
Ordinary Council Meeting (Mayoral Minutes)

Tuesday 30 April 2019



ORDINARY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Council meeting of Randwick City Council will be held in the 1st Floor, Council Chambers 90 Avoca St Randwick on Tuesday, 30 April 2019 at 6pm

Mayoral Minutes

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Mayoral Minute No. MM19/19

Subject: Autism MATES - Request for financial assistance



Folder No: F2019/00001

Author: The Mayor, Cr Kathy Neilson

Introduction

I have received correspondence from Randa Habelrih of Autism MATES requesting a donation to assist with the costs that were incurred in organising the speakers at the Autism and Me event that was held on 6 April 2019.

Issues

Autism and Me is the signature event of the newly registered charity Autism MATES. The Autism and Me event is held during Autism Awareness month and is a conference which gives young people on the autism spectrum a stage. Funds raised from the event go towards bringing more events to life to empower, employ and upskill speakers and participants.

The event is an opportunity for the community to come and listen to young people on the autism spectrum as they use their own voices to share their hopes and dreams, to have a glimpse into their lives, be inspired by how they overcome challenges and to celebrate their achievements.

The event this year introduced new speakers and followed up on some of last year's speakers. The request for a donation is to contribute towards the cost that was incurred in organising the speakers for the event.

Financial impact statement

The Autism and Me event consisted of 9 speakers at a cost of \$70 each. Should Council adopt the report recommendation, the financial implication to Council will be \$630 to be funded from the 2018-19 Contingency Fund.

Conclusion

Autism and Me is the signature event of Autism MATES that gives a stage to young people on the autism spectrum. It is considered that Council should support the Autism and Me event which raises awareness, breaks down barriers and empowers young people living with autism, to ensure that it continues into the future.

Recommendation

That Council donate \$630 to Autism MATES to assist with the costs that were incurred in organising the speakers for the Autism and Me event that was held on 6 April 2019, to be funded from the 2018-19 Contingency Fund.

Attachment/s:

Nil

MM19/19

Mayoral Minute No. MM20/19

Subject: Waiving of Fees - Superhero Walk



Folder No: F2019/00096

Author: The Mayor, Cr Kathy Neilson

MM20/19

Introduction

Correspondence has been received from Tasman Cassim, Founder, Superhero Walk, requesting to waive the fees for his fundraising event.

Issues

Mr Cassim plans to walk for 24 hours commencing Saturday 14 September 2019 at 12 noon through to Sunday 15 September 2019 to raise funds for the Maroubra Bay Public School. The funds will go towards building a playground for the kindergarten students. He will walk around the perimeter of Heffron Park. During the night he will wear a helmet with a light on top to show the way. This fundraising activity will include an hourly change into 24 superhero costumes. The children from Maroubra Bay Public School will be able to walk one lap or several laps around Heffron Park with him from 12 noon to 5:00 pm on Saturday and 7:00 am – 12 noon on Sunday. This will also encourage kids to be active in our local community. Mr Cassim has advised that each year he walks for a different cause to shine light on the superheroes we rarely hear about. Since 2015 he has completed 4 walks and raised \$27,174 which has helped around 919 children.

The fee associated with this event is the application fee of \$182.00.

Financial impact statement

Should Council accept the report recommendation, the financial impact to Council is \$182.00 to be funded from the 2018-19 Contingency Fund.

Conclusion

It is considered that this event is for a worthwhile fundraising activity and should be supported by waiving the application fee.

Recommendation

That:

- a) The application fee of \$182.00 for the "Superhero Walk" around the outer part of Heffron Park on Saturday 14 September and Sunday 15 September 2019 be allocated from the 2018-19 Contingency Fund;
- b) The organiser undertake to appropriately and prominently acknowledge and promote Council's contribution prior to and during the activity;
- c) The Mayor or the Mayor's representative be given the opportunity to address the event on behalf of Council.

Attachment/s:

Nil

Mayoral Minute No. MM21/19

Subject: Waiving of Fees - Special Olympics Sydney East at the Des Renford Leisure Centre



Folder No: F2010/00214
Author: The Mayor, Cr Kathy Neilson

MM21/19

Introduction

Correspondence has been received from Ms. Debra Cush, from the Special Olympics Sydney East; requesting the waiver of hire fees for the use of the Des Renford Leisure Centre to hold their annual Special Olympics Swimming Carnival on Sunday, 19 May 2019.

Issues

The Special Olympics Sydney East is a not for profit disability swimming group who has been utilising Des Renford Leisure Centre on a weekly basis for many years to conduct various levels of swimming training.

On 19 May 2019 they wish to hold a swimming carnival attracting approximately 70-100 disability athlete's from across New South Wales at Des Renford Leisure Centre.

Financial impact statement

In the event that Council accepts the report recommendation, the direct financial implication to Council will be \$1,190.75 which will be funded from the 2018-19 Council Contingency Fund.

Conclusion

Council should support the Special Olympics Sydney East swimming carnival as it is considered a major event for the Special Olympics Sydney East attracting between 70 to 100 athletes from across NSW. They will be utilising the kiosk facilities at DRLC which will increase income on the day.

Recommendation

That:

- a) Council vote \$1,190.75 from the 2018-19 Council Contingency Fund to cover the hire fees for Des Renford Leisure Centre.
- b) the organiser undertake to appropriately and prominently acknowledge and promote Council's contribution prior to and during the event.

Attachment/s:

Nil

Mayoral Minute No. MM22/19

Subject: Council Support for ALGA Campaign for Additional Local Government Funding



Folder No: F2004/08250
Author: The Mayor, Cr Kathy Neilson

MM22/19

Introduction

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has launched a national campaign 'A Fairer Share' to advocate for more funding for local government and our communities. The purpose of this Mayoral Minute is to get Council support for this most important campaign.

Issues

Federal Assistance Grants (FAG's) are a vital part of the revenue base of all councils, and this year councils will receive \$2.4 billion from the Australian Government under this important program. The value of the FAGs has been declining for more than 20 years. In 1996 the level of funding for the FAGs was equal to around 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue but this has steadily fallen since 1996 under successive Federal Governments until it has reached a level now less than 0.55% of Commonwealth Taxation revenue. This decline was exacerbated by a three-year freeze on the indexation of FAGs from 2014-15 to 2016-17 which has cost local government an estimated \$925m in foregone FAGs funding.

FAGs are essential for many councils, particularly those in regional and remote areas of Australia which have very limited access to alternative revenue sources such as rates. These councils are dependent on the FAGs for the provision of infrastructure and services for their communities.

At the national level there has been an increasing level of demand from the community for local services and a growing expectation for a higher standard of services. This comes at the same time as cost shifting by state and territory governments onto local government continues to be a problem and state and territory governments in several states impose revenue restrictions on councils through rate capping.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

The Australian Local Government Association has made the restoration of the FAGs and the provision of a 'Fairer Share' for local communities a key election initiative and ALGA and the state and territory local government associations are seeking the support of Council for the campaign and asking Council to engage directly with local candidates in the Federal Election to seek their support for a Fairer share of Federal funding for our community.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (a) acknowledges the importance of federal funding through the Financial Assistance Grants program for the continued delivery of council services and infrastructure;

- (b) expresses its concern about the decline in the value of Financial Assistance Grants funding at the national level from an amount equal to around 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue in 1996 to a current figure of around 0.55%;
- (c) write to our local Federal Members of Parliament to call on their support for this campaign; and
- (c) calls on all political parties contesting the 2019 Federal Election and their local candidates to support the Australian Local Government Association's call to restore the national value of Financial Assistance Grants funding to an amount equal to at least 1 % of Commonwealth Taxation revenue and therefore to provide a Fairer Share of Federal funding for our local communities.

Attachment/s:

Nil

MM22/19

Mayoral Minute No. MM23/19

Subject: Ron Wood - Commemoration



Folder No: F2011/00406

Author: The Mayor, Cr Kathy Neilson

Introduction

The late Ron Wood was a dedicated leader in the community who worked tirelessly to improve the provision of services and access for disabled and elderly residents and their supporters in Randwick City.

Ron was well-known, much loved and a respected community member having worked for many years as a mechanic at the former Prince Henry/Coast Hospital at Little Bay and then later at Golden Fleece, Maroubra.

It is proposed to install a commemorative seat near Mahon Pool, Maroubra in honour of Ron's memory and in recognition of his service and, contributions to his local community.

Issues

Ron Wood spent his entire life living and working in Randwick City, having grown up in Maroubra 200 metres from his beloved Mahon pool. Ron later moved to Matraville where he happily lived the remainder of his life.

Ron was an active and long-standing member of Council's Older Person's and Access Advisory's Committees, providing advice and support in his pursuit of better care and services for vulnerable residents. He championed the rights of seniors and was unwavering in his dedication to ensuring that older people were supported to remain living in their own homes and connected to their community and each other.

Ron's extensive contributions to Randwick City and its residents were acknowledged by Randwick City Council in 2013 when he was awarded a Community Services Award on Australia Day.

Ron truly valued the contributions that older people made to their families and communities, which in turn fueled his passion and energy to ensure that their needs and interests were met after their working lives had come to an end.

Ron demonstrated this commitment in his role as the former president of the Randwick Botany National Seniors which involved organising monthly meetings and bus outings for seniors living in the local community, to meet their identified needs and interests.

Ron volunteered countless years of his time ensuring that seniors stayed involved and informed about the developments that occurred within the community and on a national scale.

Ron was also involved in the Prince of Wales Hospital Heart Moves Walking Group to encourage seniors to maintain a healthy lifestyle and good emotional wellbeing as they aged.

Ron was not only passionate about his advocacy work in community, he was also a dedicated carer to wife Marie, a resident at St Joseph Banks residential care facility at Botany.

Ron's legacy was ultimately one of friendship, inclusion, care and compassion for others. His unique personal attributes enabled him to break down barriers and bring people together to forge real and lasting connections.

MM23/19

Financial impact statement

The cost to install a commemorative seat including plaque is \$4,090 and will be funded from the 2018-19 Contingency fund.

Conclusion

It is proposed to install a commemorative seat near Mahon Pool which holds a special significance to Ron, having grown up in the area and using the beloved rock pool. The proposal is wholeheartedly supported by Ron's family and the Older Persons Advisory Committee. The location of the proposed commemorative seat is ideal for community members of all ages and backgrounds to gather with friends and family members or form new friendships in line with Ron's legacy.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) installs a commemorative seat and plaque in Jack Vanny Reserve near Mahon Pool.
- b) the message on the plaque and final location be determined in consultation with Ron Wood's family.

Attachment/s:

Nil

MM23/19

Mayoral Minute No. MM24/19

Subject: Royal Hospital for Women - Request for Donation



Folder No: F2004/07430

Author: The Mayor, Cr Kathy Neilson

Introduction

The Royal Hospital for Women have requested a donation of plants from Council's Nursery for the Postnatal Services outdoor area.

Issues

Postnatal Services is a busy part of the Maternity Service Division at The Royal Hospital for Women. There are two large postnatal wards that can accommodate up to 43 women, plus their newborn babies and families.

The Postnatal Services outdoor area is often used by women and their families as an escape from the wards. There are also four patient rooms that have doors that open into this area.

The Postnatal Services outdoor area of The Royal Hospital for Women requires beautification to make it a more welcoming space for patients, staff and visitors.

It is intended that the outdoor area will become a space which nurtures relaxation, togetherness and happiness. The Hospital has requested a donation of plants to support this work.

Financial impact statement

Should Council accept the report recommendation, the financial implication to Council is \$300 to be funded from the 2018-19 Contingency Fund.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council support The Royal Hospital for Women by donating native plants for the Postnatal Services outdoor area for the benefit of the environment and the community.

Recommendation

That the donation of plants to the value of \$300 be supplied to The Royal Hospital for Women and the funding be allocated from the 2018-19 Contingency Fund.

Attachment/s:

Nil

MM24/19

Mayoral Minute No. MM25/19

Subject: National Sorry Day



Folder No: F2004/07685

Author: The Mayor, Cr Kathy Neilson

Introduction

National Sorry Day is an Australia-wide observance held on 26 May each year. This day was established in 1998 as a recommendation of the 1997 Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's (HREOC) *'Bringing Them Home'* report. It aims to raise awareness of the Stolen Generations (Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities) and to acknowledge the painful impact and suffering that had been inflicted on the Indigenous people of Australia.

Issues

26 May is the anniversary of HREOC's presentation to the Australian Government their findings and recommendations of their national inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families – the *'Bringing Them Home'* report. The report outlines a range of State and Commonwealth historical policies and practices put into place to forcibly remove Indigenous children from their families. The inquiry concludes that between one in three and one in ten Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their families and communities between 1910 and 1970.

On 13 February 2008, the then Australian Prime Minister – Kevin Rudd issued a formal National Apology Statement to the Stolen Generations. A quote from the National Apology Statement that refers to the *'Bringing Them Home'* report reads as:

'There is something terribly primal about these firsthand accounts. The pain is searing; it screams from the pages (Bringing Them Home report). The hurt, the humiliation, the degradation and the sheer brutality of the act of physically separating a mother from her children is a deep assault on our senses and on our most elemental humanity.'

In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, children are sacred and their kinship systems serve to ensure that communities remain close-knit. The forced removal of children created significant grief and trauma, the impact of which is still being felt today.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

As the date for National Sorry Day falls before our next Council meeting scheduled for 28 May, I recommend that Council acknowledge the ongoing trauma experienced by the 'Stolen Generations' by observing a 'Minute's Silence' before starting our meeting. During the 'Silence' I ask Councillors to reflect on the sadness and hardships experienced by our earliest Australians and acknowledge that there is still work to be done to achieve national Reconciliation.

I also ask that Council's flags are flown at half-mast on 26 May to commemorate National Sorry Day.

MM25/19

Recommendation

That Council acknowledges the ongoing grief and trauma caused to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities by historical Government policies and practices of forcibly removing children from their families by:

- a) Councillors observing a 'Minute's Silence' before the commencement of tonight's Council meeting
- b) Flying Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at Council venues at half-mast on National Sorry Day, 26 May.

Attachment/s:

Nil

MM25/19