ANZAC Centenary Community Coordinating Committee

Minutes

Meeting #7
Monday, 21 September 2015
Moonee Valley Civic Centre, 9 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds
at 6.05pm in Council Chambers (Level 2)

Attendees

Cr Jan Chantry  Chairperson – Buckley Ward
Cr Jim Cusack  (Sub chair) – Myrnong Ward
Bill Laker       President, Keilor East RSL
Bob Chalmers    President Essendon Historical Society
Elaine Brogan   Friends of Sandy
Everett Reynolds 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association Ltd
John Hills       Essendon Historical Society
Brett Luxford   Director Environment and Lifestyle, MVCC
James Martin    Acting Manager, Communications & Corporate Planning
Mark Hammett    Manager Parks and Gardens
Matthew Pope    Coordinator Cultural Facilities, MVCC
Patricia Keenan  Acting Manager Arts and Culture, MVCC
Alana Stevens   Acting Executive Assistant, Environment and Lifestyle
                (minute taker)

Invited guest

George Zagon  President, Corps of Commissionaires Association Victoria

Apologies

Cr Andrea Surace (Sub chair) – Rose Hill Ward
Jane Canaway  2014 Moonee Valley Citizen of the Year / Freelance Journalist and Editor
Yvonne Kernan 2013 Moonee Valley Citizen of the Year
Ange Kenos    Essendon RSL Sub Branch
Barry Gough   Community representative / former Mayor City of Essendon
Gavin Comport General Manager, Keilor East RSL
Judy Maddigan Local Historian
Trevor Sinclair Bendigo Bank Board Member / former Moonee Valley Mayor
Order of Business

Welcome
Meeting opened at 6.05pm.
Chair Cr Jan Chantry welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Apologies
Apologies received from Cr Andrea Surace, Jane Canaway, Yvonne Kernan and Trevor Sinclair. The absence of Ange Kenos, Barry Gough, Gavin Comport and Judy Maddigan was noted.

1. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
   Moved by Elaine Brogan seconded by Bill Laker that the Minutes of the ANZAC Centenary Community Coordinating Committee (#6) held on Monday, 1 June 2015 be confirmed with no changes.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
   None recorded.

3. Committee membership
   3.1 Resignation of Robyn Harris
       Noted.
   3.2 Retirement of Rev Alan Colyer
       Noted.

4. Presentation from invited guest - George Zagon
   Brett Luxford introduced George Zagon, President, Corps of Commissionaires Association Victoria. George provided some background on the Commissionaires, based at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.
   George told the committee that to mark the 75th anniversary of the Commissionaires, the group had engaged an Essendon based mosaic artist, Mrs Susan Deprost, to create a memorial plaque that was dedicated on Remembrance Day 2014 and is displayed in the memorial garden at the hospital. Now, for the Anzac Centenary the Commissionaires will again engage Mrs Deprost to create three mosaic panels that will be dedicated over the next three years (2016, 2017 and 2018), on the anniversaries of WW1 battles and Armistice Day.
   George explained that Mrs Deprost’s grandfather was originally from Essendon, and left from Braemar Street to join the 58th Battalion. Given this local connection, George asked whether the committee would like to have any involvement in this commemoration project, possibly by way of providing funding.
   The committee agreed that the project tied in well with the Anzac Centenary activities being undertaken in Moonee Valley, however advised George that the committee itself doesn’t have money, that members have been applying for grants to undertake projects and activities.
Cr Chantry encouraged George to apply for State Government funding, and Brett Luxford agreed to provide George with support for any grant applications, if needed.

The item will be tabled for further discussions at future committee meetings.

Ev Reynolds invited George to attend the next meeting of the 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association.

The committee expressed an interest in speaking to Mrs Deprost about the possibility of undertaking a local mosaic project.

**ACTIONS:**

- Alana Stevens to include this item in the agenda for future meetings.
- Brett Luxford to contact Mrs Deprost to start discussions about possible local project.

5. **Actions arising from previous minutes**

5.1 **Battle Honours and Colours memorial for Queens Park**

Ev Reynolds provided an update on this project. Cameo Memorials have been engaged to construct the tablet, which will be placed near the Lone Pine in Queens Park.

Ev recognised the work of Arthur Pedis and the gardeners, who have already been looking at developing the area in preparation for the tablet next year.

Some planning for the dedication ceremony next year has been undertaken. The event will likely be held in September or October 2016.

**ACTION:** For information only.

5.2 **Avenue of Honour signage boards**

Trevor Sinclair was an apology, however an update on this project was emailed to Alana Stevens for tabling at the meeting. The Boulevard ANZAC Centenary Commemorative Committee have received State Government funding for this project and have also applied to Council’s Community Grants program for further funds. Council grant winners are expected to be announced in late October. As such, the project has been delayed until next year. Elaine Brogan said the event was planned for 9 November 2016.

If funding is received from Council, the group will start work on the panels well prior to the planned event, and will keep these in storage until later in 2016.

Cr Chantry suggested that the group attend an upcoming Public Forum and present on the project, to show Councillors on the grants assessment panel why funding is deserved.

**ACTION:** For information only.

5.3 **Heritage plaques on homes**

Barry Gough was an apology. This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

**ACTION:** Alana to include item on agenda for next meeting.

5.4 **Street signs in Ascot Vale**

John Hills has researched the servicemen that streets in Ascot Vale are named for, and provided their biographies to James Martin. James showed the committee a mock-up of
what the signs might look like, and suggested that the text will need to be edited down in order to fit on the signs. James is working on this, and will work further with Council's signage supervisor on the project.

James suggested that the full biographies could be published on Council’s website, and discussion was had around ways in which this could be accessed by residents. James agreed to investigate the possible use of QR codes or a device that broadcasts information to phones in the vicinity of the signs.

Cr Chantry suggested that the biographies could also be published in Valley View, as a way of promoting the project. Cr Chantry was also keen to ensure Citizen Services officers were provided information about the signs prior to these going in, so that they can answer any questions that may come through.

**ACTION:** James to continue to work on the signs and communications to promote these, including adding the biographies to Council’s website and including an article in Valley View.

### 5.5 Remembrance Day - letters to local schools, churches and Dept. of Transport

James Martin advised that letters have been drafted for local churches and the CEO of Yarra Trams, to request the ringing of bells in the minute prior to the observation of a minute’s silence on Remembrance Day.

The committee were keen for James to also write to local schools, to advise that Council will be observing a minutes silence for Remembrance Day and request that they too observe a minute’s silence.

Cr Cusack suggested that we also speak to local traders and request that they too observe a minute’s silence. Alana Stevens advised Cr Cusack that the Economic Development team were planning on contacting traders to request this.

**ACTIONS:**

- James to follow through with sending letters to local churches, schools and Yarra Trams.
- Economic Development team to make contact with traders about commemorating Remembrance Day.

### 5.6 Music in War Time concert series

Elaine Brogan and Matthew Pope advised the group that the next concert in the series was planned for 2016.

**ACTION:** For information only.

### 5.7 Canons at Kensington Town Hall - search for canons

Trish Keenan advised that she had been working with Bob Chalmers on investigating the disappearance of the Essendon High School canon. Bob had uncovered the November 1921 issue of The Essendon High School Magazine, which detailed the formal hand-over of the canon to the school by Pompey Elliot.

Investigations appear to suggest that the canon likely disappeared sometime between 1953 and 1958.
Cr Chantry suggested that this might be a fun story for inclusion in Valley View and the local papers. James agreed to write a media release about the committee’s search for the canon.

**ACTION:** James Martin to write and distribute a media release on the search for the canon.

### 6. Summary of previously held events

#### 6.1 Dedication of Lone Pine on 8 August 2015

Cr Chantry thanked Council’s Parks and Gardens team for their work on this event, and their care for the Lone Pine.

Ev agreed that Council had done a fantastic job, and gave special thanks to James Martin and Mark Hammett for their hard work.

Ev distributed the September 2015 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association newsletter, which featured photos and articles relating to the Lone Pine.

**ACTION:** *For information only*

#### 6.2 Unveiling of Women Caring for Veterans of War statue on 28 August 2015

Cr Chantry said this was a lovely event, and in particular thanked staff from the Clocktower for their work.

Mark Hammett advised that Parks and Gardens would be using a bronzing technique to improve the stability of the statue.

**ACTION:** *For information only*

### 7. New events / activities

#### 7.1 Successful application to host Writing the War exhibit (Brett Luxford)

Brett Luxford advised that Council had successfully applied to host the State Library of Victoria’s touring exhibition Writing the War. The exhibition will be hosted at Avondale Heights Library and Learning Centre from April to May 2017. We are one of only 12 libraries around the state that will be hosting this exhibition.

**ACTION:** *For information only*

#### 7.2 Victorian War Heritage Trails – Queens Park

Brett Luxford advised that Queens Park has been featured within a Victorian War Heritage Trail, developed by the Victorian State Government Veterans Branch.

Brochures for the trail were distributed to the group, and Cr Chantry requested that copies of the brochure be displayed at Sam Merrifield Library.

**ACTION:** Alana Stevens to provide Sam Merrifield Library with copies of the brochure.

### 8. Remembrance Day

#### 8.1 Queens Park ceremony
Brett Luxford provided the committee with details of Council’s Remembrance Day Commemoration Ceremony, being held in conjunction with the Essendon RSL Sub-branch.

The ceremony will be held at the Cenotaph in Queen’s Park, Moonee Ponds on Wednesday, 11 November 2015, commencing at 10.25am. Following the ceremony (around 11.05am), refreshments will be served in the Council Chambers.

Brett advised that Jackie Di Giorgio, the ceremony organiser, is currently looking for a guest speaker to talk for 3-4 minutes on “What Remembrance Day means to me”. Suggestions for a speaker were sought from the committee.

The committee agreed that their preference would be for Rev. Mark Dunn to be invited as guest speaker. Another suggestion was to invite local mosaic artist Mrs Susan Deprost to speak.

Ev requested that the 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association be officially invited to the year’s ceremony, and be given the opportunity to display their banner.

**ACTION:** Alana to provide the committee’s suggestions for guest speakers to organiser Jackie Di Giorgio and request that the 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association receive an official invitation to the ceremony.

8.2 Details of other Remembrance Day ceremonies for event calendar

Bill Laker advised that Keilor East RSL will hold their Remembrance Day ceremony on Wednesday 11th November at 10.45am. The RSL will also run activities for school children in the lead up to Remembrance Day.

**ACTIONS:**
- **Bill Laker to send details of ceremony to Alana Stevens.**
- **James Martin to add details of Remembrance Day ceremonies to Council’s Anzac Centenary web page.**

9. Event / project status updates

Elaine Brogan pointed out that some details listed in the Summary of Events and Activities document about Friends of Sandy are incorrect. Elaine will send information to Alana Stevens, to be updated in the document.

John Hills requested to meet with Brett Luxford, to discuss the Essendon Historical Society memorial wall project in Queens Park.

Ev Reynolds updated the group on the Pompey Elliot memorial lunch planned for 2016. The event will be held on 11 March at the Keilor East RSL, as the Brass Tavern is no longer available. The RSL have granted permission for their cenotaph to be converted to a 58th Battalion monument for the day. The Battalion are hoping to secure Major General Mike O’Brian as guest speaker for the lunch.

The committee requested that the Pompey Elliot plaque at Victory Park be removed from the Summary of Events and Activities document, as this will not be proceeding.

**ACTIONS:**
- Elaine Brogan to provide Alana Stevens with correct information about the about Friends of Sandy memorial.
- Alana to update the Summary of Events and Activities document with:
• Correct details on about the Friends of Sandy memorial, as provided by Elaine
• Details of the 2016 Pompey Elliot memorial lunch
• Removal of the Pompey Elliot plaque at Victory Park item

- John Hills and Brett Luxford to meet and discuss the Essendon Historical Society memorial wall project in Queens Park.

10. Other Business

Cr Chantry congratulated Bill Laker on the story about Keilor East RSL in the local Leader newspaper recently.

**ACTION:** For information only.

11. Date of next meeting

Monday, 9 November 2015

The meeting closed 7.30 pm