

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
10 AUGUST 2009**

7.	'ANSWERING THE CALL'
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	BEACH ST, PORT MELBOURNE
RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:	GREG WOOD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
AUTHOR:	PENNY MORRISON, HERITAGE OFFICER
FILE NO.:	
ATTACHMENTS:	1. SUBMISSION FROM THE NAVAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA INC 2. ASSESSMENT BY THE COPP MEMORIALS AND MONUMENTS WORKING GROUP 3. MAP OF PROPOSED LOCATION

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Naval Heritage Foundation of Australia Inc. applied to the CoPP in October 2008 to erect a bronze statue, '*Answering the Call*', and interpretative plaques on Beach St. at the end of Dow St, Port Melbourne.
- 1.2. The purpose of the memorial is to:
 - serve as a national memorial to all Australian naval men and women who served the nation
 - recognise the naval heritage of the City of Port Phillip.
- 1.3. The memorial will be of national and local significance and highlight this shared heritage by commemorating the significance of Port Melbourne in Australia's maritime history.
- 1.4. The memorial is proposed to be located along the road reserve on Beach St, Port Melbourne, opposite Dow St.
- 1.5. The memorial is proposed to be fully funded by the applicant being the Navy Heritage Foundation of Australia Inc.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. That Council acting in its role as committee of management under the *Crown Land Reserves Act 1978*, resolves to:

- 2.1.1 Provide 'in-principle' support for the installation of the memorial known as 'Answering the Call', in accordance with the terms and specifications for the memorial as outlined in this report.
- 2.1.2 Seek consent from the appropriate Minister in accordance with the *Coastal Management Act 1994*.

3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1. Port Melbourne was the site of the first Australian local voluntary naval service and culminated in the national maritime defence force, reflecting the political changes occurring as Australia moved from its colonial beginnings through federation.

The following summary of historic milestones was compiled by the Naval Heritage Foundation of Australia in their submission, and illustrates the long and continuous association of Port Melbourne with naval activities:-

- 1859 – Naval Reserve training commenced with the formation of the Sandridge company of the Victorian Naval Brigade
 - 1860's - Sandridge Corp carried out regular parades in the Orderly Room in Dow Street
 - 1876 – Drill Hall and Naval Cadet Depot was set up at Port Melbourne
 - 1890 – Dow St Drill Hall was sold
 - 1901 - Drill was carried out at the Customs sheds on Town Pier at the end of Bay St.
 - 1911 – Royal Australian navy formed
 - 1912 – Port Melbourne naval Drill Hall was built on the site adjacent to the former Post Office, making it probably the first new building completed for the new Royal Australian Navy
 - 1942 – Australian Navy Reserve Drill Hall was built on the old reclaimed lagoon and named HMAS Lonsdale
 - 1992 – HMAS Lonsdale was decommissioned and the long Naval association with Port Melbourne came to an end.
- 3.2. In 2006 discussion began with representatives of the Naval Service regarding the possibility of a memorial to commemorate naval men and women in the Port Melbourne area.
 - 3.3. In 2008 the Navy Heritage Foundation of Australia Inc. applied to the CoPP to erect a bronze statue, '*Answering the Call*', and interpretative plaques on Beach St. at the end of Dow St, Port Melbourne.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1. The applicants have sought and received the support of many people and organisations with local, state and national links to their proposal.

Patron of The Naval Heritage Foundation is Vice Admiral Russ Crane, AM, CSM, RAN, Chief of Navy.

Letters of support from the following were included with the application:-

- PM Historical and Preservation Society
- St Kilda Historical Society
- Michael Danby MHR, Federal Member for Melbourne Ports
- Martin Foley, Member for Albert Park
- Andrea Coote MP, Member for Southern Metropolitan Region, Parliament of Victoria
- Judith Troeth, Senator for Victoria.

5. DISCUSSION

- 5.1. The concept proposed for the statue is based on the figure of an RAN sailor of the 1942 era in a rig which represents all ranks and rates. The sailor will be cast in bronze, 1.25 normal size and stand 2.2 metres tall standing on a half meter bluestone high plinth. The statue will face towards the sea on a bearing directed to the entry of Port Phillip Bay.
- 5.2. The memorial will be of both national and local significance as the only heritage marker in Australia recognising all naval men and women nationally, and the substantial maritime heritage of the CoPP, particularly that of Port Melbourne, which spans the period from 1859 to 1992
- 5.3. Currently there is no tangible marker of this heritage which is of local, state and national significance.
- 5.4. Three sites along the Beach Rd foreshore at Port Melbourne have been considered. They are at Lagoon Pier, at the end of Bay St and at the end of Dow St.
- 5.5. The recommended site is directly opposite Dow St. It has been selected because of the long association with this locale and national maritime defense from 1859 until 1992, in particular with the old Drill Hall on Bay St and the site of the Town Pier at the end of Bay St
- 5.6. This site is considered preferable to the Bay St site because of the configuration of the beach wall which allows easy access at two points to the beach and the backdrop of the cityscape which is afforded up Dow St for people viewing the statue.
- 5.7. There is sufficient space for people attending an annual memorial service to congregate, noting that the cyclists and pedestrians could be readily managed during such relatively brief events.

6. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN

- 6.1. This proposal relates to the Draft Council Plan 2009 – 2013, specifically;
- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Section 4.1: | A Sense of Place |
| Strategy 4.1.7: | Preserve our heritage, valuing the past and planning for the future |

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The *Memorials and Monuments Policy 2008*, section 5.4.1 'Creation of New Memorials' selection criteria articulates the criteria against which submissions for new memorials need to be assessed.
- 7.2. The City of Port Phillip Memorials and Monuments Working Group considered this application and recommends that it is generally consistent with CoPP policy. This Group, which comprises staff from Governance, Parks and Open Spaces and Curatorial Services, assessed the proposal against the selection criteria applied to new memorials.

8. FINANCE AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The proposal from the Naval Heritage Foundation will be fully funded by the foundation. The Naval Heritage Foundation is not seeking funding from Council. It is seeking approval from Council to locate a memorial of national significance in the CoPP.
- 8.2. It is intended that all funds required would be raised through the Naval Heritage Foundation, which intends to mount a fund raising campaign should Council provide in-principle support for the proposal.

9. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATION

- 9.1. Council is the committee of management for the land in question and is therefore acting under the authority of the *Crown Land Reserves Act 1978*.
- 9.2. In accordance with the *Coastal Management Act 1994* Council will require coastal management act consent for the proposal to proceed. The Department of Sustainability and Environment have been made aware of this proposal and CoPP is awaiting in-principle consent.
- 9.3. It is intended that any obligations with regard to public liability, maintenance and other like matters will be managed through the development of a licence agreement or similar instrument, to be agreed between the City of Port Phillip and the Naval Heritage Foundation.

10. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- 10.1. The process for implementation of this recommendation, should it be approved by Council; would be:
- | | |
|---------|---|
| 10.1.1. | Seek and receive 'in-principle' consent in accordance with the Coastal Management Act 1994. |
| 10.1.2. | Subject to the Naval Heritage Foundation raising the necessary funds for installation of the memorial, negotiate and enter into a |

draft licence agreement between the Naval Heritage Foundation and City of Port Phillip for installation and maintenance of the memorial.

- 10.1.3. Report to Council to seek final approval for the installation of the Answering the Call memorial to proceed.

11. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 11.1. No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.