rate and Charge. A survey was also conducted to ask for feedback for future planning.
- At the BRMS AGM on Wednesday 13th November 2017, Nicole Maslin spoke to businesses about the Special rate, how it worked and timeline. All business and property owners present were invited to indicate whether they would be agreeable to the renewal of special rate. Following further discussion, there was (only positive) no negative reaction and it is therefore determined to proceed with the process with consideration of the renewal of the special charge.
- Visits to individual businesses and feedback
- Survey results from businesses
- Independent conversations with local patrons
- Information received by Facebook, Instagram, website and individual phone calls
- Research and data analysis

Based on this review and consultation, at our recent committee meeting on Wednesday 11th April 2018, a motion was carried and approved to formally request that Council commence statutory process to declare a new scheme for the Bridge Road Main Street Precinct commencing October 1st 2018 for another 6 year period.

In regard to the scheme, we are recommending a reduction in the charge to rateable businesses/properties, with a special rate of \$300 per annum for ground floor businesses, \$200 per annum for 1st floor businesses and \$100 per annum for businesses located on side streets. We also request that the area/boundary of our Special Rate and Charge to remain as per current scheme.

We understand Council will continue to provide an annual contribution to the charge collected, again at a reduced level, and are very grateful and appreciative of this partnership, the dedication of councilors and council staff, and value the benefits of an integrated approach for the Bridge Road precinct.

We look forward to working with you to develop a new scheme and as such have been working on a new strategic plan that will guide the expenditure of the funds should a new scheme be successfully declared. A final draft of the plan will be available by the mid-May 2018.

Once again, we thank you for your commitment to our precinct. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me on 0417 758 884

Yours sincerely


Herschel Landes
President —Bridge Road Main Street Inc Association

Attachment 2 - Proposed Declaration Special Charge

Attachment 2

**Proposed Declaration of Special Charge
'Bridge Road Precinct'**

1. In accordance with a resolution of the Yarra City Council (**Council**) made at its ordinary meeting held on 5 June 2018, notice is hereby given that at the ordinary meeting of the Council to be held on 21 August 2018, it is the intention of the Council to declare a Special Charge (**Special Charge**) under section 163(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)* for the purposes of defraying expenses to be incurred by the Council in, administratively only and subject always to the approval and direction of the Council, providing funds to the incorporated body operating and known as 'Bridge Road Main Street Incorporated' (**BRMS**), which funds are to be used for the purposes of contracted support, promotional, advertising, marketing, business development and other incidental expenses to be approved by the Council and agreed to from time to time between the Council and the BRMS, all if which are associated with the encouragement of commerce, retail and professional activity and employment in the Bridge Road Precinct (**Precinct** or **Scheme**) and being the section of Bridge Road, Richmond between Punt Road and the Yarra Boulevard respectively. A plan of the Scheme area appears in paragraph 3 below, and forms a part of this declaration.
2. The Special Charge will be based on geographic criteria, having regard to the location of those rateable properties in the Bridge Road Precinct (as shown on the plan and in the table below), which rateable land is being used, or is reasonably capable of being used, for commercial, retail or professional purposes.
3. The area for which the Special Charge is to be declared is all of the land referred as the Precinct as identified and shown enclosed by bold black lines on the plan immediately below –



4. The properties to be included in the Scheme are –

<u>Roads or streets</u>	<u>Property Numbers</u>
Bridge Road	2 to 662 inclusive
Church Street	196 to 280 inclusive
Lennox Street	172 to 195 inclusive
Waltham Street	2a
Burnley Street	174
Hunter Street	2

Attachment 2 - Proposed Declaration Special Charge

5. The Council considers that each rateable property and each business included in the Scheme area that is liable or required to pay the Special Charge will receive a special benefit because the viability of the Bridge Road Precinct as a commercial, retail and professional area will be maintained or enhanced through increased economic activity. The special benefit which is considered to exist is in the form of a benefit to those persons who are required to pay the Special Charge which is over and above, or greater than, the benefit available to persons who are not required to pay the Special Charge and being an enhancement in the value and the use, occupation and enjoyment of the properties included in the Scheme.
6. In performing functions and exercising powers in relation to activities associated with the encouragement of commerce and retail activity in and around the area for which it is proposed the Special Charge will be declared, the Council intends to declare, levy and spend an amount of \$217,000 per annum, raising in total an amount of \$1,302,000 over the six year period of the Scheme, such amount being the total cost of the performance of the functions and the exercise of the powers by the Council and the total amount of the Special Charges to be levied.
7. The Special Charge is to be declared and will remain in force for the period commencing 1 October 2018 and ending 30 September 2024.
8. For the period of the Scheme, the Special Charge will be assessed and levied differentially, as follows –
 - Properties with a Bridge Road address and situated at ground level - **\$300 per annum**;
 - Properties with a Bridge Road address and situated other than at ground level - **\$200 per annum**; and
 - Properties with an address other than Bridge Road - **\$100 per annum**.
9. The Special Charge will be levied by the Council sending a notice annually to the persons who are liable to pay the Special Charge, which will require that the Special Charge must be paid –
 - By one annual payment to be paid in full by the date fixed by the Council in that notice, which will be a date not less than 30 days after the date of issue of the notice; or
 - By four instalments, to be paid by the dates which are fixed by the Council in the notice.
10. The Council will consider cases of financial and other hardship and may reconsider other payment options for the Special Charge.
11. For the purposes of having determined the total amount of the Special Charge to be levied under the Scheme, the Council considers and formally determines for the purposes of sections 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) of the Act that the estimated proportion of the total benefits of this Scheme to which the performance of the functions and the exercise of the powers relate (including all special benefits and community benefits) that will accrue as special benefits to all of the persons who are liable or required to pay the Special Charge is in a ratio of 1:1 (or 100%). This is on the basis that, in the opinion of the Council, all of the services and activities to be provided from the proceeds of the expenditure of the Special Charge are marketing, promotion and advertising related and will, accordingly, only benefit those properties and businesses included in the Scheme that are used, or reasonably capable of being used, for retail, commercial or professional purposes.

11.2 Future use of the bocce courts in Hardy Gallagher Reserve

Trim Record Number: D18/87083

Responsible Officer: Director Planning and Place Making

Purpose

1. To update Council on the results of the community consultation undertaken to determine the future use of the bocce courts in Hardy Gallagher Reserve and to seek direction on a way forward.

Background

2. In December 2016, Council received a proposal from the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House Committee of Management regarding possible improvements to the space currently occupied by the bocce courts in Hardy Gallagher Reserve. Ideas presented included a neighbourhood garden, sitting area, area for young children and retention of a lane for bocce.



3. After receiving submissions on this topic as part of the 2017/18 budgetary process, officers committed to a community consultation on future use of the Bocce Courts at Hardy Gallagher Reserve.
4. Pending the outcome of the consultation and subject to Council's support for the inclusion of the bocce court in the North Carlton Neighbourhood House lease area, Council could provide \$10,000 from within existing resources, as a one off payment, to the North Carlton Neighbourhood House to fund planning and design for the space.
5. In line with this advice, Council officers commenced consultation on the future use of the bocce courts at Hardy Gallagher Reserve in February 2018.

External Consultation

6. Community consultation on the future use of the bocce courts at Hardy Gallagher ran from 26 February – 29 March 2018.
7. Consultation methods to inform the wider community and visitors of the online forum and drop in session included:
 - (a) postcard mail out to 1500 local residents, advising that Council was in the early stages of thinking about how the bocce courts could be used to better support the community in the future, and residents were asked what three words best described their vision for the space (refer Attachment 1);
 - (b) signs on site in Hardy Gallagher Reserve;
 - (c) social media campaign via Facebook and Twitter (seen by 18,179 users across those platforms);
 - (d) article in Yarra Life online newsletter (accessed by 306 users); and
 - (e) community drop in session at the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House held on Saturday 17 March 2:00pm-4:00pm (attended by 63 community members).
8. Key stakeholders were sent a letter informing them of the project and consultation process. They were advised that a stakeholder meeting would be held on Thursday 19 April (6.30-7.30pm) at the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House, to review and discuss the feedback and the next steps in the process.

Consultation results

9. Below is a summary of the number of participants that engaged during the community consultation and engagement period.

Method	Participants
Your Say Yarra	111
Email	12 submissions
In person at on site consultation	63 attendees

Online consultation

10. The Your Say Yarra webpage generated 1,200 unique visitors and 111 ideas were submitted and voted on by 159 visitors. The most popular ideas (including a breakdown of the top 10) are presented as Attachment 2.
11. Overall results showed strong support for the future vision of the bocce courts to encompass “community” and “garden”.

Community drop-in session

12. The drop-in session was facilitated by an independent facilitator, and was attended by 63 people. The purpose of this event was to invite people down to enjoy the park and stimulate discussion on the space.
13. As part of the session, people were encouraged to provide feedback on the future of the bocce courts via a “dotmocracy” on the feedback boards.
14. Five key questions were placed on a wall and around each question were some of the words and ideas that had been suggested as part of the on-line consultation process. Participants were then provided with five green dots and two red dots and asked to place their green dots on ideas they supported and their red dots on ideas that they had concerns about. If they had an idea that wasn’t already captured on the wall, they could add a new idea. Results are presented as Attachment 3.

15. Overall, the feedback received during the workshop was consistent with the feedback received online, with the majority of people voting for a shared growing space that could be used by everyone.

Written Submissions

16. Twelve written submissions were received during the consultation period. Of these, five supported a shared growing space, four opposed this idea and three suggested other uses (Attachment 4).
17. A further five written submissions were received outside the formal consultation process. Four of these did not support gardening activities at this location. The fifth provided feedback on park specific installations, not material to this process.

Community Stakeholder Consultation

18. Following the broader engagement process, representatives from stakeholder groups were invited to participate in a meeting to discuss the feedback and the next steps in the process. Officers approached the following stakeholder groups:

- (a) Princes Hill Primary School;
- (b) Princes Hill Secondary College;
- (c) Redmond Park Retirement Apartments;
- (d) Princes Hill Community Centre;
- (e) the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House Committee of Management;
- (f) Manager, North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House; and
- (g) Friends of Hardy Gallagher Reserve.

19. The meeting was attended by representatives of:

- (a) The North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House Committee of Management;
- (b) Redmond Park Retirement Apartments;
- (c) Princes Hill Community Centre; and
- (d) Friends of Hardy Gallagher Reserve.

20. The format of the meeting was to:

- (a) recap on the main topics to emerge from the consultation;
- (b) look at the key things to consider for each of these topics; and
- (c) discuss potential solutions/ideas.

21. The idea of a shared growing space was generally advocated for by representatives of the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House Committee of Management, Redmond Park Retirement Apartments and Princes Hill Community Centre. Representatives of the Friends of Hardy Gallagher Reserve expressed concern at the use of public open space by a select few and it was argued the land should be returned to parkland where it would be accessible to all.

22. Some stakeholders felt that the bocce courts were no longer used and should be removed, while others felt they were an important part of the sites heritage and regular maintenance would encourage use. A summary of the key comments from this meeting is included in Attachment 5.

Local value of bocce courts

23. In terms of the heritage value of the bocce courts as expressed by residents, one written submission identified the bocce courts as having an important link to the Italian cultural heritage of the area.

24. The bocce courts at Hardy Gallagher have not been well used since the Montemurro Bocce Club ceased to exist approximately eight years ago. In terms of the overall feedback received, there was relatively little interest from the current community to retain the courts. In addition, there are two existing bocce lanes at Edinburgh Gardens which are not well used.
25. The following recommendations from the Conservation Management Plan and Master Plan make specific reference to the bocce courts:

Inner Circle Railway Linear Park Reserve Conservation Management Plan, January 2005

Description:

The Bocce court is located on the former North Carlton Station's eastern side. It comprises a series of sand beds enclosed by timber sleepers.

Significance:

The Bocce court is an intrusive element and is of no heritage significance.

Policy:

The Bocce court obscures the original track route and should be relocated.

(See Chapter 5, 5.2.4)

Inner Circle Railway Linear Park Reserve Conservation Master Plan, November 2006

Bocce Courts:

To be retained to the end of their useful life period as recommended by CMP.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

26. Internal consultation was undertaken with the following Council Units:
 - (a) Community Partnerships;
 - (b) Waste Minimisation and Agriculture;
 - (c) Communications and Engagement; and
 - (d) Open Space Maintenance.

Financial Implications

27. After receiving submissions on this topic as part of the 2017/18 budgetary process, officers committed to a community consultation on future use of the Bocce Courts at Hardy Gallagher Reserve.
28. Pending the outcome of the consultation and subject to Council's support for the inclusion of the bocce court in the North Carlton Neighbourhood House lease area, Council could provide \$10,000 from within existing resources, as a one off payment, to the North Carlton Neighbourhood House to fund planning and design for the space.

Economic Implications

29. There are no economic implications associated with this report.

Sustainability Implications

30. The inclusion of a food growing space would contribute local solutions to food sustainability. Benefits could include: collaborative consumption; waste reduction; compost; production; reduction of the heat island effect; and air quality improvement.
31. Food growing spaces require a constant source of water and are subject to water use restrictions as for residential properties. Where appropriate, water could be harvested from the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House, however water from mains supply would still be required.

Social Implications

- 32. The consultation process revealed strong support for the future vision of the bocce courts to be a space for “community” and “garden”, such as a food growing space. Social benefits including health; environmental education; connection; amenity and diversity.
- 33. If the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House were to oversee the food growing space, then there is opportunity develop programs which further develop community building.
- 34. The bocce courts have an important link to the Italian cultural heritage of the area.

Human Rights Implications

- 35. There are no human rights implications associated with this report.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

- 36. Consultation material included a translation panel containing advisory text in eight languages: Vietnamese, Greek, Mandarin, Cantonese, Italian, Turkish, Arabic and Spanish.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

- 37. The following is included in the 2017-21 Council Plan:

Objective	Strategies	Strategic Indicators	Initiatives
3. A Sustainable Yarra	3.6 Promote and facilitate urban agriculture with a focus on increasing scale and uptake in the community	Increase the number of urban agriculture community initiatives supported and promoted	3.6.1 Showcase urban agriculture and support community initiatives in sustainable practices

Legal Implications

- 38. The relevant land is Crown land temporarily reserved for public recreation purposes under the control of City of Yarra as Committee of Management.
- 39. Any change to the approved purpose would require Ministerial/Parliamentary approval. Such approval can take 4-6 months.
- 40. Approval would also be required from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to ensure that the proposed lease purpose is not detrimental to the purpose of the reserve.
- 41. The bocce courts are zoned as Public Park and Recreation (PPRZ) in the Yarra Planning Scheme with a Heritage Overlay (HO329) affecting the site.
- 42. Under the zone, a change of use to a community garden would be an as-of-right use and therefore would not require a planning permit for the use (car parking considerations is to the satisfaction of Council).
- 43. A planning permit may be required for buildings and works, under the Heritage Overlay controls.

Other Issues

Fence

- 44. There are currently two fences around the bocce courts at Hardy Gallagher Reserve, the outer fence is a 1.2m high chain link fence, and the inner fence is a timber post and rail fence. The existing outer fence is in reasonable condition, while the timber post and rail fence has some missing sections.
- 45. In terms of the feedback received during the consultation period, feedback on the fence was varied:
 - (a) In the online feedback, there were only a few comments made in relation to the fence, both for and against;

- (b) At the community drop in session, the idea 'retain bocce and remove fence' received six red dots and five green dots. The idea of 'no fence' received two green dots;
 - (c) Three of the written submissions suggested that the fence should be removed; and
 - (d) It is understood that proponents of the shared growing area are supportive of the fence being retained.
46. Due to the planning controls in place, demolition of the fence would require a planning permit.

Shared growing space – ongoing management considerations

47. The North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House Committee of Management has submitted a brief proposal regarding the establishment and ongoing management of a shared gardening space on the existing bocce courts.
48. There is no current formal relationship between the Neighbourhood House and the Bocce courts. There was a formal arrangement between the House and the Bocce Club until the Bocce Club ceased as an entity several years ago. Since that time the Bocce courts have been hired out via the House with no formal arrangement. The lease between the House and Council does not include the Bocce courts.
49. Shared gardening spaces need resources over the long term. It is recommended that further detail be sought on the proposed ongoing daily management of a growing space to ensure that it would meet the health, safety and amenity requirements of the surrounding community. This is particularly important, given the sites highly visible location within much valued parkland and could be addressed as part of the Licence agreement with the neighbourhood house.

Physical improvements and ongoing maintenance

50. If Council supported a change of use, it is likely that there would be strong interest from the community on any proposed changes to the bocce courts.
51. Should Council support shared gardening at this space, Council could require the Neighbourhood House to exhibit their planned alterations for community feedback. Final approval for any improvements at this site would be subject to officer approval as part of the conditions of the Licence.
52. Council typically enters into Lease and Licence agreements with clear roles and responsibilities with regards to ongoing maintenance. As with any formal agreement, failure to comply with the conditions of use could result in the Lease or Licence being revoked.

Options

53. Having considered the outcomes of the initial community consultation, there are four options for consideration by Council.

Option 1 – Convert the bocce courts into a shared gardening space

Officer Comments

54. Pros
- (a) This use responds to the most popular ideas for the future use of the site, which were "garden", "community", "food", "space" and "green";
 - (b) A shared growing space in this location could increase the use of the existing space and would be open for all to use;
 - (c) A shared growing space would provide opportunities for social connection and engagement with nature;
 - (d) A shared growing space could be used to enhance the community building programs run by the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House; and

- (e) Initial discussions with representatives of the Neighbourhood House Committee of Management have indicated a willingness on their part to manage this site for gardening purposes.

55. Cons

- (a) Use as a shared growing space may only appeal to a small number of interested people and therefore limits public use of the land;
- (b) There would need to be an ongoing commitment from the proponents of the garden to establish and maintain the space to an agreed standard;
- (c) The issue of future management and maintenance is still to be resolved and the cost of establishment and ongoing maintenance of the site is not known; and
- (d) Removal of the bocce courts does not acknowledge the historic use of the site for casual games.

Option 2 – Convert the bocce courts into a shared gardening space but retain one bocce lane

Officer Comments

56. Pros

- (a) The retention of a bocce lane would enable continued use of the facility by bocce users, which was in the top 10 most liked suggestions put forward during the online consultation;
- (b) Bocce reflects the heritage of the local area;
- (c) Keeping one lane open would allow sufficient space for a shared gardening space and associated social activities;
- (d) A shared growing space and one bocce lane would provide opportunities for social connection and engagement with nature; and
- (e) Initial discussions with representatives of the Neighbourhood House Committee of Management have indicated a willingness on their part to manage this site for gardening purposes.

57. Cons

- (a) The conversion of the space for shared gardening and bocce may only appeal to a small number of interested people and therefore does not increase public use of the land;
- (b) There would need to be an ongoing commitment from the proponents of the garden to establish and maintain the space to an agreed standard; and
- (c) The issue of future management and maintenance is still to be resolved and the cost of establishment and ongoing maintenance of the site is not known.

Option 3 – Retain bocce courts as they are

Officer Comments

58. Pros

- (a) The retention of the bocce courts would enable continued use of the facility by bocce users and the general community;
- (b) Bocce scored within the top 10 most liked ideas for the future use of the space; and
- (c) Retaining the bocce courts reflects the heritage of the local area.

59. Cons

- (a) The bocce courts are currently underutilised;
- (b) There are other bocce courts available at Edinburgh Gardens which are also under-utilised; and

- (c) Retention of the bocce courts in their current form does not respond to the local community's future vision for the space, which was for a use that promoted "garden" and "community".

Option 4 – Remove bocce courts and return to parkland.

Officer Comments

60. Pros

- (a) Access to public open space would be increased; and
- (b) Removal of the fence and bocce courts could provide further opportunities for natural plantings and therefore improved habitat values.

61. Cons

- (a) There would be limited opportunity for locals to actively connect and socialise; and

62. There is already considerable accessible (non-programmed) open space in the area.

Conclusion

- 63. The outcome of the consultation showed strong support among the local community for the bocce courts to be converted into a shared growing space and be open to everyone.
- 64. The current bocce courts have been seeing declining usage over the years.
- 65. A number of submissions received referenced the historical significance of the bocce courts to the area, with some expressing a desire to continue to be able to use the courts for casual games.
- 66. There was concern among some in the community that converting the bocce courts into a shared growing space would result in the appropriation of public space for the exclusive use of a small group of users.
- 67. It is considered that the conversion of the court area for a shared growing space and the retention of a lane for bocce present an option that satisfies the majority future vision of those who participated in the consultation.
- 68. Retaining more than one bocce lanes would impact upon the function of a potential community growing space. If more courts were retained, it would be possible to do some on the remaining space; however it would limit the design in relation to community outcomes such as seating and play features.
- 69. Initial discussions with representatives of the Neighbourhood House Committee of Management have indicated a willingness on their part to manage this site for gardening purposes.
- 70. Detailed design of the shared growing space (including species selection) would need to be carefully considered to realise the vision of the broader community. A robust governance model would also need to be implemented to ensure the space is managed and maintained to a high standard.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) notes the feedback received during the consultation period and thanks the community for its contribution on this topic;
 - (b) notes that the conversion of the court area for a shared growing space and the retention of one (1) lane for bocce presents an option that satisfies the majority future vision of those who participated in the consultation;
 - (c) authorises officers to commence the process of preparing a licence agreement over the site currently defined by the bocce courts plus the garden bed immediately south of the existing fence line (consistent with the plan in Attachment 6) to the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House to improve the site and manage the site for gardening purposes on behalf of the community;
 - (d) notes that designs showing future improvements shall include retention of one (1) lane of the bocce courts for play;
 - (e) notes that process of entering into a licence agreement is subject to a standard process and requires approval from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; and
 - (f) requires that the draft design shall be exhibited on site for a period of no less than two weeks prior to being approved by officers as part of the process for preparing a licence agreement.

CONTACT OFFICER: Justin Hanrahan
TITLE: Manager Open Space and Recreation
TEL: 9205 5720

Attachments

- 1 Postcard flyer
- 2 Summary of online feedback
- 3 Results of community drop in session
- 4 Written submissions
- 5 Summary of stakeholder workshop
- 6 Proposed licence area

Attachment 1 - Postcard flyer

Attachment 1: Postcard Flyer

**YOUR SAY
YARRA**



Hardy Gallagher Reserve

Share your future vision for the bocce court area of Hardy Gallagher Reserve.

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/HGR or come to our **community workshop on Saturday 17 March 2018** (turn over for details).



The bocce courts next to the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House in Hardy Gallagher Reserve are no longer in regular use.

We're now in the early stages of thinking about how this land could be used to better support the community in the future.

What three words best describe your vision for this space?

Your three words could tell us about the atmosphere and landscape you would like to see in the space, the kinds of communities it could attract, the active and passive uses it could foster, or anything else you wish to share.

Submit your three words by **Thursday 29 March 2018**.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Online
www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/HGR

In Person
Community workshop from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 17 March 2018 at Hardy Gallagher Reserve.

MORE INFORMATION

Phone
Open Space team on 9205 5555

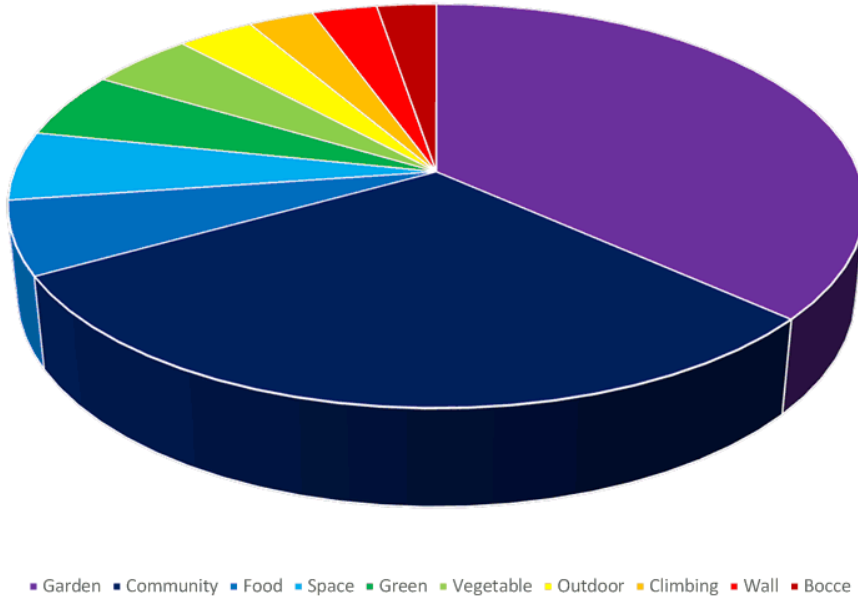
Email
info@yarracity.vic.gov.au
(subject line: Hardy Gallagher Reserve)

For information in your language, please call 9280 1940 and quote the REF number below. | 欲知粵語版本的資訊，請致電9280 1932並報上下列REF號碼。 | Για πληροφορίες στα Ελληνικά, παρακαλούμε καλέστε το 9280 1934 και αναφέρετε τον αριθμό REF παρακάτω. | Per informazioni in italiano siete pregati di chiamare il numero 9280 1931 e di citare il numero di riferimento (REF number) sottoindicato. | 欲知普通话版本的信息，请致电9280 1937并报上下列REF号码。 | Para información en castellano, llame al 9280 1935 y cite el número de REF. De más adelante. | Để biết thông tin bằng tiếng Việt, xin hãy gọi số 9280 1939 và nói số REF dưới đây. | للمعلومات باللغة العربية، يرجى الاتصال هاتفياً بالرقم (9280 1930) والإشارة إلى رقم المرجع REF المذكور أدناه. | REF 18021

Attachment 2 - Summary of online feedback

Attachment 2: Summary online feedback

Top 10 responses receiving most likes



Most commonly used words (visualisation)



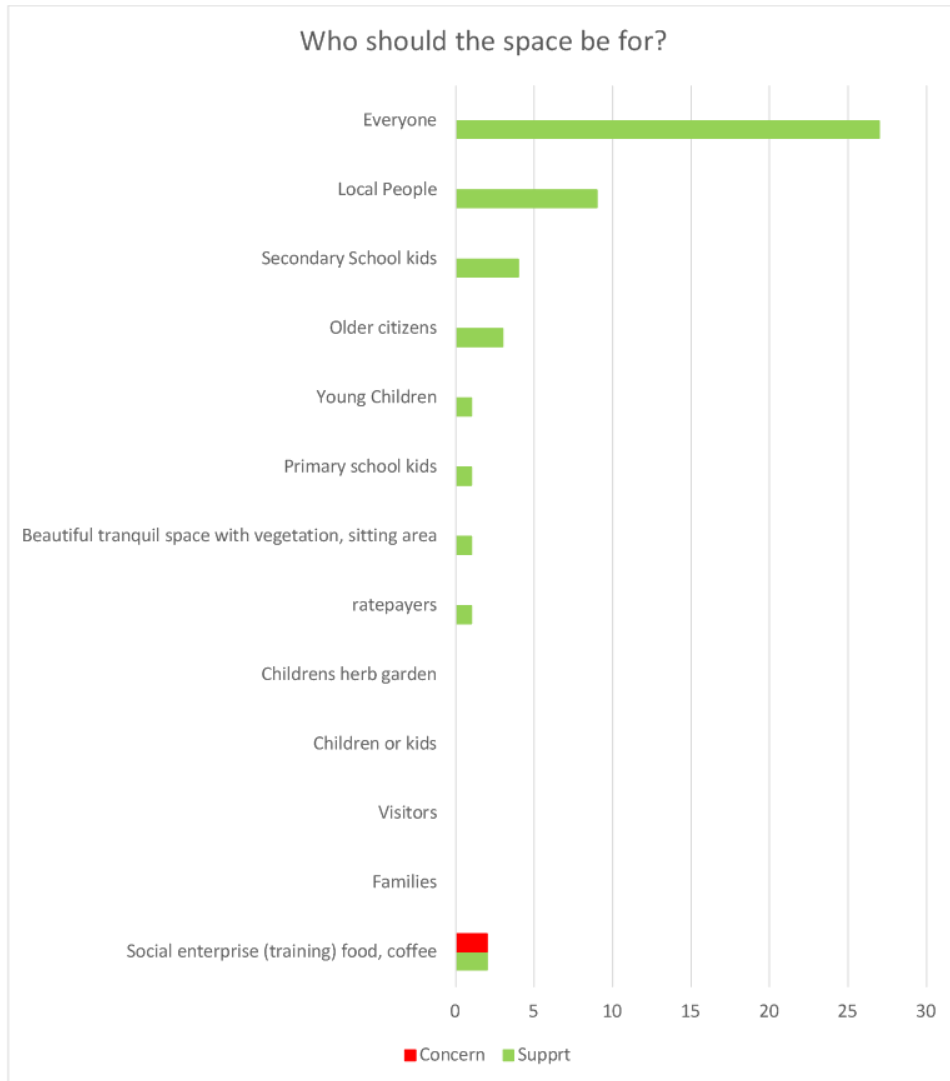
Attachment 2 - Summary of online feedback

Online feedback summary - raw numbers for words that received double-digit responses

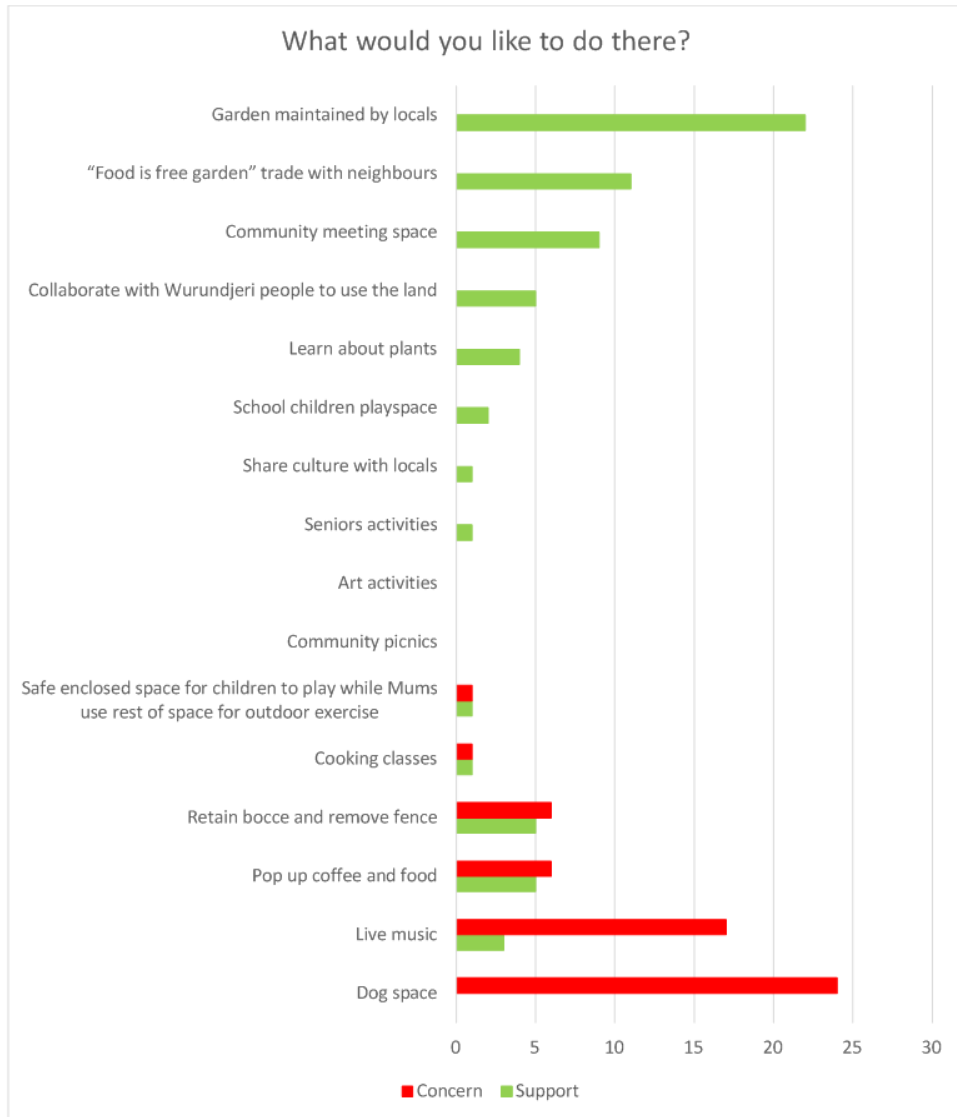
Word	uses + votes
Garden	430
Community	355
Food	69
Space	65
green	62
Vegetable	54
Outdoor	40
Climbing	34
Wall	34
Bocce	31
Share	31
Open	29
Free	26
beautiful	22
children	22
Collaborative	22
multipurpose	19
New	19
Petanque	18
plots	17
Thriving	16
Public	14
Land	13
nature	13
play	13
volunteer	13
Arts	12
Coffee	12
forest	12
lush	12
Sovereign	12
Treaty	12
Wurundjeri	12
shelter	11
Trees	10

Attachment 3 - Results of community drop in session

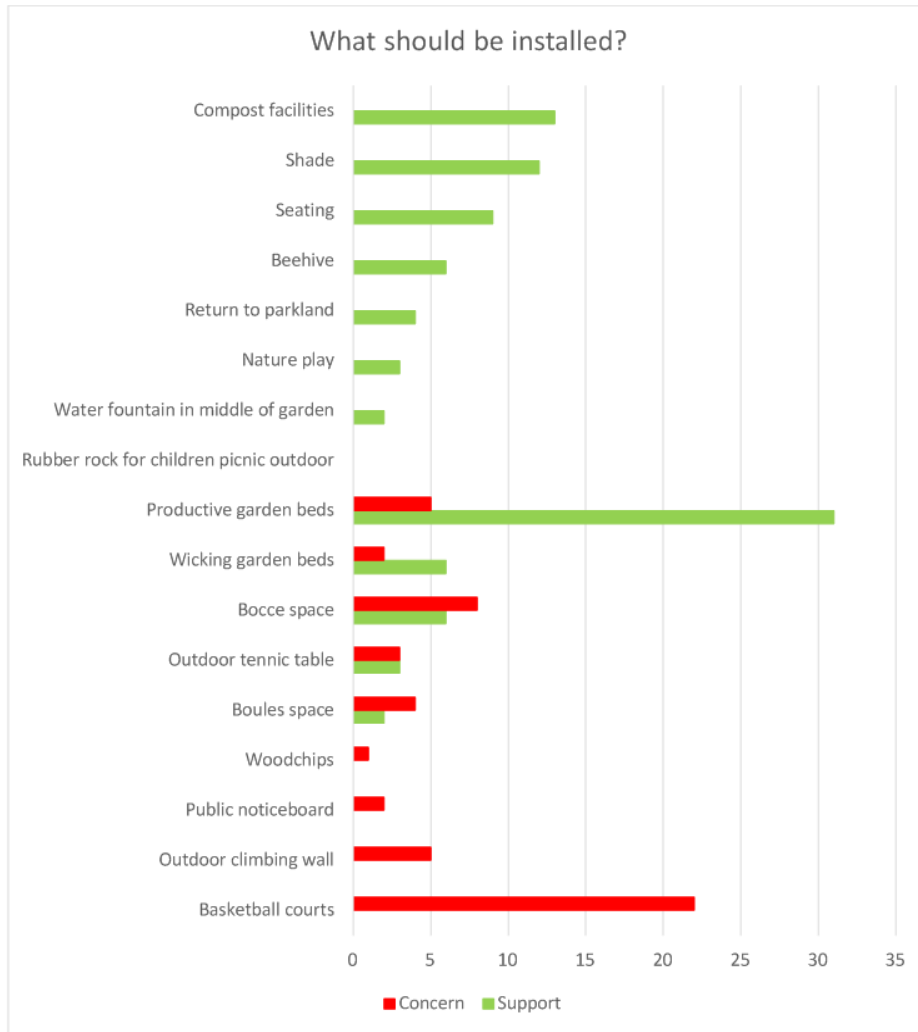
Attachment 3: Results of community drop in session



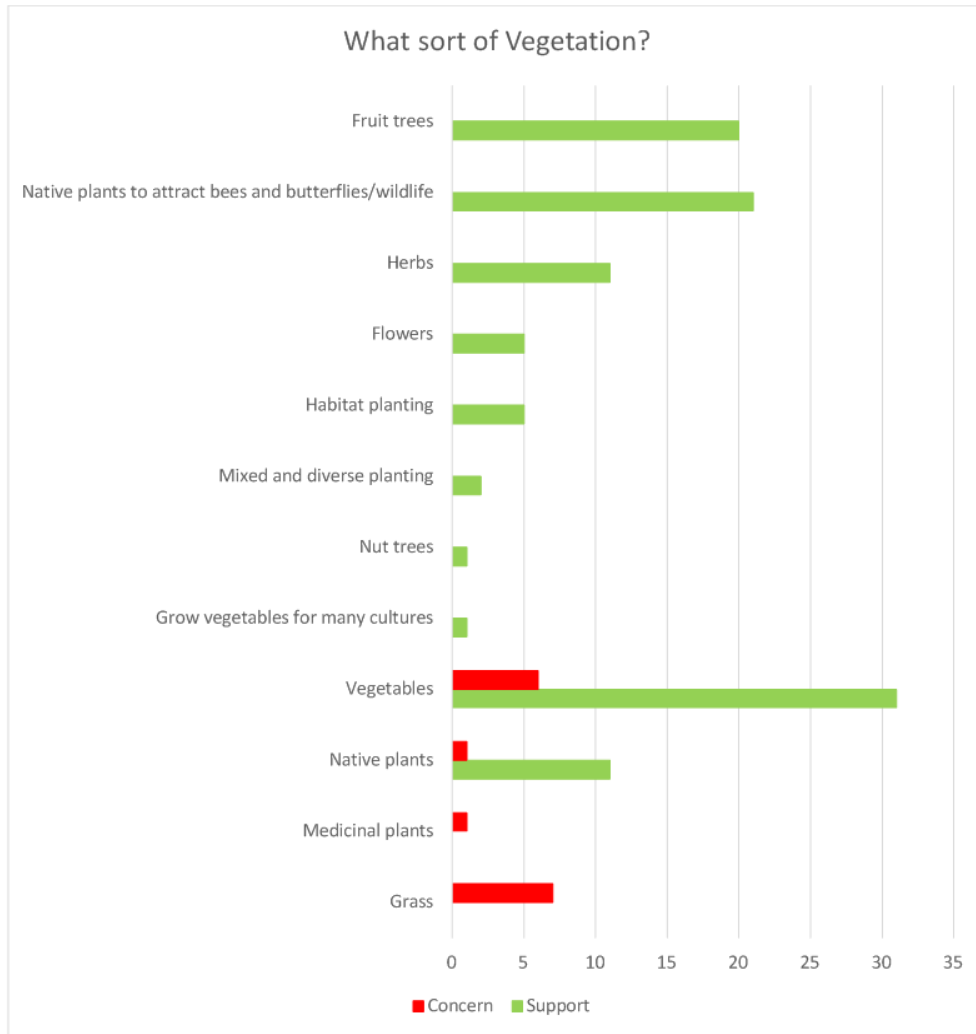
Attachment 3 - Results of community drop in session



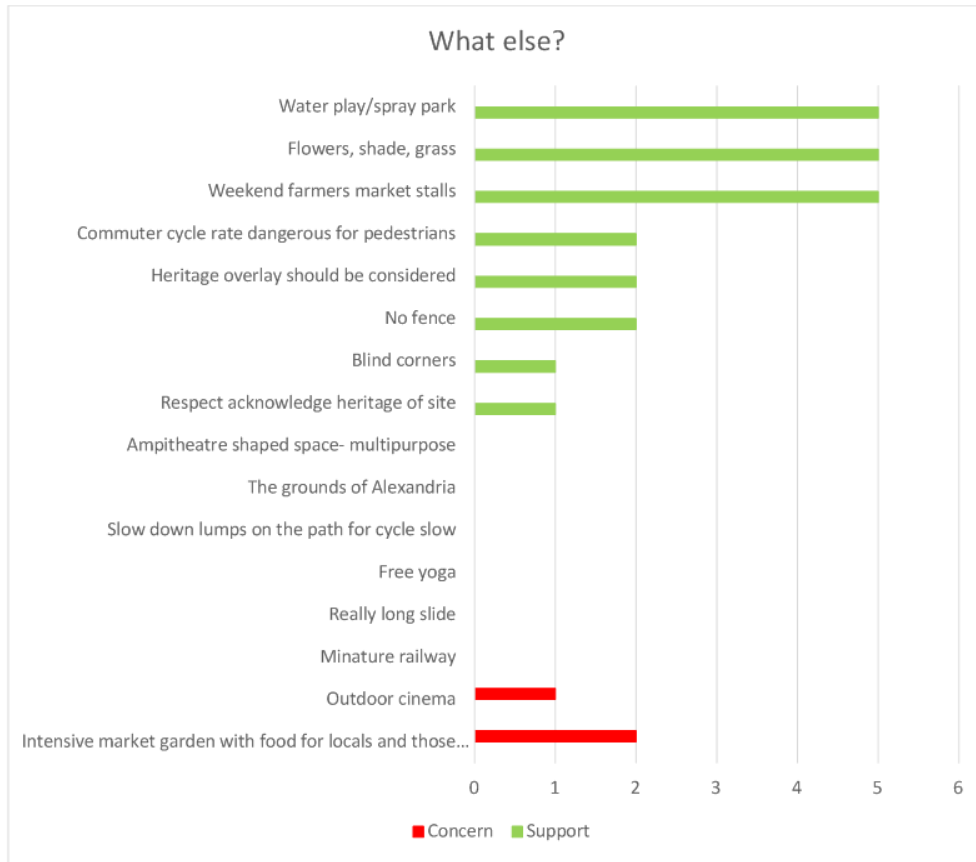
Attachment 3 - Results of community drop in session



Attachment 3 - Results of community drop in session



Attachment 3 - Results of community drop in session



Attachment 4 - Written submissions

Attachment 4: Written submissions

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City of Yarra Info](#)
Subject: Hardy Gallagher Reserve
Date: Thursday, 15 March 2018 10:14:48 AM

Dear Open Space Team

Re: The Hardy-Gallagher Park

We live on Park St, directly opposite the Bocce Courts. We have one major concern: that any planned change to the area should incorporate a SAFE cycle-path intersection on the north-east corner. At the moment the bushy growth around the Bocce Courts makes it a blind intersection from two directions, and there are frequent near-misses between pedestrians and cyclists coming north from the primary school (from Wilson Street) and commuting cyclists travelling east on the Capital City Trail. With the recent rapid increase in bike traffic unlikely to abate, the existing intersection is a serious accident waiting to happen, probably involving a small child colliding with an adult pedalling fast on a bike travelling east-west.

If the Team is unconvinced about the importance of this bike crossing, it may be worthwhile to study the bike traffic at this point; it goes in multiple directions, with heavy traffic coming and going erratically along and across Park St itself because of the laneway from Brunswick Rd through to Park St. The traffic at peak morning and evening times is easily commensurate with that counted at the Nicholson-st/Park St intersection, and adding any kind of 'community garden' on that corner would increase the traffic chaos and the consequent risk of accidents.

We believe it is in the best interests of the community as a whole if the courts are returned to open parkland. If there is to be a 'community garden' of some kind it should be open and unfenced. **MOST IMPORTANTLY** the cycle path intersection should be rendered safe. There should be **NOTHING** restricting the view of either pedestrians or cyclists in any direction at this intersection.

[REDACTED]

Re-development of the Bocce Courts- Adjoining Gallagher Reserve Princes Hill.



Princes Hill Restorative garden

The Past

- North Carlton/Princes Hill has seen numerous community groups living within and carrying out their lives over the past 100 years. Originally housing working class immigrants from the British isles.
- In the 60's the settlement of Greek and Italian communities began and with them the concept of home gardening.
- New migrant families at the time grew traditional varieties of horticultural and tree crops.
- These varieties were grown as they had a cultural significance to these groups E.G Roma tomato for sauce making and grape vines for wine.
- The Bocce courts of Princes Hill would most likely have been a place for some community members to meet and share the products(and seeds) of Princes hill home gardens amongst a glass of wine and creation of a social space.

Princes Hill Restorative Garden The Present

- New communities have moved into Princes Hill and new members of affluent background are moving in.
- Real estate prices are rising due to the proximity to parks and the city.
- This change has brought different communities together in one geography.
- The old and the new have an opportunity to merge together creating and greater community cohesion, cultural respect and inclusivity in Princes Hill.
- Young families moving in and living in the many new apartments with limited space to engage in out door activities.
- Gallagher reserve is a biodiversity harbor/corridor in the area
- The Bocce courts are being used sporadically due to this change.

Princes Hill Restorative Garden The Future

- Re-birthing the Bocce courts as a forest garden Bocce area, where natural systems and man made systems can coexist.
- Restoration of land around Bocce courts as a bio-diversity harbor where butterfly feeding plants, bird roosting areas can be created to enhance the reserve.
- Create a seed saving network that provides heirloom seeds to community members and stores and records Princes hill heirlooms from the numerous cultures that reside within it.
- Store house of social/ethnic memory such as how to use herbs/spices and vegetables we grow together in our gardens and sustainable urban agriculture technology.
- Create site which is a conversation about what it is to be a modern sustainable Yarra resident.

Attachment 4 - Written submissions



Attachment 4 - Written submissions



Attachment 4 - Written submissions



Attachment 4 - Written submissions

From: [Hanrahan, Justin](#)
To: [Lindsay, Carrie](#); [O'Byrne, Fiona](#)
Subject: FW: Hardy Gallagher Reserve BOCCE COURT CONSULTATION, PRINCES HILL
Date: Monday, 30 April 2018 8:40:37 AM

FYI

From: Fristacky, Jackie Cr
Sent: Sunday, 29 April 2018 8:56 PM
To: Hanrahan, Justin
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Hardy Gallagher Reserve BOCCE COURT CONSULTATION, PRINCES HILL

Hi Justin,

Can you accept the email of 28 April from [REDACTED] as a late submission on the consultation process for use of the Bocce Courts.

Thanks

Jackie

Cr Jackie Fristacky
Councillor for Nicholls Ward, City of Yarra
jackie.fristacky@yarracity.vic.gov.au
Phone 0412 597 794

Small daily improvements are the key to staggering long-term results!
Those who aim at nothing achieve it with amazing accuracy!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 29 April 2018 10:41 AM
To: Fristacky, Jackie Cr <Jackie.Fristacky@yarracity.vic.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Hardy Gallagher Reserve BOCCE COURT CONSULTATION, PRINCES HILL

Hi Jackie

Happy for you to send my email to the Officer concerned.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

From: Fristacky, Jackie Cr <Jackie.Fristacky@yarracity.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 28 April 2018 10:01 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Hardy Gallagher Reserve BOCCE COURT CONSULTATION, PRINCES HILL

Hi [REDACTED],

Fair comment.

Do you want me to forward your email to the Officer examining & assessing the input from the consultation process?

Jackie

Cr Jackie Fristacky

Sent from my iPhone

On 28 Apr 2018, at 1:27 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Jackie

Yes unfortunately the clear indication of the VCAL flyer was that they were raising funds to "build a community garden at the railway house" and it was this that caused a lot of angst among residents of Princes Hill.

I suspect not much can be done about that now.

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

You are correct that the work of the VCAL students around the Railway House is to be applauded, however there is a huge leap from that work to removing the bocce courts for a community garden.

Probably there is not enough space at the secondary college to have a worthwhile community garden for the VCAL students, however, it might be possible for the PH primary school to find some space on their grounds for a combined garden with the secondary college, a project that both schools could benefit from.

I'm still of the view that removing the fence and the sign that indicates the bocce courts are for hire might well increase usage of the courts. Our group of boule players used the courts last Sunday and several people approached us to find out about hiring the courts, none of them were aware that the courts could be used without a fee and that it was only if the pavilion was used that a hire fee applied. I'm guessing that if a fence were erected around the children's playground with a sign saying "playground for hire" it would end up getting as little use as the bocce courts.

Cheers

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the author.

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Councillors - Melba Ward](#)
Subject: Hardy Gallagher Reserve
Date: Tuesday, 20 March 2018 4:57:00 PM

On Saturday I attended a brief meeting at the “Bocce Pavilion” at the Railway House Community Centre to discuss plans for the Bocce Courts in Hardy Gallagher Reserve. There are some issues of concern:

General concerns:

- As Council knows there was a bitter dispute which severely divided the Princes Hill community when a garden group sought to acquire a portion of Hardy Gallagher Reserve to grow vegetables. These community divisions had almost healed and I’m disappointed that the Council has reopened these wounds by again encouraging the thought that part of Hardy Gallagher Reserve might be available for this purpose. A large number of rate payers are opposed to using parkland for vegetable production particularly in an area like Princes Hill where many of those wishing to grow vegetables have large blocks of land where they can do so.
- The Council previously voted to not have a vegetable garden in Hardy Gallagher Reserve and noted that there was no suitable unused land in Princes Hill available for that purpose. As a result residents were given the opportunity to acquire planter boxes from Council to be placed on pavements - several have done this.
- The lack of use of the Bocce courts has given rise to consideration of the future use of this area, rather, there should be a consideration as to why the courts aren’t being used. The fence around the courts and sign indicating that the area needs to be hired would be discouraging use.

The Meeting:

- As this is an issue that concerns rate payers I would have thought it relevant to ensure those at the meeting were in fact rate payers of The City of Yarra.
- A number of suggestions had been written on posted notes which were put on the wall of the pavilion and people were encouraged to place stickers on the notes to indicate - supported (green) or not supported (red) – each person having been issued with 4 or 5 green and 2 red stickers. Unfortunately several people adopted the adage of “vote early and vote often” as I saw a number of people who took more than one set of stickers by approaching different council officers assisting. I would suggest that this means that nothing could be read in to the number of stickers, green or red, placed on a given suggestion.

My Suggestion:

- The Bocce courts are clearly an important part of the Italian heritage of the area which I would have thought Council would be keen to retain.
- The fence around the courts gives the sense of an area not open to public use that has to be hired. I’m a member of a group which plays Petanque regularly and when the convener contacted the Railway House Community Centre he was told that the cost was \$200 so we went elsewhere. I have since been informed that it is the pavilion that needs to be hired and not the courts. It is possible to use the courts at no cost but this information was not provided.
- It’s possible that the simple act of removing the fence and sign saying the courts are for hire would indicate to people that this is not a private area but is for public use. This might encourage people to use the courts thus enabling the retention of this heritage area. Bocce and Petanque are played in Europe on any surface, including village squares, or

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

other uneven grounds that do not require maintenance.
If anyone wishes to discuss this further my contact details are below.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature block]

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

O'Byrne, Fiona

Subject: FW: Hardy Gallagher Reserve Bocce Court

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 13 March 2018 8:51 PM

To: mbxMayor <mbx.Mayor@yarracity.vic.gov.au>; Councillors - Langridge Ward <LangridgeWardCouncillors@yarracity.vic.gov.au>; Coleman, Misha Cr <Misha.Coleman@yarracity.vic.gov.au>; Councillors - Nicholls Ward <NichollsWardCouncillors@yarracity.vic.gov.au>; Councillors - Melba Ward <MelbaWardCouncillors@yarracity.vic.gov.au>

Subject: Hardy Gallagher Reserve Bocce Court

14-3-2018

Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Yarra City Council Councillors

Hardy Gallagher Reserve

Bocce Court development

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors,

You may be aware that the bocce courts near the North Carlton Railway House Community Centre are now not used a great deal. The proposal is to use bocce court land in other ways. Ideas have been sought on line and Yarra Officers are going to conduct a workshop on Saturday the 17th March 2018 on the possible future use of the bocce courts. Many of you may be unaware of the historic details concerning the Hardy Gallagher Reserve.

This area was won after a hard battle against developers in the 1960's. Developers wanted this area of land, that was originally Victorian Railways land, as a "Kleenex" warehouse. Fortunately, and due to the efforts of Mr Hardy and Mr Gallagher as well as the community, this did not happen and this reserve has been free open space that is available for everyone to use and enjoy. The Bocce courts were built and well used initially due to the large Italian population nearby. There are few of these original players now. The North Carlton Railway House Community centre is loved and well used.

In around 2010 and 2012 there were moves by a local gardening group to make a so-called "Community Garden" in the Hardy Gallagher Reserve which would involve fencing off sections of the park for the exclusive use of the plot holders. Various locations within Hardy Gallagher Reserve were proposed, including the bocce courts.

There was massive opposition to this proposal, as most people in the neighbourhood considered that the park should remain an open area, free for all to visit and enjoy. After many letters, proposals to council and even a special committee to examine all issues, it was decided by council vote on at least 2 occasions to not have a community garden in the Hardy Gallagher Reserve, or indeed in any other park in the municipality as this would reduce access by the

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

broader population. The local population has grown even more since then, and parkland is indeed even more precious.

In 2012, assessment of all local land by Yarra Council indicated there was no “spare” unused land for an additional community garden. There is Rushall Gardens, a fenced in community garden, primarily for vegetable growing near Rushall Station, North Fitzroy.

The idea of planter boxes was approved by Yarra Council so that people who wished to, could grow some vegetables in them near their own home.

There was a lot of friction, ill feeling and unhappiness between folks in the Princes Hill neighbourhood during the time of that community garden proposal for Hardy Gallagher Reserve, and I sincerely hope that the Yarra Council and staff remember what happened before and will not let that happen again.

The online proposals now clearly indicate that some people are again proposing a “community garden” as a future use of the bocce courts, probably in the form of raised planter boxes.

If the thinking is that a “community garden” is an unfenced open area, that is unencumbered by clumsy looking planter boxes, and has some flowers and trees in an area open to all, where all people can sit and relax, then I suspect there will be few objections.

The local feeling is that this reserve should remain as free open space that is available for **everyone** to use and enjoy.

I hope you will consider all these factors in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

O'Byrne, Fiona

From: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: FW: Hardy Gallagher Reserve

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 March 2018 2:48 PM
To: City of Yarra Info
Subject: Hardy Gallagher Reserve

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a proposal for the future use of the disused bocce court in Hardy Gallagher Reserve.

While there are several very active petanque clubs in the southern and eastern suburbs, e.g. St Kilda, Camberwell, Caulfield, Doveton, Casey, and on the Mornington Peninsula, e.g. St Andrews Beach, Main Ridge, Portsea, the nearest petanque club north of the Yarra is at Woodend.

I propose that:

1. the bocce court at Hardy Gallagher Reserve is converted to an open, gravelled area suitable for setting up as petanque pistes;
2. the converted area is made available to an established petanque club for a trial period of perhaps twelve months;
3. the club would seek members in the City of Yarra and the inner north of Melbourne;
4. at the end of the trial period, the club would, in consultation with the City of Yarra:
 1. continue the arrangement for a further, specified period; or
 2. facilitate the establishment of a separate North Carlton Petanque Club; or
 3. discontinue its use of the Reserve.

I am a registered member of Smythesdale Petanque Club which is affiliated with the Petanque Federation of Australia. I believe that the Smythesdale club would be a suitable sponsor to establish a northern suburbs playing group on the Reserve.

Players who joined the club would immediately have the opportunity to play in any of the numerous competitions held throughout the State in attractive locations such as Apollo Bay, Avoca and Halls Gap.

On several occasions, I have played social petanque on the open gravel area adjacent to the North Carlton Neighbourhood House and once or twice used the bocce court at the invitation of the people at the Neighbourhood House. I have been made to feel very welcome by the Neighbourhood House and can confirm that they look out onto very nice gravel!

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal in more detail or to refine it.

--

[REDACTED]

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City of Yarra Info](#)
Subject: Hardy Gallagher Reserve
Date: Thursday, 1 March 2018 5:25:27 PM

Inclusive community garden

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Councillors - Langridge Ward](#); [Councillors - Melba Ward](#); [Councillors - Nicholls Ward](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Proposed Bocce Court Use in Hardy Gallagher Park
Date: Monday, 19 March 2018 8:46:53 PM

I am a resident of Park Street Brunswick and would like to pass on my thoughts as to the future use of the land currently taken up by the bocce courts, as I was unable to attend the workshop meeting due to prior commitments.

Hardy Gallagher Reserve is a preciously valued small piece of open parkland giving us a slice of heaven, available to all young and old, offering a respite from the noisy, overcrowded, densely populated, neighbourhood we now live in. The tremendous growth in high rise development (including the proposed 300 unit Park St complex) only highlights the importance of protecting open space, already in such short supply in the inner suburbs for use by the broad population, including the aged.

In the 70's the Community fought hard to win this parkland, so it could be used by all. In around 2010 and 2012 there were moves by a local gardening group to use the Bocce Courts for their own purposes. These proposals caused a lot of ill feeling in the community. The proposals were rejected by the council who approved the idea of planter boxes on pavements and lanes so that people could grow plants or vegetables in them.

Now that the bocce courts are no longer used, I believe the land should revert to open parkland, for use by the general community including the aged. We do have an ageing population and they are an important part of the community. Once you fill up this space currently occupied by the courts with any sort of furniture or structure (boxes etc.) it excludes that area from use by the majority of the community. The courts take up a small but very significant area in terms of available open space and the amount of planter boxes would be limited. Using laneways and pavements would increase the capacity many fold and allow more community participation. The distribution of planter boxes over a wide area would also reduce the likelihood of rodent and other infestations, associated with community gardens, so close to houses and a school.

The residents of Park St already pay a high price in terms of loss of amenity associated with the Neighbourhood House. We are subjected to noise seven days and nights a week, from functions and activities inside and out, (parties, kids parties ,weddings, band practice, choirs etcc) as well as traffic congestion and noise on arrival and departure of attendees as well as a loss of very limited street parking.

The outdoor seating, specifically installed for the Neighbourhood House is now used for congregation and drinking of alcohol until the early hours of the morning making it very difficult to fall sleep. There were no problems before these were installed. Then we get awoken yet again by the sound of bottles smashing as the garbo's empty the bins, any time between 2am and 4am. The Neighbourhood House is a great resource, but some of us do pay a high price, it

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

seems.

We just want things as peaceful and quiet as possible, an extra bit of precious open parkland which everyone young and old can enjoy and admire, nothing else.

██████████

Attachment 4 - Written submissions



North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House
PO Box 1
North Carlton 3054

Ph: 9380 6654

SUBMISSION FROM RAILWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE TO CITY OF YARRA'S CONSULTATION ON THE BOCCE COURT SITE, GALLAGHER RESERVE

PURPOSE

The Railway House Committee of Management seeks to convert the disused bocce site into a well designed neighborhood garden.¹The design may include other compatible recreational amenities. This would be a creative and socially inclusive project and a significant opportunity for the Railway House to generate social, environmental and economic benefits to its community.

BACKGROUND TO THE CONSULTATION ON FUTURE USE OF THE BOCCE COURT SITE

In 2015 Railway House undertook a consultation with current users and, in view of the positive response, approached Yarra Council at the end of 2015. After two further meetings during 2016 it was agreed at a meeting in 2017, convened by Cr Jackie Fristacky, that Open Spaces would undertake a local consultation about possible future uses of the bocce court site.²The consultation period began in late February, 2018.

COMMUNITY GARDEN HISTORY ON HARDY GALLAGHER RESERVE

The current proposed model of a neighborhood garden avoids all previous objections raised during a past attempt to establish a community garden in Princes Hill.³ It is not encroaching on public parkland but simply using land already fenced for a different purpose. The model for this garden would be of a shared garden, with no individual plots and open to the public.

¹The Bocce Club formally wound up several years ago. Since that time the Railway House Committee of Management's Chair initiated regular bocce games with lunch, with prominent notices on the fence, and promoted it to hirers of the House. However, little interest has been shown. Although Council maintains the bocce court surface it has a derelict air, requiring new surfacing and frequent maintenance, which Railway House does not have the capacity to provide. It is currently used occasionally as an informal dog park by day, and at night it attracts vandals and drug users.

²It was made clear that the consultation would be open-ended rather than specifically about the Railway House's request to repurpose the area as a garden.

³Approximately ten years ago Council attempted to initiate a community garden on the Hardy Gallagher Reserve with a group of local gardeners invited to incorporate and run the garden. This initiative inspired a great deal of opposition. The main stated objections to the garden were that it was alienating parklands; that it would be comprised of private plots; that it would be closed to the general public; that it would attract vermin; that it would have a 2m high surrounding fence; that it would look unattractive. The spread of misinformation was problematic and framed the debate negatively. Nonetheless, these were the main identified issues that concerned local residents at the time and they deserve proper consideration today.

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WHY THE RAILWAY HOUSE IS AN IDEAL AUSPICE FOR A GARDEN

The Railway House is a relatively small neighborhood house with 2 EFT staff and 3 rooms. The limitations of the building make expansion difficult. However, it is set in beautiful parkland and is on the bike track. The addition of the bocce court as an outdoor neighborhood house space would allow for expansion of the work of the House. It could, for example, provide an excellent outdoor teaching space for children. It is expected that a garden would expand the demographics of the House users, as well as improve the amenity for current users. To actively garden, people would be required to become members of the Neighbourhood House. This would provide a code of conduct, insurance and agreement on a set of gardening rules consistent with safety & organic gardening practices. Access, however, would be open to the public at all times for enjoyment of the space.

CONFORMITY WITH COUNCIL POLICIES

This proposal is in line with and will help to implement Council's policies on Sustainability and Urban Agriculture. Neighborhood Gardens are about far more than agriculture and growing. They are about community building, bringing together people from all classes, ages, educational and cultural backgrounds to share in the joy of gardening. They are also about educating young people about gardening in small spaces in times of increasing urbanization and alienation from the natural world. Gardens encourage connection through skill sharing and develop awareness of environmental and sustainability issues at a local level. Council's recent concerns about waste management indicated the need for greater community ownership and awareness of issues relating to sustainable living.

THE NEED FOR SMALL LOCAL GARDENS AS URBAN DENSITY INCREASES

Council has a policy of actively creating green spaces as urban density increases. Here we have an abundance of green space. This land abuts Moreland where 4 blocks of flats of over seven stories have been/are being built at the junction of Lygon St. and Brunswick Rd. and a further block is being planned at the corner of Park St. and Sydney Rd. A visit by one of our committee to the 1 Lygon St flats has indicated there are a number of young residents who are very interested in gardening, with many stating that they do not know anyone in their building. As urban density increases the need, not just for green spaces but for active gardening opportunities, will increase. Parks are not created for passive leisure alone, but for the public to use the spaces for active pursuits that connect to community and act as an effective 'third space'.⁴

THE HOUSE FABRIC – ECONOMICS OF A GARDEN

The creation of a garden adjacent to Railway House would allow for additional training opportunities to be offered. Some of these programs would attract training funding & offer pathways to further study or employment. Furthermore, such programs would help fund the garden, ensuring that both the garden and the area around the Railway House are well maintained.

Conversion of the bocce court to a garden need not be a costly operation. A comparable garden at University College at the University of Melbourne cost \$50,000 to establish. However, this included fencing, which would not be required on this site.

The site currently has:

- A lockable garden shed to store tools
- Toilets and taps
- A building with a roof suitable for tanks to harvest water

⁴<https://theconversation.cmail19.com/t/r-l-jywdka-iyjlhkklu-a/>

'In third places, people are free to come and go without obligation. The status and backgrounds of users are largely irrelevant. These places are generally designed to be accessible, accommodating and inviting for all ages, low-profile, comfortable and conversational...Third places can lead to more resilient and better-connected communities, building up social capital, while reducing loneliness.'

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

- It is fully fenced
- It has a flat gravel surface
- A pavilion with doors opening onto the site which would be very suitable indoor/outdoor classroom
- Kitchen facilities (in above room) adjacent to the site.

LOCAL VOLUNTEER SUPPORT – THE TRACK RECORD

A group of between 8 and 14 volunteers has been intensively involved with looking after a garden alongside this site for the past three years. They meet monthly and also have twice-yearly working bees.

They have:

- Maintained the cottage garden alongside the bocce court
- Refurbished the derelict gardens at the front of the Railway House
- Created a small native garden at the back of the House near the Pavilion.

This has been done almost entirely with plants and materials supplied by the volunteers.

In 2018 The Princes Hill Secondary College VCAL Program developed student led activities at the Neighbourhood House. Students have:

- Participated in gardening activities
- Made and hosted a community lunch
- Initiated a composting project as part of a Sustainability program for the School and the Neighborhood House
- Delivered flyers
- Participated in meetings& written submissions to Council

The gardening groups from Railway House and Princes Hill Community Centre, along with Bunnings staff, collaborated with residents of the Housing Estate in 2017 to jointly build their vegetable garden.

The proposed garden will attract new volunteers and membership to the Railway House.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM OUTSIDE COUNCIL

Bunnings of Brunswick have already supplied a range of tools to the railway House Gardeners group, but have indicated a willingness to do more.

The Railway House itself has given very minimal financial support at this stage, given the uncertainty surrounding future usage of the bocce site.

Once established there is not a great cost involved in maintenance of a garden given the use of volunteer labour instead of Council resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our proposal.


Committee of Management, Railway Neighbourhood House

26 March, 2018

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City of Yarra Info](#)
Subject: Att. Bruce Phillips
Date: Friday, 16 March 2018 7:26:55 PM

Bruce Phillips
Director, Planning and Space Making
City of Yarra.

Dear Bruce,

I would like to add my voice to those who are supporting the proposal for a neighbourhood garden to be established for the Neighbourhood House, Old railway Station at Carlton North, I understand the disused Bocce bowls area is being considered for such a purpose.

This would not only enhance the appearance of the area but be serving a practical role in provision of vegetables for meals at the Neighbourhood House. I have lived in Carlton North for 48 years and am well informed of the history of the precinct and would welcome such a scheme.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City of Yarra Info](#)
Subject: Hardy Gallagher Reserve
Date: Friday, 2 March 2018 12:38:40 PM

garden of contemplation

Garden of reflection - put this one in for my 86 yr old neighbour who is now in a nursing home.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City of Yarra Info](#)
Subject: Hardy Gallagher Reserve
Date: Thursday, 8 March 2018 11:48:37 AM

Hi, i had 3 goes at the online system but it wouldnt complete. Too hard, so I am emailing instead.

I use the Park St walking track most days at different times of day and I live at Wilson St part time. Having looked at HGR regularly and knowing what is available at the Princes Park area it seems to me that the most lovely thing for HGR would be to complement the neighbourhood centre by providing a well designed area w at least

- 2 or 3 concrete table tennis tables like they do in sydney, new york and paris. People bring their own bats and balls.
- an outdoor chess table set like Hyde Park in Sydney
- some gym stretch and flex equipment like at Bondi beach

The area should be active and also allow for passive sitting to watch the activities.

The HGR is next to housing commission with many people wanting to be active and social near by. Their is also the Redmond House aged care building near by with an older population wanting to engage in some activity. The primary school opposite allows for basketball and young kids to ride bikes etc but there is nothing for the older group or people who use the bike path to stop and do some gym stretches.

When I was researching open space in copenhagen, amsterdam and paris I observed the best ones had a combination of active and passive uses so that they attracted all age groups with the very old sitting watching the activities while they chatted to friends. Princes Hill and Princes Park cater well for young and very active mobile but do nothing for the more gentle but engaging activities required by adolescents and older groups to coexist.

This area does feel very neglected and in need of regeneration so it is good you are thinking of it. I know there was a move a while ago to turn it into community garden but residents objected. Maybe herb boxes could be planted in between new uses so that a broader audience and locals could benefit.

The young kids equipment to the west of the neighbourhood centre also needs a sail cloth or something for shade protection.

One of the biggest barriers to that end of Wilson Street is the unsavoury and huge pile of rubbish, shopping trolleys etc that always seems to be outside the housing commission. Maybe council could work with the housing office and supermarkets to improve this situation.

I will be away on 17 March so wanted to submit this now.

Regards
[REDACTED]

Attachment 4 - Written submissions

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City of Yarra Info](#)
Subject: Hardy Gallagher Reserve
Date: Monday, 12 March 2018 5:38:30 PM

I am a resident of Princes Hill and am wholly supportive of a community garden at the disused bocce court. The site is next to the neighbourhood house and would be a wonderful asset for the community providing an opportunity to learn about growing food in small, urban spaces.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Attachment 5 - Summary of stakeholder workshop

Attachment 5: Summary stakeholder workshop

FACILITATOR SUMMARY | KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

North Carlton Bocce Courts Engagement

Facilitator: Jessica Christiansen-Franks (CEO, Neighbourlytics)

April 2018

OVERVIEW

On Thursday 18th April 2018, City of Yarra hosted a meeting with key stakeholders to discuss the future use of the North Carlton Bocce Courts, as part of a broader program of engagement with the local community. The session was structured to directly build upon feedback received via Your Say Yarra's online forum, and the public drop-in session held on site in March 2018.

The main objectives of the event were to provide key stakeholders and community representatives the opportunity to:

- Reflect on the outcomes of previous engagement activities
- Discuss key objectives for the space, as they relate to the organisations they represent.
- Hear from other stakeholders about the (perceived or actual) challenges or concerns relating to different uses.
- Find areas of consensus between one another.

This document intends to provide a summary of the evening as recounted by the facilitator.

THE PROGRAM

Part 1 | INTRODUCTIONS & KEY TOPICS TO COVER

At the commencement of the session participants were asked to introduce themselves, and each outline a key topic they wanted to ensure the meeting covered. The key topics are outlined below as presented by the group.

- Planter bed accessibility
- Noise or other things that distract from local amenity
- Community building is important
 - Shared garden would connect local people
- Any community garden would need to consider:
 - Climate change
 - Social isolation
- Quiet seating space very important- bike activity can be hectic
- An educational space to cater to all ages
- Space should further enhance Neighbourhood House facilities and potentially bring in income
- Maintenance of space as 'public' is very important- community gardens should not take up space which is currently public
- Space should be attractive, lots of seating and usable space
- Think if different food growing models
- Space should be usable by all, meaning the fence should be removed
- Heritage of site, where bocce is relevant to cultural past.

Attachment 5 - Summary of stakeholder workshop

Facilitator Summary

April 2018

Parts 2 & 3 | MAIN DISCUSSION

As representatives of key groups within the local community, the participants were asked to reflect on the top 5 themes that appeared across the engagement process, and discuss the challenges and potential solutions for each. A summary of this discussion is represented as follows:

	Consideration & Challenges	Solutions
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism is concern • Respect heritage of the site • Drug users might hang out in a new space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space becoming an asset for the Neighbourhood House • A mix of uses could accommodate everyone's priorities
Productive Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public space should not be taken for private use, and community gardens are exclusive • Who is entitled to take the produce/has access to the boxes? • Who maintains the garden year-round? • Gardening only appeals to select few, and is not inclusive for all • Produce will be eaten by rats and possums • Garden should be high quality design to improve amenity of the neighbourhood. • Waste disposal of productive garden can be a problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be inclusive, with open access for anyone to enjoy • Not an "allotment" style community garden • Garden open to all people • City of Yarra would maintain the garden, with assistance from Neighbourhood House for community access • Should be mix between productive garden and display garden (ie; French) • Involve school kids in programs • "Harvest Feast" as a way of getting together • Regular working bees • Excess produce should be given to food bank • Connect to VCAL program • Low maintenance plants (ie; fruit trees and herbs)
Bocce Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are other bocce courts in the area, so these ones are not needed • Needs a new surface, this can be time consuming to maintain • Bocce is only of interest to a small proportion of people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bocce courts reflect the local heritage of local area • Keeping one lane open would allow other uses to also take place • ½ bocce courts and ½ passive seating would work • Fence must be removed to make accessible
Native Parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be well maintained and look better than current natural reserves in the are/ • There is enough native parkland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbish existing native parkland before adding more • Native corridors are important

Attachment 5 - Summary of stakeholder workshop

Facilitator Summary

April 2018

	already	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird life is important, and tree create bridges
Children's Playspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are enough children's playspaces already, including one adjacent to the Neighbourhood House. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childrens play or education elements can be inciorporated into community garden

FACILITATOR OBSERVATIONS & COMMENTS

The following is the facilitator's summary of the key points of agreement reached by the participants. Note that this is intended as a distillation of the discussion held on the night, and has not been provided to the participants for comment.

- All participants agreed that the space needed to be inclusive, and function as a key gathering space for the community. Despite this shared aspiration, the attendees had differing views about the best use to achieve this.
- The conversation was dominated by discussion about a productive community garden in the space. Discussion about use of the bocce courts was the second most popular topic.
- Some supporters of the community garden noted that this use should primarily be maintained and managed by the City of Yarra. Due to time constraints this topic was not able to be further explored and it is recommended that more direct consultation is undertaken should a community garden be pursued.

Shared views

- Social inclusion and isolation is very important to the community.
- The space should function as part of the cluster of community uses around the Neighbourhood House.
- The space should be for the community, accessible by all.
- A mix of uses may help the space appeal to everyone.
- Vegetation selection should be low maintenance to ensure the space looks tidy and discourage vandalism. Productive plants such as fruit trees and herbs may also conserve space and allow more areas for seating and socialising.
- Space should be high quality, and enhance the amenity of the local area. The design and maintenance of the space were identified as key considerations here.
- Allowing the space to be programmed with activities and events is important.
- Noise generating uses are not appropriate, especially active sports like basketball.

Differing views

- The use of space as community garden. All participants appeared to agree that an 'allotment' style community garden was not appropriate, but there was much discussion about what other form this might take.
- Retention of the bocce courts. Some people felt they were current not used and should not be retained, while others felt they were an important part of the site's heritage, and regular maintenance would encourage use.

Attachment 6 - Proposed licence area

Attachment 6: Proposed lease area



Lease area to extend 1m on southern side of bocce courts to encompass existing strip of garden bed currently being maintained by North Carlton Railway Station Neighbourhood House Committee of Management.

11.3 Development of Community Greenhouse Action Plan

Trim Record Number: D18/81048

Responsible Officer: Assistant Director Planning and Place Making

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to detail the next steps for development of a Community Greenhouse Action Plan (CGAP), responding to the 24 April 2018 Council resolution that:
 - (a) *“Council now receive a report to the May cycle of Council Meetings on a proposal for the development of a joint Yarra Council / Yarra Energy Foundation Community Greenhouse Action Plan, which could be ready for adoption by Council by early 2019; and*
 - (b) *“such report clearly identifies the respective roles of Yarra Energy Foundation and Yarra Council in the development and acquittal of the Plan.”*

Background

2. On 9 April 2018 at the request of Council, officers presented a report to Councillor Briefing outlining the feasibility of developing a CGAP.
3. This report outlined that Council could begin co-development of a CGAP with Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF), with a view to potential adoption by Council in early 2019.
4. At its meeting on 24 April Council resolved that a report be prepared for formal Council consideration (see above).
5. A CGAP would be a strategic document that states the need, options and recommended pathway for Council to support achievement of maximum greenhouse gas abatement across the municipality by a set time, and within a set / realistic budget. Note: where councils have carbon neutral aspirations for the community, this type of strategy and associated action plan has also been referred to as 'Roadmap to Zero' strategy or similar.
6. Co-development of a CGAP between YEF and Council could be undertaken which would also strengthen the ongoing working relationship between the two organisations.
7. The specific design, coverage, and focus of a CGAP is often unique to the municipality creating it. Consistent with the Council resolution of April, Council officers and YEF staff have developed a proposed Project Plan which identifies the recommended design as well as roles and responsibilities.
8. The proposed joint Yarra and YEF CGAP would:
 - (a) identify the current state, need, key challenges and opportunities to reaching zero net emissions in the Yarra Municipality as soon as possible;
 - (b) cover all emissions sources in Yarra (including stationary emissions, waste, and transport, and include emissions from Council);
 - (c) develop the long-term strategy (roadmap), targets, and strategic pathways to accelerate greenhouse gas reduction within Yarra, towards a future goal of zero net emissions;
 - (d) include key short-term actions with roles, responsibilities, budget, and greenhouse gas reduction potential. Where actions currently exist within YEF or Council strategies, it is expected that these would be referenced and referred to only;
 - (e) focus on the practical opportunities YEF and Council can lead, facilitate, support or directly influence to accelerate greenhouse gas reduction within Yarra;
 - (f) identify links, cross-over, and potential collaboration opportunities between Council and YEF and confirm roles and responsibilities;

- (g) review key opportunities and needs for others to take that can influence accelerated greenhouse gas reduction in Yarra;
- (h) include community and key stakeholder consultation and engagement in its development; and
- (i) be a shared strategic document, endorsed by both the YEF Board and Yarra Council.

9. The items expected to be out of scope include:

- (a) detailed articulation of actions and associated emissions sources already covered by existing Council and YEF's Strategies and Strategic Plan. Rather than re-writing these strategies and plans, the CGAP would be expected to simply discuss and refer to these as the implementation pathway; and
- (b) adaptation to climate change. Whilst interlinked, this strategy would be expected to focus on mitigation of greenhouse emissions, not adapting to the future impacts of climate change.

10. The project timeline that would be possible is:

April-June 2018	Project planning, data collection and internal (CoY) consultation
June-August 2018	Community consultation and engagement
August - September 2018	Draft Strategy development
October-November 2018	Review and update of Draft Strategy
November - December 2018	Final CGAP for endorsement (or exhibition) by Council and YEF Board
January - June 2018	<i>(if required)</i> Draft CGAP on exhibition, update, and endorsement.

11. The roles and responsibilities of YEF and Council in co-development of the CGAP would be as follows:

Yarra Energy Foundation	Yarra City Council
Project Management Lead	Project Management Support
Project Steering Committee Member	Project Steering Committee Member
Support Consultation and Engagement, including provision of Facilitator.	Support Consultation and Engagement, including provision of Communications expertise, design, venues, and catering as required.
Lead CGAP document development	Support CGAP document development
YEF Board to endorse CGAP	Council to endorse CGAP

External Consultation

- 12. External consultation for development of this report has occurred with YEF.
- 13. Endorsement of this report would lead to community consultation for development of a CGAP occurring within Yarra from June to August 2018.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

- 14. Internal consultation has occurred with key areas of Council who would be impacted by the GGAP development, including the Waste Minimisation and Economic Development teams.

Financial Implications

15. There are limited financial implications of approval of this report. Development of the CGAP would occur within existing staffing and budget resource meaning no additional budget is required. However, the limited staffing and budget to support CGAP development would need to be diverted from other activities.

Economic Implications

16. The CGAP would include emissions from businesses in Yarra and opportunities to support these businesses to reduce emissions. For the most part, actions which reduce emissions reduce ongoing business operational costs, proving positive economic benefits to Yarra.

Sustainability Implications

17. A positive sustainability outcome would be a prime objective focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the City of Yarra as quickly as possible.

Social Implications

18. The CGAP would include a review of residential emissions reduction and opportunities for future programs to target different social elements with Yarra.

Human Rights Implications

19. There are no known specific human rights implications.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

20. A Communications and Engagement Plan for the development of the CGAP would be reviewed by the Communications Team to meet corporate expectations.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

21. The development of a CGAP would respond to Council Plan Strategy 3.3 to *Lead in sustainable energy policy and deliver programs to promote carbon neutral initiatives for the municipality.*

Legal Implications

22. There are no known legal implications.

Other Issues

23. Nil

Options

24. Council can decide to proceed with the development of a CGAP, or not.
25. The April 2018 Briefing Report identified that a joint approach with the Yarra Energy Foundation would be the best way to move this matter forward to advance greenhouse reduction actions and strategies in Yarra.

Conclusion

26. A CGAP would assist in accelerating greenhouse gas reduction in the City of Yarra Municipality (Yarra) towards zero net emissions.
27. Co-development of a CGAP between YEF and Council would be the preferred approach to formulate an effective document and also strengthen the ongoing working relationship between the two organisations.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the officer report relating to the request by Council for a report on the development of a Community Greenhouse Action Plan; and
 - (b) note the outline of a program, and timings, should Council determine to proceed with the formulation of a Community Greenhouse Action Plan.
2. That Council resolve whether or not to commission a Community Greenhouse Action Plan.
3. That should Council determine to proceed with the development of a Community Greenhouse Action Plan, that Council resolve that it be jointly developed in partnership with the Yarra Energy Foundation.

CONTACT OFFICER: Michael Oke
TITLE: Manager Sustainability and Strategic Transport
TEL: 9205 5723

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

11.4 WW1 Field Gun

Executive Summary

Purpose

To provide a report to Council on the status of a WW1 Field Gun in the Art & Heritage Collection and present options as to its restoration and installation or its de-accession and disposal.

Key Issues

Council owns a WW1 German Artillery Field Gun which had been in the Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill, since 1921 following its capture by Australian Troops and its installation by the former City of Collingwood as a “Trophy Gun”.

It was removed in 2013 following a member of the public climbing on it and being injured.

The Field Gun has been stored at the Burnley Depot since then and its material condition is deteriorating given the unsuitable environment; it remains a safety issue as it is still accessible by members of the public.

The Richmond RSL and other local community groups would like the Field Gun restored and re-installed in a public park, ideally in 2018 in time for the centenary of Armistice. There are Federal and State Government Grants available to assist these types of projects; the Victoria Remembers Major Grants Program opening 4 June and closing 27 August 2018.

Given its current condition and the public interest of this object, a Council determination of its future is being sought.

Financial Implications

The proposed cost for restoring and re-installing the Field Gun is approximately \$38,000. Majority of this may be covered through in kind support via the Richmond RSL’s Defence Force networks and associations as well as Government Grants. Council also has an annual Collection Maintenance budget of \$45,000 which could cover remaining or limited additional costs.

11.4 WW1 Field Gun

Trim Record Number: D18/73737

Responsible Officer: Unit Manager Arts, Culture and Venues

Purpose

1. To provide a report to Council on the status of a WW1 Field Gun in the Art & Heritage Collection and present options as to its restoration and installation or its deaccession or disposal.

Background

2. Council has a World War 1 Krupp Howitzer (150mm) Field Gun, (Field Gun), in its Art & Heritage Collection. It was captured from the German Imperial Army by Australian troops in 1918 on the Hindenburg Line in France. It has been 100 years since this event. These captured guns can be referred to as 'Trophy Guns'.
3. The Field Gun was installed in Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill from around 1921/1922 when City of Collingwood obtained it through the official allocation via the Commonwealth Trophy Committees and remained there for approximately 90 years.
4. There were three other guns gifted after World War 1 to the local city councils which make up Yarra (Fitzroy, Abbotsford and Richmond) and only this one remains. Many Trophy Guns have been lost either through neglect, theft or deliberate disposal due to historical perspectives as objects or relics of war.
5. The allocation of Trophy Guns was centred on the population for the towns and municipalities. The article in The Age at the time (see attachment) overviews the allocation process in Victoria, but of the 33 trophies available - after majority were given to the war museums - only six field guns were available and of these Collingwood received the largest. Across Australia the dissatisfaction with what was received was widespread, so Collingwood was well served.
6. Before the trophy was allotted certain conditions had to be agreed. The conditions required that three trustees should be appointed by the Council and that these trustees should sign an agreement to comply with the following conditions in respect of the relic: arrange for it to be permanently housed in a public park, garden or building within the town, whichever may appear most suitable, and for its subsequent preservation and safe custody.
7. After almost 90 years of being in the park, by the early 2010s the Field Guns condition had deteriorated, public safety standards had changed, and a routine Park Safety Audit identified the Field Gun as a potential hazard. The report suggested:

"Recommend removal of hazardous item or relocation to a fenced area where it may be viewed but not accessed by children. NB: The cannon, which is situated 2 m from pathway, is almost 2 m high but lacks any impact absorbing undersurface. In addition it is covered in jagged surfaces due to rust and has numerous areas of entrapment. If item not removed, repair hazardous jagged/rusted sections"
8. However, given the magnitude of the funds required to undertake works and the limitations of the maintenance budget allocated, \$15,000 per annum at the time to manage the entire collection of over 800 objects in the Art and Heritage Collection, no remedial works were done.
9. In 2013 a member of the public was injured whilst climbing the Field Gun and this prompted its immediate removal from Darling Gardens to Burnley depot.
10. The Field Gun was initially relocated to a secure area in the Burnley depot, however it has since been moved to a driveway and it is currently in an area accessible to the public. Commuter vehicles park illegally on the site and it has become again a risk to members of the public.

11. The Field Gun is also exposed to risk of theft and the weather; it is currently located under trees and directly on the ground on top of an accumulation of organic matter including dirt and leaves.
12. This has accelerated the rate of deterioration of the object. Crevices and cracks/voids in the Field Gun have also become full of dirt and therefore moisture, so the current environment is contributing its rapid corrosion.
13. Officers have been investigating suitable locations for the Field Gun to be moved to as a matter of urgency, however given the scale and complexity to move an item like this, and the need for a final decision on its future, it has remained in place at Burnley.
14. There is now an urgency to resolve the future of the Field Gun that is based on its current storage conditions and also a unique external funding opportunity related to the centenary of the Armistice in 2019.
15. Notably, there is significant community interest in the Field Gun.
16. Community groups including the Richmond RSL, Richmond & Burnley and Collingwood Historical Societies have been advocating to Council to have the Field Gun restored and reinstated for public display.
17. The Richmond RSL have requested and received in principle support from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and relevant Veterans Associations to assist Council with the transport, storage and restoration of the gun.
18. An accompanying letter from Commanding Officer LTCOL Derek Snipe of the 4th Combat Service Support Battalion (Maygar Barracks, Broadmeadows) outlining this support is an attachment to this report.
19. The ADF have the logistical expertise and utility/support vehicles to move an object like this and also the mechanisms to catalogue and track the gun in storage as an incoming item owned by City of Yarra; it would be located in a secure warehouse only accessible to select members of the barracks.
20. The Richmond RSL have submitted an application for The Armistice Centenary Grants Program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs on invitation from the Federal Member for Melbourne's office (all federal electorates have \$50k to distribute to projects in the Armistice year).
21. Council has also been contacted by other interested stakeholders. One enthusiast and member of an interest group has been compiling accurate information for a register of historical artillery guns as part of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company's online resource.
22. The advice was that while Australian WW2 25 Pounders are visible in many parts of the country (and regional towns); the WW1 trophy guns are much rarer.
23. In determining the future of the Field Gun, Council has a number of options:
 - (a) restore and re-install the Field Gun in Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill;
 - (b) restore and re-install the Field Gun in a new location, such as Barkly Gardens, Richmond;
 - (c) restore the Field Gun and find another storage site for the Field Gun;
 - (d) do not restore the Field Gun and find a new storage site for the Field Gun; and
 - (e) do not restore the Field Gun and propose to de-accession the Field Gun from Council's Art & Heritage Collection.

Option A: Restore and re-install the Field Gun in Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill

24. The Field Gun could be restored with support of the Richmond RSL through its Australian Defence Force connections and via federal or state funding sources. This includes logistical transport, temporary storage and overseeing repair and restoration works to the object to a standard suitable for conservation purposes and for public display.

25. It is acknowledged that safety, appropriate location and community expectations need to be considered in determining where and how the Field Gun is re-installed in a public setting.
26. Some existing WW1 guns are installed in the public realm including similar models outside Victoria Barracks in Melbourne and the near exact same gun is installed on a hill within a garden setting at Montmorency RSL in Melbourne.
27. There are public installations of similar guns and it is evident that suitable displays can be developed with safety, aesthetics, as well as reflective and historical qualities at the forefront. There are also employable devices to discourage people from climbing the Field Gun if installed in a park.
28. Council's Risk Management Unit has outlined the requirements to be met in order to approve the Field Gun being re-installed in any proposed public space.
29. These include: that the Field Gun be elevated on a plinth; that the Field Gun be securely attached to the plinth; that signage stating to not climb or touch the Field Gun be installed; that a garden bed surrounds the plinth and that a fence be constructed around the garden bed.
30. The narrative that the Richmond RSL and Arts & Cultural Services would want to highlight if the Field Gun is re-installed in the public realm is the rich symbolism it represents including Australian sacrifice and the silencing of war.
31. Additionally the history and story of the Field Gun would be highlighted including the capture of the weapon and its part in the final moments of the First World War through well researched and designed interpretive panels or signage.
32. A key part of this outcome would be the stabilization of a crucial item in a public collection and its renewed presentation in a thoughtful, engaging and contemporary way; it offers an opportunity to re-approach the presentation of historical artillery in parks, providing better context and community understanding (previously the Field Gun had no existing signage or didactic cues in its original installation).
33. As cultural and heritage practice continues to attest, objects such as these are not only engaging and educational - in this case from a technological and military perspective - but they are artefacts intrinsically linked to our past as a country and to individual stories which are no less significant; they also act as memorials to remind us of the deceased and prompt us to think about our future.
34. Darling Gardens in Clifton Hill is the original location of the Field Gun, having resided there from around the mid-1920s until 2013. Two maps of the Darling Gardens from 1930 & 1957 as an attachment to this report show the original position of the item.
35. Collingwood Historical Society have formally advised that they want to see the Field Gun re-instated in its original home in the Darling Gardens given its provenance and connections to the area.
36. They have also noted if the Field Gun was to go to another location, then appropriate interpretive signage outlining the history and original site in City of Collingwood.
37. The current 2015 Darling Gardens Master Plan does not make reference to the Field Gun. It has not been located there since it was removed in 2013.
38. Within the process of developing the recent Darling Gardens Master Plan, Council engaged with the community on three occasions, including a letterbox drop of 1800 residences. Across the multiple rounds of consultation Council received more than 300 submissions regarding design and functions of the Gardens, one (1) of which requested that the Field Gun be returned to Darling Gardens.
39. A previous City of Collingwood commissioned document, '*Darling Gardens Cultural Significance and Conservation Policies*' by Nigel Lewis Richard Aitken Pty Ltd (1993), makes reference to it as the 'cannon'. Under section 7.7 Buildings and structures, the report states 'Retain cannon in existing location'.

40. However, the Richmond RSL have expressed concern about the Field Gun being re-installed in the same location within Darling Gardens, principally around the following issues:
- (a) The former location is close to Hoddle Street, very busy with cars, trucks and trains and reduced the ability for this to be a place of reflection, commemoration and ceremony; and
 - (b) It also spreads the Yarra memorials rather than concentrates them, and reduces the impact of telling a richer story of these memorials. The view is a lone Field Gun in a large park would not be able to tell the same story as a memorial with an avenue of trees where ceremonies already take place each year.

Option B: Restore and install the gun in a new location, such as Barkly Gardens, Richmond

41. Should Council determine to restore and install the Field Gun in a new public location based on practical considerations, the same requirements for restoration and installation apply as in Option A.
42. Other locations Council could consider are Barkly Gardens and Edinburgh Gardens as they both have existing war memorials which would in some ways be an appropriate new location for the Field Gun.
43. Edinburgh Gardens is not recommended because of the problems the existing memorial already faces. The WW1 memorial in Edinburgh Gardens, quite a unique arbour, has had its original function greatly diminished by the electricity sub-station that was built directly adjoining the war memorial and the expansion of the bowling club buildings.
44. Barkly Gardens is a possible site. The Richmond RSL, in particular, has been actively advocating for the Field Gun to be restored and relocated to Barkly Gardens, in line with the existing ANZAC War Memorial where there are active community commemorations for the sacrifices made at war.
45. The 2006-2007 Master Plan for Barkly Gardens includes a reference to retain the existing memorial.
46. The installation of the Field Gun near the existing monument in Barkly Gardens would allow for a considered layout and reflective synergy between two linked assets that provide physical and emotional insights into World War 1 and its impact and connection on local communities.
47. The Brigade that captured the Field Gun (the exact battalion within that Brigade is difficult to ascertain due to inconsistent records) were made up of Victorian Troops, and in particular soldiers from the suburbs of Richmond, Collingwood and Fitzroy.
48. In general, the guiding principle for the maintenance of historical objects and buildings is not for it to be relocated, according to the Burra Charter: the Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites as the best practice standard for managing cultural heritage places in Australia.
49. The Burra Charter states: *“The physical location of a place is part of its cultural significance. A building, work or other component of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.”*
50. Council could conceivably argue that locating the Field Gun in another location is the sole practical means for ensuring its survival.

Option C: Restore and find another storage site for the Field Gun.

51. Council could secure external funding and in-kind support to restore the Field Gun and defer the decision of its permanent location.
52. At minimum, the Field Gun could be cleaned to conservation standards, including removing all the dirt and organic matter from the existing crevices/holes and doing some removal of the corrosion, through Council’s annual Collection Maintenance budget or in-kind support.

53. The preservation of the Field Gun should be guided by Council's Collection Policy which outlines the responsibility to maintain and preserve objects in the Collection.
54. There are limited storage options for the Field Gun within Council properties. Ideally the Field Gun should be stored off the ground and under some cover, in a dry environment.
55. Council could explore other storage options such as using a specialist storage service which offers security and appropriate housing (as it does for a large heritage map of Richmond which is too large to be accommodated in house); this can be paid for on a rolling basis until a decision is made on its permanent home.
56. Council could also offer the Field Gun on loan in trust to an organisation such as the Richmond RSL through a Memorandum of Understanding. In this scenario, Council retains interest and control of the Field Gun and the Richmond RSL would work with 4 Brigade to restore and display the Field Gun at Simpsons Barracks in Greensborough.
57. Council would have the rights to recall the Field Gun at any future date and reinstate it in a setting it would see fit.

Option D: Do not restore the Field Gun and find a new storage site.

58. Council can opt to not restore the Field Gun and find a new storage solution for the object.
59. In this case it is still recommended to clean the Field Gun to a base level of conservation standards, including removing all the dirt and organic matter from the existing crevices/holes and doing some reversal of the corrosion to halt further deterioration of the object, through Council's annual Collection Maintenance budget.
60. The preservation of the Field Gun should be guided by Council's Collection Policy which outlines the responsibility to maintain and preserve objects in the Collection.
61. As per Option C, there are limited storage options for the Field Gun within Council properties. Ideally the Field Gun should be stored off the ground and under some cover, in a dry environment.

Option E: Do not restore the Field Gun and propose to de-accession the Field Gun from Council's Art & Heritage Collection.

62. Another option for the Field Gun is for it to be de-accessioned from Council's Collection.
63. The Collection Management Policy and Operational Guidelines call for all proposals for de-accession to be submitted to Council's advisory Visual Arts Panel (VAP) for its review and endorsement.
64. A formal de-accession proposal will be prepared for the Visual Arts Panel to consider if Council recommends this course of action. The proposal must include justification for the de-accession and the written recommendation of two experts.
65. Objects proposed for de-accession can only be proposed for de-accessioning if they meet one or more of the following criteria as outlined in section 8.3 in the Collection Management Policy:
 - (a) items that have no relevance to the Policy aims;
 - (b) certain items that are copies, duplicates or reproductions;
 - (c) certain items that are in poor condition or have suffered irreparable damage;
 - (d) items that have a legal ownership established as other than the Yarra Council; and
 - (e) irreparably damaged items with no known provenance.
66. The Field Gun status has already been canvassed with VAP and there was general support for de-accession should Council be able to secure an appropriate recipient, such as a public museum. However, VAP would only formally consider a de-accession at Council's initiation.

67. The Collection Management Policy outlines that: ‘De-accessioning is the process by which the City of Yarra may legally and officially dispose of Collection items. All proposals for de-accession are to be undertaken with great caution, thoroughness and consideration. De-accession is not a method for raising revenue. Money raised from the sale of de-accessioned works will be used generally for acquisitions or for the care and development of the Collection.’
68. If a decision of de-accession is made, then
- (a) Council will need to hold the object for 12 months as a cooling period before disposal can take place;
 - (b) Disposal could be in the form of:
 - (i) offering it to another institution;
 - (ii) sale; and
 - (iii) dispose as waste.
69. Appropriate disposal would be determined including offering it to a suitable museum, collecting institution or society. It is understood that the Army History Unit in Canberra is willing to accept Trophy Guns in order to preserve them and put them back on public display where possible. The Richmond RSL may be willing to accept the Field Gun and have indicated there may be some scope to have it displayed once their building is refurbished (a project currently underway).
70. Another option for de-accession is to sell the Field Gun and the market would determine the likely sale price. These items are rare and tied to Australia’s war history, however, and selling an object like this could also result in negative community and media interest.

External Consultation

71. The Richmond RSL and Richmond & Burnley Historical Society initiated discussions around this collection item during Council’s Remembrance Day planning and have provided ongoing feedback and advocacy throughout the scoping of this report and investigation into future options for the Field Gun.
72. The Collingwood Historical Society have been in contact with Arts & Cultural Services about the status of the gun on and off since its removal. They have advised their formal position that they want to see the Field Gun returned to the original site of Darling Gardens. If it was determined to install it elsewhere in another location in Yarra, they would like strong rationale for this and for interpretive signage to outline the original location and history of the Field Gun within Collingwood.
73. The process of developing the Darling Gardens Master Plan, Council engaged with the community on three occasions, including a letterbox drop of 1800 residences. Across the multiple rounds of consultation Council received more than 300 submissions regarding design and functions of the Gardens, one (1) of which requested that the Field Gun be returned to Darling Gardens.
74. Various stakeholders have been consulted throughout this process, including Kevin Browning, an artillery expert who is also the Director of Collections of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company who provided further information into the origins of the Field Gun, its importance and advice on its preservation and significance.
75. Mr Browning has noted about the Field Gun (full report attached): *‘Whilst no doubt the importance of the gun to Veterans goes without saying... if the history of the gun and what it really represents was known by the citizens then that importance would be held right across the whole community. It was the forebears of the citizens that put themselves in harm’s way and no doubt the families of those veterans sacrificed a great deal and underwent much fear for their loved ones. Council needs to...understand that the gun is not a symbol of war. It is a symbol of the sacrifices our forebears gave for the freedoms we so love and enjoy today.’*

76. A professional conservator was also consulted and engaged to provide a report to Arts & Cultural Services into the current condition of the Field Gun and steps for its material restoration and stabilisation.
77. The Field Gun was discussed at the VAP meeting on 5 April 2018 and the overall feedback was that the rightful home for such an object is a military/ war museum where it can be viewed by those who wish to see it, in a context that takes into account its history, value and significance, as well as more opportunities for scholarship and exhibition/education.
78. The VAP questioned whether a contemporary recreation space such as a park is the right setting for an object like a gun; this question is open for debate as parks continue to be a place of War Memorials and other monuments or art installations, as well as active and passive activity for the public.
79. It is also noted that Barkly Gardens and Darling Gardens are on the Crown Land Reserve List. Should Council decide to install the Field Gun in either of these locations, it would require a discussion with the Department Environment, Land, Water & Planning as the gun would come under their liability.
80. Should Council determine to re-install the Field Gun in a public location in Yarra, it is proposed to develop community information for distribution that explains the history and provenance of the Field Gun, and explains the rationale for returning this memorial to public display.

Internal Consultation

81. Arts & Cultural Services have consulted with relevant teams within the organisation including Open Space and Risk Management.
82. Open Space has given formal advice which in summary outlines that they do not approve of the Field Gun being installed in Barkly Gardens or any other park due to the safety risks and also the visual and spatial impact such an installation may have.
83. The formal response from Open Space is included as an attachment to this report.

Financial Implications

84. The preliminary budget estimated for the restoration and re-installation of the Field Gun is approximately \$38,000 for the sandblasting, historical reproduction paint, replica wheels (to replace lost wooden ones), structural drawings, re-installation including raised pedestal and fence, as well as design and implementation of interpretive elements.
85. The Grant (outcome pending) covers \$20,000 of this and the balance is covered mainly by in kind support via the RSL, Australian Defence Force and some support via the collection maintenance budget.
86. The cost break down for just the full restoration of the Field Gun - excluding the works required to reinstall it in a public park - would be approximately \$23,500 (with \$10,000 of that covered in kind through the RSL's networks and the rest covered through the Federal grant if successful).
87. It is noted that the \$38,000 is an estimate (though accurate with quotes) and if further landscaping was proposed, such as a garden bed around the elevated Field Gun, then that would add to the total project budget in the order of \$10,000.
88. Should Council elect to enter into a loan agreement with the Richmond RSL, then the transportation, restoration, storage and display costs would be borne most probably by the ADF.
89. If de-accession is proposed, then the current Collection Management Policy guides that items should be offered to a suitable museum or institution or sold to a willing buyer. The Collection Management Policy specifies that any profits from a sale of an object from Council's collection, goes back into Collection expenditure for maintenance of other items.
90. There would also be ongoing maintenance costs if Council keeps the Field Gun in its Collection which can be adequately funded through the annual maintenance budget.

91. There are also other funding opportunities available for the centenary of World War 1 and the State Government offers larger pools of funding for projects like this through the Victoria Remembers Major Grants Program opening 4 June and closing 27 August 2018. Applications can be sought for projects such as the creation of reflective or memorial spaces and memorials between \$30-80k.

Economic Implications

92. NA

Sustainability Implications

93. If the Field Gun is installed once again in one of Council's open spaces on permanent public display, there will be an impact on the landscape and it will reduce open space to some extent.

Social Implications

94. The object has clear connections to the civic and historical life of Collingwood and its community, as well as previous serving veterans, their families and descendants. The local RSL and Historical Societies have highlighted its physical, historical and spiritual importance, particularly in light of the Centenary milestone of WW1.
95. The Field Gun, if restored and re-installed in one of Yarra's open spaces, will be visible and accessible to the wider community and public. It will provide an opportunity for the object and its traumatic history to be democratically accessed, and as a result there are implications for local history and education for younger people (and broader sections of society) to learn about the past.
96. There will be members of the community and the public who do not want to see guns in the park as objects of war. There is a long tradition of displaying silenced weapons in public spaces in Australia and across the world and it is acknowledged that there can be differing views on this.

Human Rights Implications

97. NA

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

98. NA

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

99. The preservation of the gun should be guided by Council's existing Collection Management Policy which outlines the responsibility to maintain and preserve objects in the Art & Heritage Collection.
100. The de-accession or disposal of the Field Gun should also be guided by Council's Collection Management Policy.

Legal Implications

101. The Field Gun was removed in 2013 due to an incident with a member of the public being injured while climbing on it. As the gun was installed in a park owned by the State Government, Council would not be liable.
102. The Field Gun would need to meet stringent conditions to be considered safely installed in the future as outlined by Council's Risk Management team to minimize the risk of future incidents.

Other Issues

103. Council has limited storage capacity particularly for objects like this. The Burnley depot site is also scheduled for redevelopment in the near future so the Field Gun will need to be moved in the short to medium term.
104. Due to the safety risks surrounding the Field Gun's current location in the driveway at the old depot, it should be moved somewhere else urgently.

105. The ADF has officially offered logistical recovery and transport support to Council to take the Field Gun to a secure site at Broadmeadows Barracks for temporary storage while a decision is made.
106. The Richmond RSL has indicated it is willing work with the ADF to enter in loan arrangements with Council and take responsibility for the restoration, transport, security and display of the gun.
107. There might be strong community interest in this issue and also potential media interest and coverage.

Options

108. As outlined in paragraphs 23 to 65 of this report, the options available include:
 - (a) restore and re-install the Field Gun in Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill;
 - (b) restore and re-install the Field Gun in Barkly Gardens, Richmond;
 - (c) restore the Field Gun and find another suitable display or storage site for the Field Gun;
 - (d) do not restore the Field Gun and find a new storage site for the Field Gun such as the Broadmeadows Barracks; and
 - (e) do not restore the Field Gun and propose to de-accession the object from Council's Art & Heritage Collection.

Conclusion

109. The Field Gun is a rare and important part of Australia's history. Its allocation to the former City of Collingwood was one of civic pride.
110. After a significant public safety incident, and the strong message machines of war can be connected to, it is understandable for there to be concerns about returning such an item back to public display.
111. It is also true that Council acknowledges the sacrifices made by veterans through ceremony each year and actively preserves a number of war memorials, including the WW1 Memorial in Edinburgh Gardens, which is going through a restoration process currently.
112. There are some good examples of this type of object being on public display in parks and gardens, with the risks associated diminished sufficiently by safety and risk management measures being adopted.
113. The level of funding allocated to the maintenance of Council's collection makes it very difficult to effectively manage larger monuments and objects such as the Field Gun to ensure it is conserved and made safe. As such, external funding opportunities are key to restoring and reinterpreting these items to contemporary standards. Such funding is available now.
114. The Richmond RSL and local historical societies have emphasised the importance of having this item restored and made accessible to the community and greatly prefer to have the Field Gun installed in the public realm for its accessibility and historical/civic significance.
115. Whilst Richmond have expressed their interest to be another overseer and caretaker of the gun in partnership with Council if it is installed in Barkly Gardens; its priority is to return it to local public display in Yarra.
116. The Burra Charter recommends, where possible, for objects to be maintained at their original location.
117. On balance having considered the range of views and options, it is considered that Option B (Barkly Gardens, Richmond) is the preferred location on the basis that:
 - (a) retains the Field Gun in Yarra and on public display;
 - (b) consolidates the war memorial monuments in a location that already is a focus of community activity;
 - (c) provides the most appropriate setting to honour the sacrifice made by Victorians 100 years ago; and

- (d) the Darling Gardens site does not provide a suitable setting for the Field Gun to be appreciated and utilised for commemorative events.

118. However, should Council not be able to find a solution to its future display, then entering into a loan agreement for the Field Gun with an appropriate organisation such as the Richmond RSL is an option. Storing the Field Gun without a plan for its public display is of no benefit to Council or the interested public.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council supports the WW1 Field Gun being restored and installed in Barkly Gardens, Richmond in a way that meets contemporary public safety standards and adds to the dignity of the existing memorial.
2. That interpretive signage be installed at both Darling Gardens and Barkly Gardens to explain the history and provenance of the Field Gun.
3. That prior to installation, community information is developed and distributed to explain the history and provenance of the Field Gun, and to explain the rationale for returning this memorial to public display.

CONTACT OFFICER: Siu Chan
TITLE: Business Unit Manager Arts, Culture & Venues
TEL: 9205 2045

Attachments

- 1 Collingwood Gun Restoration.4 CSSB Correspondence.9 Mar 18
- 2 Report- Field gun 31-1-18
- 3 Collingwood Gun Background by Kevin Browning
- 4 Attachment for Report - Other WW1 Guns on public display
- 5 Darling Gardens Maps 1930 & 1957 showing Cannon location
- 6 Proposed new location of the field gun at Barkly Gardens

Attachment 1 - Collingwood Gun Restoration.4 CSSB Correspondence.9 Mar 18



AUSTRALIAN ARMY
4th Combat Service Support Battalion
Maygar Barracks, Camp Road, BROADMEADOWS VIC 3047, AUSTRALIA

F9020030

MR Gareth Ward
RSL President
Richmond RSL
399-405 Church Street
RICHMOND, VIC 3121

COLLINGWOOD GUN RESTORATION PROJECT

I write in reference to the request for an indication that 4th Combat Service Support Battalion (4 CSSB) supports the Armistice Centenary activity to restore the “The Collingwood Gun”.

I have been informed by both the Richmond RSL and the RAEME Association of Victoria of the current state of the gun in the care of the City of Yarra Council and the plan to restore the gun for a display purpose.

Subject to grant approval 4 CSSB is supportive of the restoration and is able to offer support that is within its remit. Support may include recovery and secure storage of the item.

I believe that it is the intent of the RSL and RAEME Association to involve past and present serving members of both RAEME and RAE in the restoration. I look forward to combined efforts with 22nd Engineer Regiment on this worthwhile project.

My point of contact for all correspondence is the Officer Commanding, 105th Workshop Company, MAJ Bart Kohler on 0488 224 432.

Best regards,

derek.snipe

Digitally signed by derek.snipe
DN: c=AU, o=GOV, ou=DoD,
ou=PKI, ou=Personnel,
cn=dereksnipe
Date: 2018.03.09 16:34:57 +11'00'

DSW Snipe, CSM
LTCOL
Commanding Officer

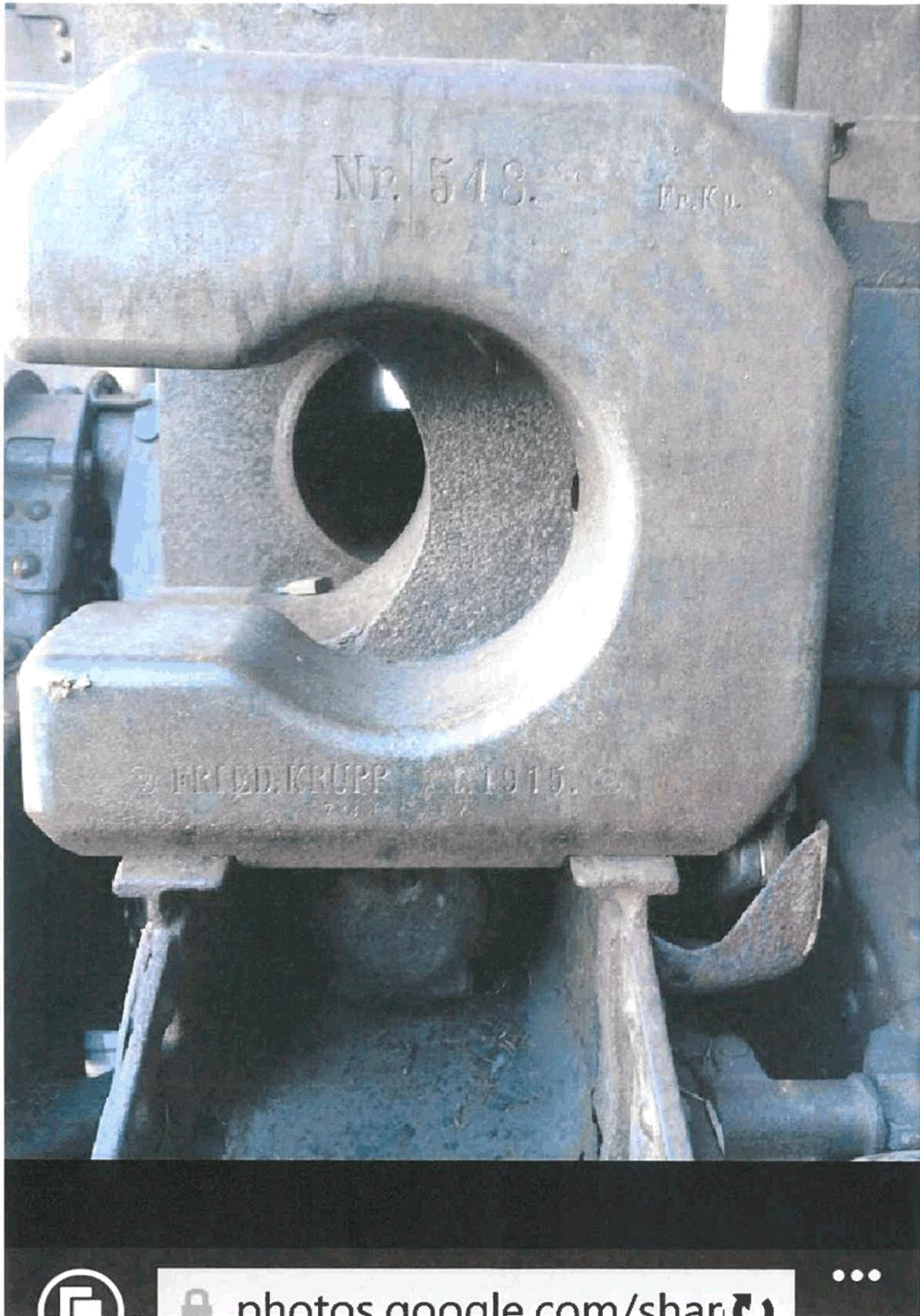
09 March 2018

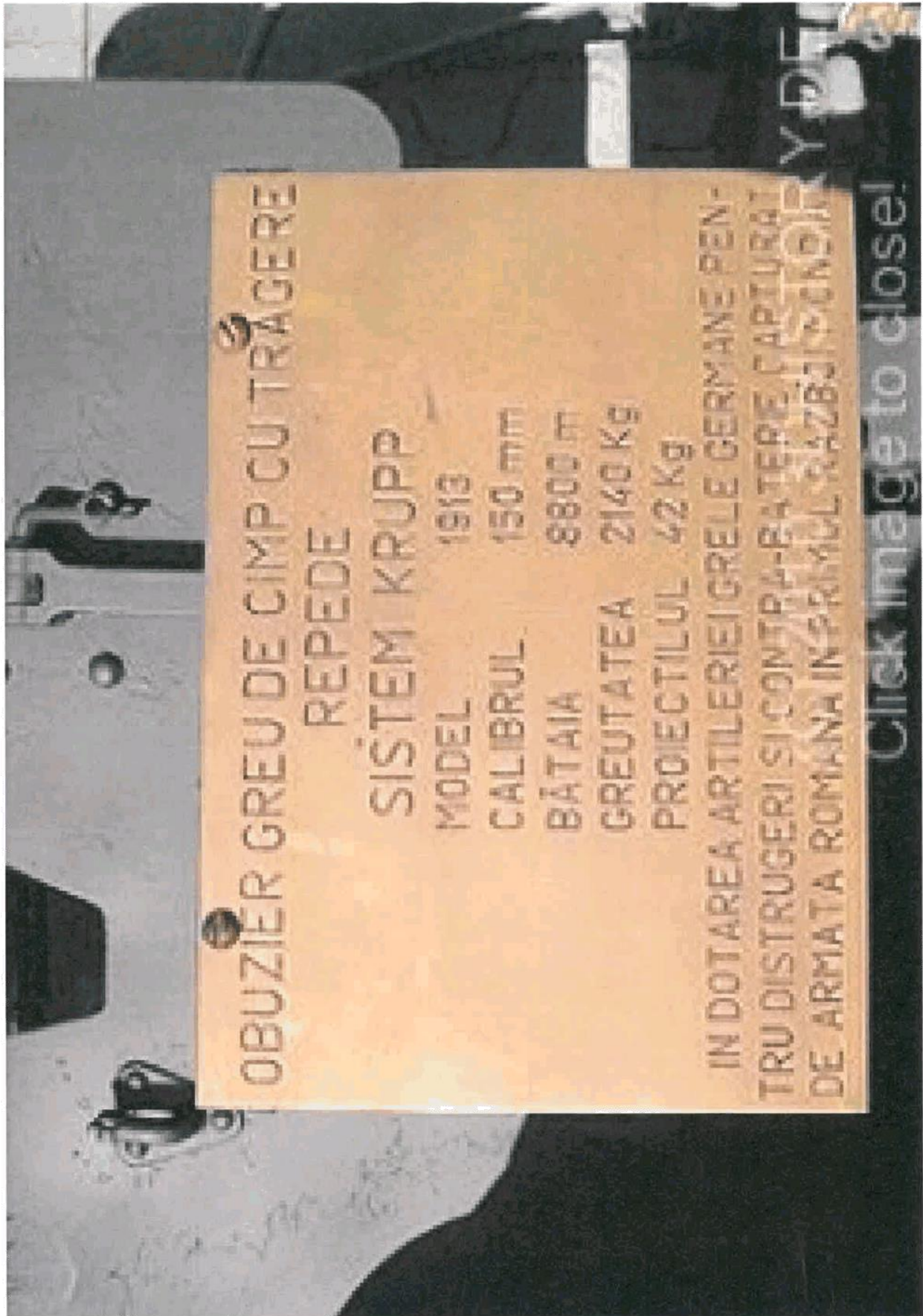
Attachment 1 - Collingwood Gun Restoration.4 CSSB Correspondence.9 Mar 18



www.sa.raeme.org.au/images/pages/Projects/ww1Gun/loac

Attachment 1 - Collingwood Gun Restoration.4 CSSB Correspondence.9 Mar 18





Attachment 2 - Report- Field gun 31-1-18

JUDE SCHAHINGER

Conservator of Objects

Report – Howitzer 150mm Field Gun
ABN no 47 581 549 094

Date issued: 31st January 2018

Client City of Yarra
Contact Louisa Marks
Address PO Box 168
Richmond
Victoria 3121

Phone 9205 5029

Email louisa@yarracity.vic.gov.au

This German Howitzer 150mm Field Gun is currently stored outdoors and directly on the ground adjacent to a council depot in Burnley. It sits on a driveway between commuter vehicles, under trees and is partially covered with a deteriorating blue poly tarp. It was initially moved from a public park in 2013 and at that time was examined by this conservator to assess condition and provide parameters that needed to be met in order to safely move it. Its removal was deemed necessary after a member of the public was injured whilst climbing /playing upon it.

The current location of the gun is poor with respect to its long term preservation, in addition, access to the public remains a liability. I understand it is no longer on council owned property.

2018 site

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1

Attachment 2 - Report- Field gun 31-1-18



Condition:

As with the previous inspection elements of the gun are in poor condition but overall the gun remains structurally robust. Plate elements overall show losses, deformation and sharp edges. When compared to images taken in 2013 the condition does not immediately appear different but this may be deceptive. In its previous location the gun was in the open air well supported off the ground on steel struts, now it is directly on the ground subject to the accumulation of organic matter and has restricted air flow. The deteriorated poly tarp is doing little more than directing water into voids on and around the gun and as well as restricting any airflow that may aid it in drying out.

At present all crevices, cracks and voids are full of fine organic debris that have fallen from the melaleuca directly above. This is not only harbouring moisture, but provides an acidic environment that will accelerate all corrosion rates. Moisture was apparent in all areas where the organic debris was observed and along all contact points to the ground.

The above conditions are creating a prime environment that will accelerate any and all existing corrosion sites and will assist in creating new ones. If this historic item is to remain a viable artefact steps must be taken to ensure corrosion is halted.

Immediate Action Required Relocate the gun to a more suitable and stable storage environment.

Parameters that need to be met are as follows:

ACTION	COMMENT
Remove all debris from all crevices as soon as is practical and cover with a waterproof tarpaulin, ensure there is airflow to enable it to thoroughly dry out.	This does not need to be done by a conservator, however it does need to be thorough with attention to detail uppermost. Every last crumb of organic matter and soiling needs to be removed.
Remove to new dry location	Undercover would be ideal though an open site that

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Attachment 2 - Report- Field gun 31-1-18

	<p>has unrestricted airflow around the gun would suffice. If this is the case the site needs to be well away from trees so as to avoid the same problems currently observed. Covering it then is not necessary.</p>
<p>Ensure there is at least a 10cm gap between the gun and the ground.</p>	<p>This can be achieved by blocking beneath with hardwood 'sleepers'. Ensure the timber and the gun are separated by an intermediary layer such as black plastic or Ethafoam to avoid corrosion sites developing between the timber and the metal.</p>
<p>Consider conservation / restoration.</p>	<p>Decisions need to be made regarding the long term future of this gun. It is not currently in a state that would allow it to be relocated into a permanent public site ie park. So if it is placed in appropriate long term storage.....what then? Restoration is generally undertaken by military enthusiasts so this could be a realistic option to consider.</p>



2013



2013

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Attachment 2 - Report- Field gun 31-1-18



2018



2018

Relocation:

As before....Establish access and departure routes prior to commencement. The gun can be lifted directly onto a flat bed crane truck. The original weight of the gun was around 2.25 tonne and this needs to be conveyed to contractors to ensure the weight is well catered for. 'Rated' synthetic slings are preferred to chains. All heavy lift contractors should have them.

The lifting point will either be the axles themselves (the pivot point of the overall weight) or from around the body of the gun in front and behind the 'shield'. Again lifting contractors should and will test for the right balance before commencing the lift. Secure the gun to the flat bed with synthetic tie downs. Once at the storage facility ensure the gun is supported off the ground on wooden blocks.

The relocation of this gun appears to be straightforward – I do not anticipate problems if all processes are approached logically and with care.

Completed 31st January 2018

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Attachment 3 - Collingwood Gun Background by Kevin Browning

Collingwood Gun

Report prepared by Kevin Browning

Collection Manager at Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company

The Gun

The gun at Collingwood is a 150 mm Heavy Field Howitzer Model 1913, manufactured by Krupp in 1915 and reportedly captured by the Australian Corps on 18 September 1918. Brought to Australia as a War Trophy in 1919 it was allotted to Collingwood in 1921 and displayed in Darling Gardens from where it was removed in 2013.

Its German designation is 15 cm schweres Feld Haubitze M13 (sFH13). It is the short (kurz) version with barrel length 14 calibres (14 x 150mm), a long (lang) version was introduced during the war with a barrel 17 calibres (17 x 150 mm) in length. See attachment 1 for further information. By late November 1917 the sFH13 had become the Germans principal gun of battle. 3,409 sFH13 were produced by Krupp and Rhinemetall during the war. An unknown number were also produced by other manufacturers. The gun was called the 5.9 (inch) by the allies who respected it for its effect on dug outs and trenches and as a counter battery gun.

Capture Details

This gun, serial number 548, was manufactured by Krupp in 1915. It was brought to Australia as a War Trophy, possibly on the SS Bulla in April 1919 and according to AWM93 27/1/107 was stored in the Domain, Melbourne c. June 1919, 3rd Row. The capture of this gun is recorded in the Australian War Memorial card system (as used by Bill Billet in War Trophies - From the First World War 1914 – 1918 and confirmed by myself) as being captured on 18 September 1918 by the Australian Corps. The card system consists of a single card for each gun on which is recorded basic information obtained from other records.

Information on the card for this gun is unusual for the capture unit to be so broad, Australian Corps could be any of the 60 Australian Infantry Battalions or other Australian units. Usually the battalion is indicated or at least the Brigade (four battalions to a Brigade). Experience has also shown the card records are not always correct, errors possibly being introduced when the information was transcribed from other records. There is also the possibility some 'poetic licence' was used. The lack of capture information makes it difficult if not impossible to determine the exact capture details from unit diaries.

The Australian War Memorial file AWM93 27/1/107 contain records describing each gun when they were held in the Domain, Melbourne. For 548 it records 'Gun No.548 Trail; yes, Shield; yes, Barrel; yes, Con. of gun; good, Camouflaged; yes, Marks; 24th Battalion.' This suggests the gun was captured by the 24th Battalion. The Argus of 19 March 1921 in its article on the distribution of captured enemy guns (Attachment 2) provides date of capture for some of the guns but nothing for the Collingwood gun. So where the capture date of 18 September has been determined remains a mystery.

Captured weapons were usually marked at the time of their capture with the name of the capturing unit. So assuming 24 Battalion captured this gun a search of their War Diary for September 1918 shows the unit was being rested on 18 September. They were next to see action in early October. On the morning 5 October 1918 during the attack on Montbrehain 24 Battalion captures included a field gun. The unit inflicted great losses on the enemy but themselves suffered heavily, 49 killed 80 wounded and 5 missing. After breakfast on 6

Attachment 3 - Collingwood Gun Background by Kevin Browning

October the Battalion and other infantry units of the Australian Corps, withdrew for a well-earned rest. Little did they know at the time but it the end of the fighting for them. 24 Battalion was part of 6 Infantry Brigade along with 21,22 and 23 Battalions, all Victorian units. During this action 22 Battalion was on the left of the 24th. See Attachment 3 for 5/6 October 1918 copy of War Diary.

Work continues to identify the guns captured by the Infantry Battalions (60 in number) and Infantry Brigades (15) but it is unlikely they will reveal any information on the capture of this gun. Very few of the battalions recorded the serial number of individual guns simply supplying quantity and calibre. Calibre does not provide identification of the type of gun.

Allocation of War Trophies

The allocation of war trophies (field guns, mortars and machine guns) was undertaken by the Commonwealth Trophies Committee who set up State Trophy Committees to distribute the trophies to the towns and municipalities. Initial allocation had been given to the Australian War Museum (now Australian War Memorial) and Army units linked to a capturing unit in the Australian Imperial Force. Remaining items were then made available to the State Committees who quickly found they had insufficient to meet the demands. Additional trophies became available and eventually the French Government provided more from their stocks. But that was to occur after the Collingwood issue. In all some 3,250 cities and towns throughout Australia were allotted trophies.

The basis of issue was on population for the towns and the Municipalities were given a stock for allocation which was to be arranged by the Mayor of the City. The article in *The Age* (Attachment 2) overviews the allocation but I highlight that of the 33 trophies only six field guns were available and of these Collingwood received the largest. Across Australia the dissatisfaction with what was received was widespread so Collingwood was well served.

Before the trophy was allotted certain conditions had to be agreed. The conditions required that three trustees should be appointed by the Council and that these trustees should sign an agreement to comply with the following conditions in respect of the relic:

- Arrange for it to be permanently housed in a public park, garden or building within the town, whichever may appear most suitable, and for its subsequent preservation and safe custody.
- Arrange a simple ceremony at which it will be formally taken over,
- Bear all expenses connected with transport and installation after arrival at the nearest railway station.

The Gun at Collingwood

According to documents held at the Australian War Memorial the Collingwood Council accepted the conditions and an agreement dated 27th April 1921 and signed by E. Coulson, B.W. Tapner and W. Marshall, was forwarded to the committee. A copy of that agreement is at Attachment 4. The gun was subsequently sent to Collingwood. No record in papers available on Trove have been found indicating when the gun arrived nor when the ceremony was held. Perhaps local papers may contain this information.

No doubt some citizens of Collingwood would have been offended by the presence of the gun and this is often the case throughout other localities but often they were the minority and in my opinion they viewed the object in a fashion counter to the intention of its display. In 1933 this certainly came to a head in Collingwood in April 1933. According to *The Age* of 11

Attachment 3 - Collingwood Gun Background by Kevin Browning

April 1933 'Cr. L. Marshall, of Collingwood, has given notice of his intention to move at the next meeting of the council:

That this council, on behalf of Collingwood, present to Germany the captured German gun now in Darling Gardens as a friendly gesture with fraternal greetings for the co-operation of both nations in peaceful progress in the future, '.

The Council meeting was certainly stormy and reported widely. Recorder (Port Pirie, South Australia) ran the story on 8 May 1933, see <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/95996035?searchTerm=Collingwood%20koln&searchLimits=> . Also in hindsight 1933 is significant for events in Germany and I wonder how Cr Marshall reflected upon his action in later years.

Whilst many today may see these weapons as supportive of war I think the reply given in 1933 by the then Councillor of Collingwood, William Ruthven, a recipient of the Victoria Cross for his actions during World War I whilst serving with 22 Battalion, still holds true and in this centenary year of the conflict in which it was captured it is even more relevant:

'Cr. Ruthven, V.C., speaking with considerable feeling, said the gun in Darling Gardens had been accepted by the council as a trophy commemorating the deeds of their, soldiers..... He, for one, would be glad to assemble the children at the guns and inform them of the horrors which those implements of war inflicted. The gun was symbolic of their everlasting esteem and regard for the fallen soldiers. The motion was defeated, by ten votes to two, only the mover and seconder voting for it.' (The Age, 5 April 1933 p12).

Future Display

The above holds background on the gun and its significance to Collingwood and the commitment agreed to by the Council. Over the years the gun has fallen into disrepair. Direct exposure to the elements is a threat to an object like this but even now after nearly 100 years it is in reasonably good condition. Rust is evident in some areas and would need to be arrested and some minor parts replaced. The major damage is to the wheels which are now totally absent. This is to be expected for timber wheels supporting nearly one tonne. I believe Council should restore the gun and place it back on display to honour their original commitment for it 'to be permanently housed in a public park, garden or building within the town, whichever may appear most suitable, and for its subsequent preservation and safe custody'. To ensure the gun is maintained in the best order possible it should be covered with a shelter to protect it directly from the elements. Whilst this represents an initial cost the long term savings should make this worthwhile.

While it would appear the gun has been a toy within the park and subsequently climbed on by many individuals over the years it is inevitable that someone would have injured themselves and whilst this did occur in 2013, no doubt other injuries have occurred over the years. The dangers of such injuries resulting in legal action against Council, especially in this modern era, is understood and must be avoided in future. Therefore a barrier to prevent people of all ages from climbing on the gun is essential. Signs indicating the object is a symbol of the sacrifices given by the Australian Forces over many years to give us the freedoms we so much enjoy could be used to further discourage people from climbing on it.

Attachment 3 - Collingwood Gun Background by Kevin Browning



One of two guns displayed in a park in Unley, South Australia shows an example of what the Council may possibly consider to deter people climbing on the gun. A shelter over the gun would be recommended.



Sunbury, Victoria (left) and Jamestown, South Australia (right) display historic guns in an enclosed environment. The initial cost is recognized but the savings in future costs will make up for this in a reasonably short time through reduced maintenance costs for the display item as well as its long term protection

Restoration

The cost of restoration is also something I can only comment upon. It is dependent upon so many factors and an actual cost would only be possible to determine by obtaining quotes. The least costly would be to have the work undertaken by a group of capable volunteers supported by specialists where required. Estimation of the cost of restoration of the gun is between \$4000 and \$15,000. Work would include the conservation of the ironwork, removal of rust, replacement of rusted items and possibly painting. The latter to be done in two part paint.

Attachment 3 - Collingwood Gun Background by Kevin Browning

Whilst the latter is not heritage correct the aim here is the long term preservation of the item with minimal future costs.

The major cost will be the replacement of wheels and again here the cost will vary greatly depending on the wheelwright selected. I know three that I could recommend and also know that their prices may vary significantly although the quality of their work is very comparable. Two of them have in recent times manufactured the type of wheel required (for Moss Vale, NSW and Ballarat. Cost will also vary on whether the iron work for the wheels (hubs and tyres) is available. My recommendation would be for a quote to be obtained from them all. I would estimate the wheels would cost in the order of \$10,000 plus. Placing the gun on stands to take the majority of the weight off the wheels is also essential.

Disposal Options

Gifting. Should Council decide that it will not restore the gun and place it back on public view than the Council should gift the gun to an organization willing to restore the gun and place it on public display. This would generate least detrimental comment from the wider community.

Sale. There are collectors who would willingly take the gun off Councils hands. Recent sale of guns have attracted some unusual prices. The value may lie anywhere between \$4000 and \$30,000 plus. It would of course depend on many factors and no doubt the greater the advertising the greater the return but great advertising will bring with it a wide knowledge of what is happening and with it wide condemnation. It is difficult to place a sale value on the gun. World War I guns are sought after and rare.

Questions

To answer your specific questions from your email. World War I guns are certainly rarer than those of World War II mainly because there were fewer of them brought to Australia. There are more World War I war trophy guns in Australia than there are from World War II. This is because following World War II there was no policy to bring back trophies from that war. But there are far more allied guns of World War II in Australia than there are from World War I. In fact I would suggest there are fewer than 20 field guns used by the Australians during World War I but over 1000 from World War II. Few private collectors in Australia have World War I guns and those they do hold are only because they saved them from the scrap heap when Councils 'lost interest' in them.

Many collectors like to display their guns along with the vehicle that was used to tow it. Therefore they are interested in acquiring a gun from World War II or later. World War I guns were moved generally by horses and the cost and difficulty involved in training and running a team is much greater as are the safety restrictions. I would therefore suggest someone looking to obtain a gun from World War I is looking more towards its future financial benefit. But having said that I repeat without these people we would have lost a great number of these war trophies.

You also mention 'Peter and the RSL, as well as the History Society, have articulated the importance of the gun to Veterans and the significance on a local and national level for the community'. Whilst no doubt the importance of the gun to Veterans goes without saying but if the history of the gun and what it really represents was known by the citizens than that importance would be held right across the whole community. It was the forebears of the citizens that put

Attachment 3 - Collingwood Gun Background by Kevin Browning

themselves in harm's way and no doubt the families of those veterans sacrificed a great deal and underwent much fear for their loved ones.

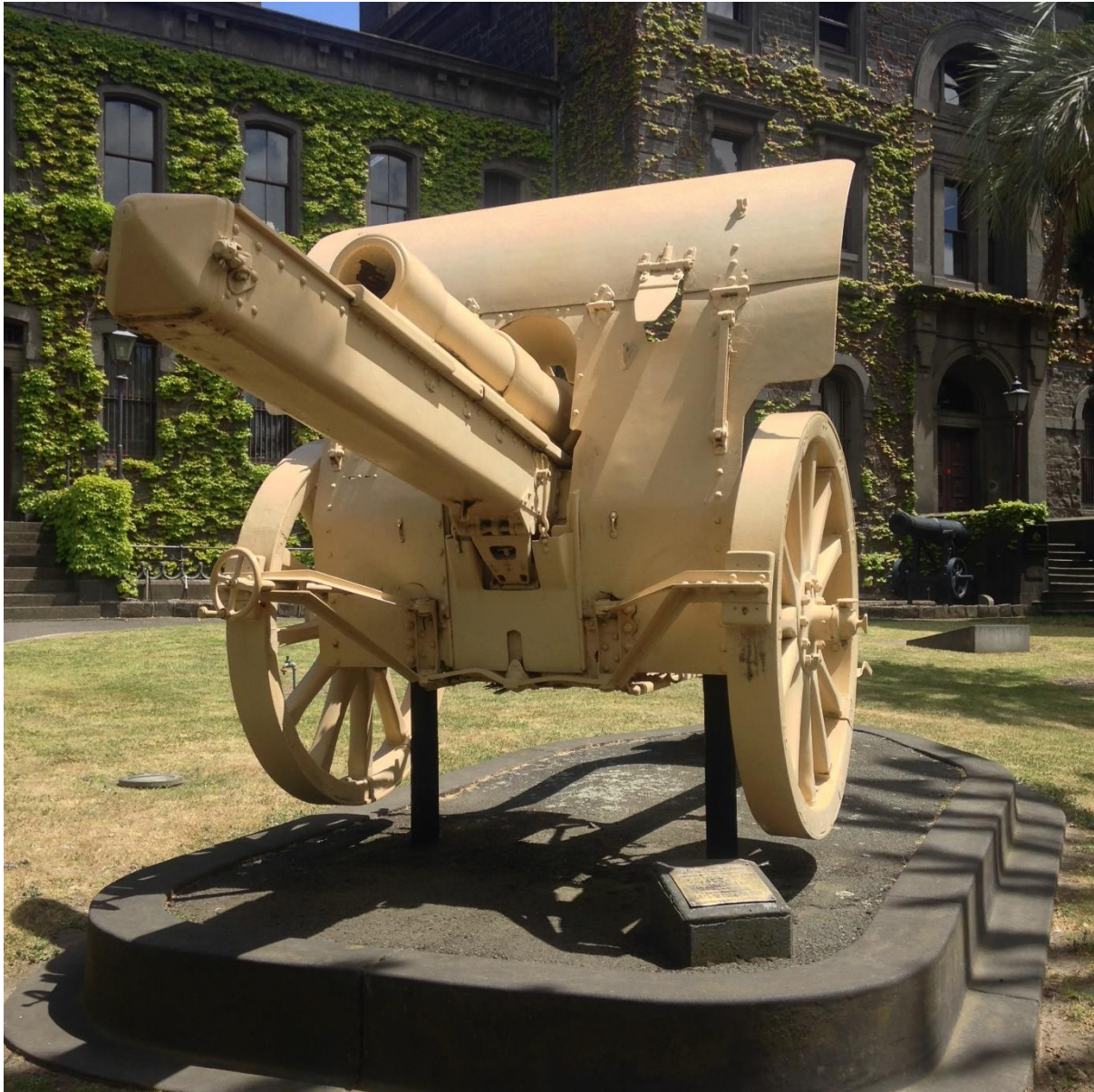
Council needs to be convinced and understand that the gun is not a symbol of war. It is a symbol of the sacrifices our forebears gave for the freedoms we so love and enjoy today.

Attachment 4 - Attachment for Report - Other WW1 Guns on public display



WW1 150mm Krupp Howitzer Gun installed at Montmorency RSL captured by the 22nd AIF Battalion at the Mont St Quentin Battle in September 1918 in France. Restored through State and Federal funding and launched in 2006.

Attachment 4 - Attachment for Report - Other WW1 Guns on public display



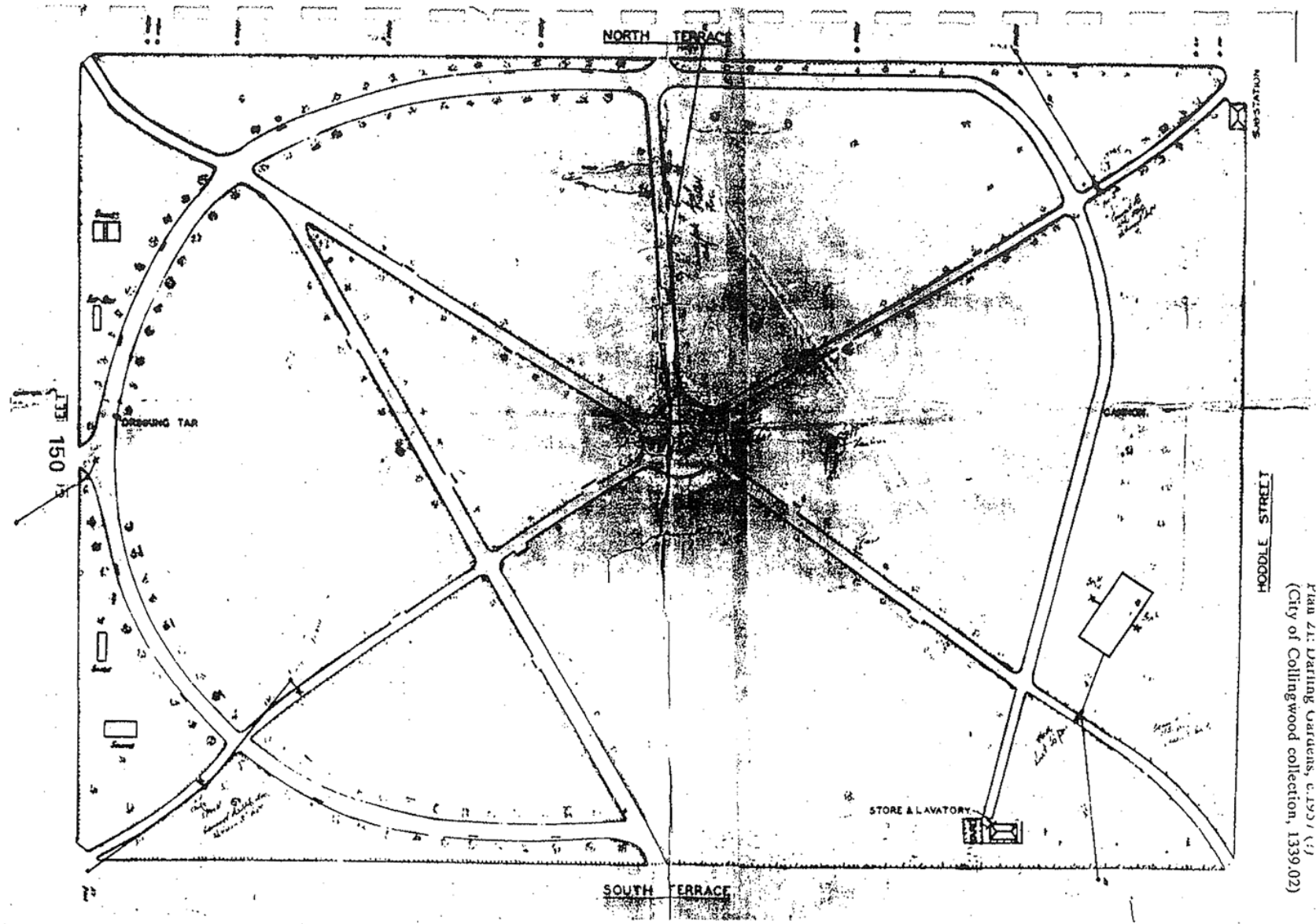
Turkish captured 150mm Howitzer Field Gun installed outside Victoria Barracks in the collection of the Australian Defence Force. The plaque in front of the gun states that it was captured on the 8 November 1917 by the Australian Mounted Division near Huj, during the offensive against the Gaza-Beersheeba line which culminated in the occupation of Jerusalem.

Attachment 4 - Attachment for Report - Other WW1 Guns on public display

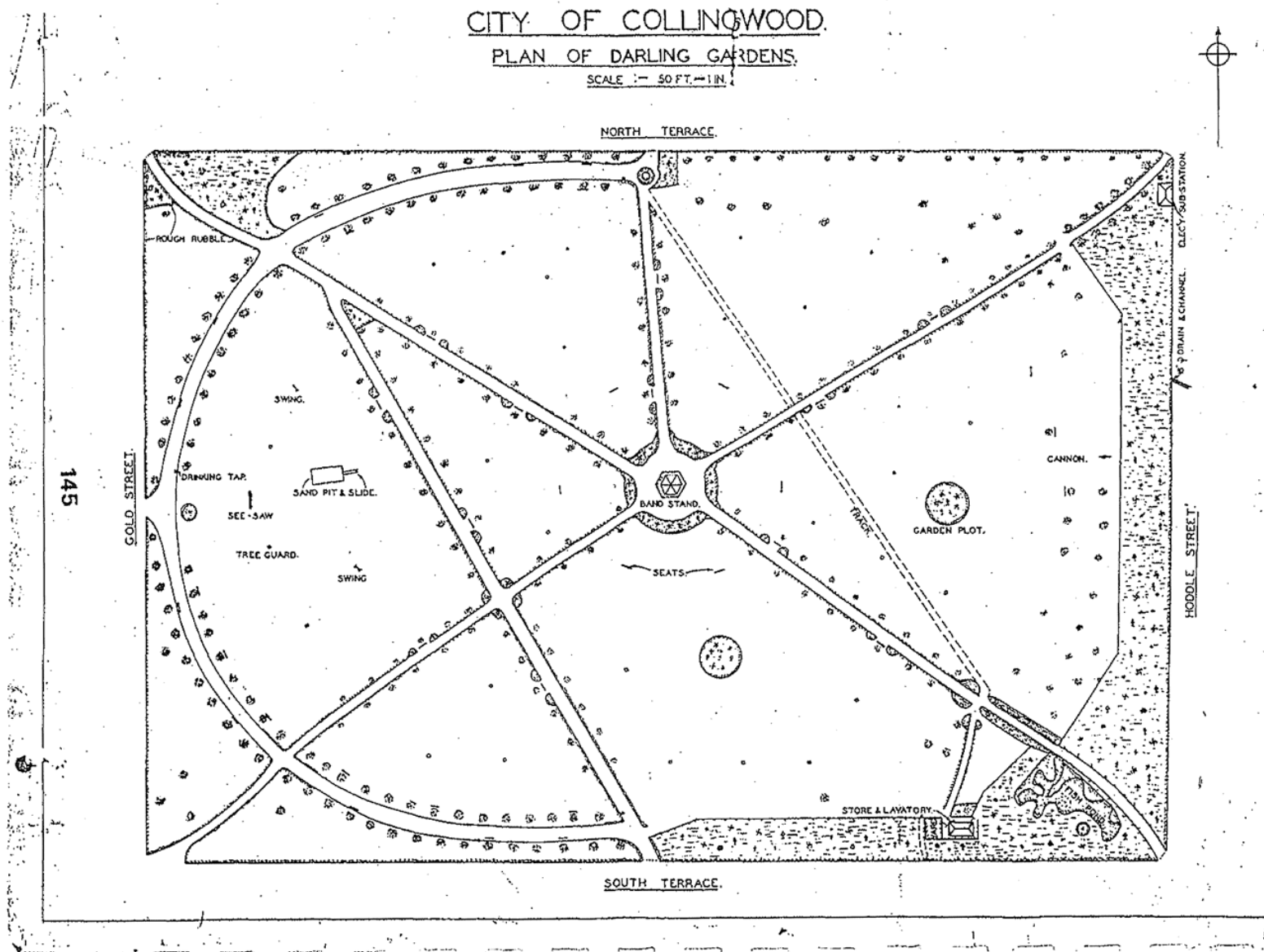


German captured Krupp Howitzer 21cm Versuchsmorser Nr 3M1907, Barclay Square, Red Cliffs, VIC.

Attachment 5 - Darling Gardens Maps 1930 & 1957 showing Cannon location



Attachment 5 - Darling Gardens Maps 1930 & 1957 showing Cannon location



Plan 16: Plan of Darling Gardens, c.1930
(City of Collingwood collection, 1001.01)

11.5 Council Membership of Regional Bodies

Trim Record Number: D18/93062

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

Purpose

1. To review and consider possible rationalisation of Council's membership of a number of regional bodies.

Background

2. In developing relationships and affiliations with other bodies, there logically needs to be an interest, but more importantly an identified ongoing benefit to the ratepayers of the City of Yarra in order to justify the considerable contributions, including financial, made by Council to those bodies whether by membership subscriptions and/or in some cases, considerable contributions to specific projects pursued by those organisations.
3. In order to ensure Council's funds continue to be allocated prudently, periodic reviews are conducted to ensure that the activities of regional bodies, organisations and partnerships continue to provide justifiable outcomes for the Yarra community. The last such review took place in March 2016 and Council subsequently cancelled its membership of the Northern Metropolitan Mayor's Forum and Northlink, effective 1 July 2016.
4. This review has focussed on the following four organisations to which Council pays an annual membership fee and/or project costs:
 - (a) Australian Local Government Women's Association;
 - (b) Inner Melbourne Action Plan Implementation Committee;
 - (c) Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum; and
 - (d) Municipal Association of Victoria (including the Australian Local Governance Association).

Australian Local Government Women's Association

5. The Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) is the peak body representing the interests of women in local government across Australia. The Association has branches in all states and the Northern Territory, and seeks to assist in furthering women's knowledge, understanding and participation in the function of local government.
6. The ALGWA operates on a formal basis as an incorporated association, with a minor secretarial function provided by one of its members on a fee for service basis. Of note is that the membership is open to anyone, and includes Councillors, local government officers, former councillors, Councils and intending local government candidates.
7. The aims of ALGWA are:
 - (a) to assist in furthering knowledge and understanding of the function of local government;
 - (b) to encourage women to participate in local government;
 - (c) to encourage women to make a career in local government;
 - (d) to watch over and protect the interests and rights of women in local government;
 - (e) to take action in relation to any subject or activity affecting local government and local government legislation; and
 - (f) to act in an advisory capacity to intending women candidates for local government election.

8. The City of Yarra is a 'Council' member of ALGWA Victoria, and is represented by a Councillor appointed each year (currently Cr Coleman). In 2017/2018, the annual membership fee for ALGWA Vic was \$360.
9. Officers advise that the aims and objectives of the organisation are consistent with Council's strategic priorities, and the annual fee is modest, with little in the way of other cost associated with participation (Council staff do not participate in the association). On this basis, **it is recommended membership of the ALGWA be continued.**

Inner Melbourne Action Plan Implementation Committee

10. The Inner Melbourne Action Plan Implementation Committee (IMAP) is a collaborative partnership between the Cities of Melbourne, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Yarra and Maribyrnong.
11. The IMAP operates on a formal basis, with the City of Stonnington providing secretarial services, paid for by each of the member Councils. The Committee has a unique legal status in that it comprises five identical Council committees, each one constituted by the respective member Council under s86 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. This enables the committee to have delegated authority to make decisions in relation to the implementation of the Inner Melbourne Action Plan. The IMAP does not have authority to authorise expenditure beyond its budget as approved by member Councils each year.
12. From Yarra's perspective to date, the IMAP has proven to be effective in building coordinated approaches to many social, economic and environmental issues of concern to all five member Councils which are geographically proximate and have many attributes in common.
13. In 2014, the IMAP Councils determined to review the Inner Melbourne Action Plan. This was in response to the inclusion of Maribyrnong City Council and the publication of the State Government's new strategic planning policy "Plan Melbourne" which identifies its 'central subregion' around the five IMAP Councils.
14. The new Inner Melbourne Action Plan was adopted by the five IMAP Councils on 28 June 2016.
15. In addition to the ongoing implementation of the Inner Melbourne Action Plan, the IMAP undertakes a range of specific issue projects. Some recent examples of these projects are:
 - (a) IMAP StreetCount of rough sleepers;
 - (b) IMAP Crowded Places Working Group; and
 - (c) IMAP Census of Land Use and Employment (CLUE) project.
16. The City of Yarra is a member of the IMAP, and is represented by the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer. In 2018/2019, Council's commitment in relation to Yarra's membership of the IMAP will be \$95,000.
17. Officers advise that the aims and objectives of the IMAP are consistent with Council's strategic priorities. On this basis, **it is recommended membership of the IMAP be continued.** In the event of the proposed replacement *Local Government Act 1989*, being enacted and the IMAP conducted a consequential review of its governance structure, it would be recommended Council at that time, give further consideration to the value of ongoing participation.

Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum

18. The Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum (ISMMF) is a similar collaborative effort – this time of the Councils of Bayside, Boroondara, Glen Eira, Kingston, Port Phillip, Stonnington and Yarra. The City of Melbourne (a foundation member of the Forum), withdrew their membership in 2014.
19. ISMMF operates on a formal basis with regular meetings facilitated by a third party secretariat, but does not have any legal status as a stand-alone entity. As a result, any action recommended by the Forum requires ratification by respective member Councils.

20. The forum undertakes advocacy and strategic planning in areas of mutual concern among member Councils, with a focus on:
 - (a) Planning and development;
 - (b) Transport, cycling and walking;
 - (c) Open space and sporting facilities; and
 - (d) Waste and sustainability.
21. In addition to the pursuit of the ISMMF strategic plan, members also collaborate in the management of specific issue campaigns. In some cases, participation in this work comes at an additional cost to members. Some recent examples of these campaigns are:
 - (a) ISMMF Graffiti Campaign;
 - (b) ISMMF Infrastructure Assessment (Yarra did not participate in the first stage of this project as it duplicated work already completed by Council); and
 - (c) ISMMF Evaluation of Plan Melbourne Refresh.
22. The Forum is provided with secretarial services by a third party company jointly contracted by each of the seven member Councils, with costs shared between them. In addition to these ongoing secretarial services, additional services are contracted in relation to specific issue campaigns on a fee for service basis.
23. The City of Yarra is a member of the ISMMF, and is represented by the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer. In 2017/2018, expenditure in relation to Yarra's membership of the Forum will be approximately \$12,000 plus any funds expended on joint programs undertaken by the Group from time to time.
24. Officers advise that the aims and objectives of the ISMMF are consistent with Council's strategic priorities, but in many ways duplicate those of the IMAP. Further, the ISMMF is more geographically disparate than the overlapping area covered by the IMAP, with the City of Yarra being the only municipality north of the Yarra River. The departure of the City of Melbourne in 2014 has meant the Forum is less focussed on issues unique to the inner city, with the City of Yarra finding pressures associated with such as housing affordability, residential amenity, homelessness, antisocial activity, traffic congestion, public transport and cycling are not felt to the same extent by other members (aside from perhaps the City of Port Phillip).
25. On this basis, **it is recommended membership of the ISMMF not be extended beyond 30 June 2018** and that Council instead focus its resources on membership of the IMAP.

Municipal Association of Victoria

26. The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is Victoria's peak body for municipal Councils.
27. The MAV operates on a formal basis as a body corporate established under the *Municipal Association Act 1907*. The MAV is governed by an elected Board (elected by all Councillors from financial member Councils) and a State Council (comprising the appointed representatives of each financial member Council).
28. In addition to its representative, advocacy and policy development role, the MAV provides specific services to its membership in the areas of insurance, procurement, asset management, information technology and a range of specific areas. While much of the work of the MAV is funded by financial member contributions and government grants, some projects require additional investment from participating Councils on a fee for service basis.
29. In addition, members of the MAV automatically become members of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) – an organisation which provides representation of local government on national bodies and Ministerial Councils, providing submissions to Government and parliamentary inquiries, raising the profile and concerns of Local Government at the national level and providing forums for Local Government to guide the development of national Local Government policies. The ALGA's signature event is the National General Assembly of Local Government – an event in June each year at which

Councils across Australia come together in Canberra and debate motions and actions of national significance.

30. While the legislation does not enable the City of Yarra to cease its membership of the MAV, it is possible to change status to a 'non-financial member', which has the same effect in that a membership fee is not payable and Council would no longer be able to participate in activities or take advantage of most of the services of the MAV.
31. The City of Yarra is a financial member of the MAV, and is represented by Cr Searle, with Cr Fristacky as a substitute. In 2017/2018, membership of the MAV was \$50,376.57.
32. Officers advise that the aims and objectives of the MAV are consistent with Council's strategic priorities. On this basis, **it is recommended membership of the MAV be continued.**

External Consultation

33. No external consultation has been undertaken in the development of this report.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

34. No internal consultation has been undertaken in the development of this report.

Financial Implications

35. Withdrawal of membership of any of the bodies described in this report will result in an saving to Council of the membership fees, as well as (in some cases) staff costs associated preparation for and attendance of periodic meetings.
36. As membership to these organisations is committed on a financial year basis, savings would commence from 1 July 2018.
37. The recommendations in this report, if taken up, will result in savings of approximately \$12,000 (plus additional expenditure incurred from time to time re additional projects undertaken by the Group) for withdrawal from the ISMMF.

Economic Implications

38. Any economic implications of withdrawing membership from these regional bodies have not been considered in the development of this report.

Sustainability Implications

39. Any sustainability implications of withdrawing membership from these regional bodies have not been considered in the development of this report.

Social Implications

40. Any social implications of withdrawing membership from these regional bodies have not been considered in the development of this report.

Human Rights Implications

41. Any human rights implications of withdrawing membership from these regional bodies have not been considered in the development of this report.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

42. No external communication has been undertaken in the development of this report.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

43. The City of Yarra Council Plan 2018-2022 includes the strategy "*ensure Council's assets and financial resources are managed responsibly to deliver financial sustainability*". A regular review of all items of significant expenditure is necessary in order to ensure that Council is making appropriate investments.

44. A further strategy is “*maintain a culture of transparency, governance, ethical practice and management of risks that instils a high level of community respect and confidence in Council decision-making*”. This strategy is particularly relevant in that it closely mirrors the objectives of the ALGA and the MAV.

Legal Implications

45. There are no legal implications of withdrawing membership from these regional bodies, apart from the need to formally notify the respective organisations of Council’s decision.

Other Issues

46. Nil.

Options

47. To review:
- (a) and rationalise Council’s memberships of organisations (especially those requiring financial contributions); or
 - (b) and retain the current memberships.

Conclusion

48. That from an efficiency and financially prudent perspective and having regard to current financial challenges and the need to ensure limited finances are being directed to the Council’s priority projects and services, Council could consider withdrawing its membership from the Inner South Metropolitan Mayor’s Forum.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
- (a) note the report; and
 - (b) having considered the report options, determine to cancel its membership of the Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum, effective from 1 July 2018.

CONTACT OFFICER: Rhys Thomas
TITLE: Senior Governance Advisor
TEL: 9205 5302

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

11.6 Report on Assemblies of Councillors

Trim Record Number: D18/84378

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

Purpose

1. To provide a report on Assemblies of Councillors.

Background

2. The *Local Government Act 1989* (The Act) requires that ... "The Chief Executive Officer must ensure that the written record of an Assembly of Councillors is, as soon as practicable:
 - (a) reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council; and
 - (b) incorporated in the minutes of that Council meeting.....".
3. This report includes all Assemblies of Councillors reported to the Governance Department at the cut-off date that have not already been reported to Council. Assemblies held prior to the cut-off date that are not included here will be included in the next report to Council.

Consultation

4. Not applicable.

Financial Implications

5. Not applicable.

Economic Implications

6. Not applicable.

Sustainability Implications

7. Not applicable.

Social Implications

8. Not applicable.

Human Rights Implications

9. Not applicable.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

10. Not applicable.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

11. Not applicable.

Legal Implications

12. The Act requires the above information be reported to a formal Council Meeting and also be recorded into the Minutes of the Council.

Other Issues

13. Not applicable.

Options

14. Nil.

Conclusion

15. That Council formally note and record the Assemblies of Councillors report as detailed in **Attachment 1** hereto.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council formally note and record the Assemblies of Councillors report as detailed in ***Attachment 1*** hereto.

CONTACT OFFICER: Mel Nikou
TITLE: Administration Officer - Governance Support
TEL: 9205 5158

Attachments

- 1 Assemblies of Council Report - June 2018

Attachment 1 - Assemblies of Council Report - June 2018

Record of Assemblies of Councillors

Report cut-off	29 May 2018
Council Meeting	5 June 2018

This report includes all Assemblies reported to the Governance Department at the cut-off date that have not already been reported to Council. Assemblies held prior to the cut-off date that are not included here will be included in the next report to Council.

Assembly	Attendance	Matters considered	Disclosures
Business Advisory Group 22/3/2018 8.00am	Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Jackie Fristacky • Cr Daniel Nguyen Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Swinson • Simon Osborne • Esther Kennedy • Lisa Rodrigues 	1. Insights into the manufacturing industry 2. Economic Development Strategy 2015 – 2020 3. Retail precinct audit 4. Promotion of Yarra as a destination	None
Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee 30/4/2018 6.00pm	Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Jackie Fristacky • Cr Mike McEvoy • Cr Daniel Nguyen • Cr James Searle • Cr Amanda Stone Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vijaya Vaidyanath • Ivan Gilbert 	1. Confidential Employment Matters	None

Attachment 1 - Assemblies of Council Report - June 2018

Assembly	Attendance	Matters considered	Disclosures
Councillor Briefing 7/5/2018 6.30pm	Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Danae Bosler • Cr Misha Coleman • Cr Jackie Fristacky • Cr Mike McEvoy • Cr Daniel Nguyen • Cr James Searle • Cr Amanda Stone Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vijaya Vaidyanath • Ivan Gilbert • Bruce Phillips • Jane Waldock • Andrew Day • Chris Leivers • Lucas Gosling • Fred Warner • Adrian Murphy • Simon Exon (Item 1) • Malcolm McCall (Item 2) • Margherita Barbante (Item 3) • Stewart Martin (Item 4) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tourist Bike-safe Cultural Trail 2. 2018 Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey 3. Open Data Policy 4. Confidential matters 5. North East Link project 6. Confidential matters 7. 433 Smith Street Fitzroy North 8. Upcoming Special Council Meetings 	None
Finance Committee 15/5/2018 6.00pm	Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Danae Bosler • Cr Jackie Fristacky • Cr Daniel Nguyen • Cr James Searle • Cr Amanda Stone Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Day • Ange Marshall 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget and Long Term Financial Strategy 2018-19 2. March 2018 Finance Report 3. Easy to Read - Budget Guide 	None

Attachment 1 - Assemblies of Council Report - June 2018

Assembly	Attendance	Matters considered	Disclosures
Disability Advisory Committee 15/5/2018 4.30pm	Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Stephen Jolly • Cr Daniel Nguyen (Items, 1,2,4) Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrian Murphy • Natalia Brennan • Cheryle Gray • Marta Rokicki • Pia Borghesi 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposal for Individual Assistance Officer 2. Ask Izzy - info exchange collaboration project 3. Access and Inclusion Strategy 4. Discussion on the format of meetings 	None
Heritage Advisory Committee 16/5/2018 6.30pm	Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Jackie Fristacky Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Walmsley • Richa Swarup 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information on the launch of National Trust Advocacy Toolkit 2. Activity centres built form framework overview 	None
Urban Agriculture (Community Gardens) Advisory Committee 17/5/2018 6.00pm	Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Danae Bosler Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Coffa • Eloise Lobsey 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban Agriculture Strategy Update 2. Urban Agriculture Strategy workshop 3. The outcomes of the food scraps trial 4. Carlton North Primary School Farmer's Market 5. Hardy Gallagher bocce court 	None

Attachment 1 - Assemblies of Council Report - June 2018

Assembly	Attendance	Matters considered	Disclosures
Councillor Briefing 21/5/2018 6.30pm	Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Danae Bosler (Items 3-9) • Cr Misha Coleman • Cr Jackie Fristacky • Cr Mike McEvoy • Cr Daniel Nguyen • Cr James Searle • Cr Amanda Stone Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vijaya Vaidyanath • Ivan Gilbert • Jane Waldock • Andrew Day • Chris Leivers • Adrian Murphy • Brooke Colbert (Item 1) • Michael Ballock (Item 2) • David Walmsley (Item 3) • Kim Swinson (Item 4) • Justin Hanrahan (Item 5) • Aldo Malavisi (Item 5) • Fiona O'Byrne (Item 5) • Siu Chan (Item 6) • Louisa Marks (Item 7) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic Advocacy Framework and Action Plan 2018-2021 2. 433 Smith Street Fitzroy North 3. Amendment C225 – 351 Church Street Richmond 4. Bridge Road special charge 5. Hardy Gallagher Bocce Courts 6. World War One Field Gun 7. Yarra Energy Foundation 8. Organisational Update 9. Victorian Government Pick My Project fund 	None
Active Ageing Advisory Group 23/5/2018 11.00am	Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Amanda Stone Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fran Moloney • Natalia Brennan • Cheryle Gray 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on Active and Healthy Living in Yarra consultation 	None

Attachment 1 - Assemblies of Council Report - June 2018

Assembly	Attendance	Matters considered	Disclosures
Heritage Advisory Committee 28/5/2018 6.00pm	Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Jackie Fristacky • Cr Stephen Jolly Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivan Gilbert • David Walmsley • Amanda Haycox • Richa Swarup 	1. Appointment of the new Heritage Advisory Committee 2. Draft Heritage Policy 3. Provision of heritage advisory services	None