



**Randwick City
Council**

a sense of community

**WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS PAPER**

TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2017

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WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Works Committee Meeting of the Council of the City of Randwick will be held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, 90 Avoca Street Randwick on Tuesday, 11 April 2017 at 6:00pm

Late Works Report

W7/17	Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea	1
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Ray Brownlee
GENERAL MANAGER

Works Report No. W7/17

Subject: Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea



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Introduction

This 4-8 May 2017 marks the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea in the Pacific in World War II. The battle had a profound impact on Australia and the City of Randwick and as a result many locations in Maroubra such as Coral Sea Park and Lexington Place and Yorktown Parade are named after the battle and US warships involved in the conflict.

It is suggested that Council hold a ceremony at Coral Sea Park in conjunction with the relevant RSL sub-branches to mark the occasion and install an appropriate commemorative signage display in the area.

Issues

The 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea was brought to Council's attention by East Ward Councillor Tony Bowen who suggested it may be appropriate to mark the anniversary in some way.

The Battle of the Coral Sea was a major air and naval battle fought to the north east coast of Australia between the Japanese Imperial Navy and US and Australian Forces at a critical stage of the war.

It was the first joint military action between Australian & United States forces. The outcome was a turning point in the war, marking the first defeat of Japanese forces and averting the invasion of Port Moresby in New Papua Guinea. It also thwarted any invasion threat to the Australian mainland. Sadly however, the battle also involved substantial sacrifice from servicemen and women on both sides.

The Battle had a profound impact on the local Randwick City community. Allied ships were re-supplied and re-armed through the Randwick Naval depot, army encampments were in place at Randwick racecourse, and the coastal defences established along our headlands and beaches.

Following the war, the community wanted to ensure the sacrifice of those who fought was not forgotten and Council consequently decided in 1947 to name a new park built on the site of the old Maroubra Speedway as Coral Sea Park.

A number of streets around Coral Sea Park such as Lexington, Yorktown and Chicago are named after US battle ships that fought alongside Australian vessels.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 7: Heritage that is protected and celebrated

Direction 7a: Our heritage is recognised, protected and celebrated.

W7/17

Financial impact statement

The event and commemorative signage is estimated to cost \$6,000 and will be funded from the Contingency Fund.

Conclusion

The 75th anniversary of this important battle is an opportunity to remember the courage and sacrifice of those involved in World War II and to reflect on the peace and fortune our community enjoys today.

A ceremony and a commemorative signage display in the area would be a fitting and appropriate way to mark the anniversary.

Recommendation

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, Council:

- a) hold a ceremony at Coral Sea Park, Maroubra in conjunction with the relevant RSL sub-branches; and
- b) design and install an appropriate commemorative display either within the park or associated with the nearby streets named after the battle.

Attachment/s:

Nil