

**STRATEGY AND POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**4 AUGUST 2008** **GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE**

**A8** **NAMING OF RESERVE BOUNDED BY CNRS VICTORIA AVENUE, O'GRADY & MOUBRAY STREETS, ALBERT PARK 'RATS OF TOBRUK RESERVE'**

**LOCATION/ADDRESS:**

**RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** **SALLY CALDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ORGANISATION SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT**

**AUTHOR:** **MURRAY CHICK, COORDINATOR GOVERNANCE**

**FILE NO.:**

**ATTACHMENTS:** **NIL.**

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report advises Council of the results of the public submission process in relation to the naming of reserve bounded by the Cnrs Victoria Avenue, O'Grady & Moubray Streets, Albert Park 'Rats of Tobruk Reserve'.

**2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 2.1. Council at its Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 23 June 2008, resolved to:
- '1. That Council having considered the recommendation of the Strategy and Policy Review Committee resolve to:*
- a) Authorise the commencement of the statutory procedures required, in accordance with the Geographic Names Act 1998, to name a reserve on the corner of Victoria Avenue, O'Grady & Moubray Streets, Albert Park 'Rats of Tobruk Reserve.'*
- 2.2. Following the Council decision to proceed with the naming of the reserve, advertisements were placed in the Emerald Hill Weekly (9 July 2008) and the Port Phillip Leader (8 July 2008) seeking public comment in relation to the naming of the reserve and letters were sent to all surrounding properties.
- 2.3. Council has received 6 submissions (2 via letter, 2 via email and 2 via phone) supporting the proposal. Council has also received 1 submission suggesting three alternative names.

**3. RECOMMENDED OPTION**

3.1. It is recommended to name the reserve on the corner of Victoria Avenue, O'Grady & Moubay Streets, Albert Park 'Rats of Tobruk Reserve'.

**3.2. Criterion for recommendation**

3.2.1. The proposed name 'Rats of Tobruk Reserve' will have immediate community identification as Tobruk House is immediate opposite the unnamed reserve.

**4. SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**4.1. Social Equity**

4.1.1. This proposal fits with the social objective of Council recognising significant contributions by members of the community.

**4.2. Economic Viability**

4.2.1. There is minimal economic cost implication with this proposal. The costs include the erection of appropriate standard signage and the holding of a small function to unveil the signage, and would be funded within existing budget limits.

**4.3. Environmental Responsibility**

4.3.1. Standard signage will be erected on the reserve and it will have minimal physical impact on the environment.

**4.4. Cultural Vitality**

4.4.1. Naming of the reserve after the 'Rats of Tobruk' is a means of recognising their achievements in their fight to protect the port of Tobruk, Lybia.

**4.5. Policy and legislative implications**

4.5.1. When naming a place of local significance, the Council is required to follow the procedures outlined in the Local Government Act 1989, Section 206 and Schedule 10 (5), the Geographic Place Names Act 1998, its corresponding guidelines, Council's Memorials and Naming Policy and Council's Road and Lane Naming Guidelines.

**4.6. Risk implications**

4.6.1. There are no risk implications.

**4.7. Resource implications**

4.7.1. Council will be required to pay for the appropriate signage and small function to unveil the signage.

**5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

**5.1. Option 1**

- 5.1.1. That Council name the reserve opposite Tobruk House 'Rats of the Tobruk Reserve'.

**5.2. Option 2**

- 5.2.1. That Council reject the name and choose an alternative name for the reserve.

**5.3. Option 3**

- 5.3.1. That Council reject the proposal and determine not to proceed with the naming of the reserve.

**6. PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

**6.1. Internal**

- 6.1.1. Previous discussions have been held with the ward Councillor, who fully supports the proposal at this stage of the process.
- 6.1.2. Local Historian Librarian, who has no objection to the proposed name of the reserve.

**6.2. External**

- 6.2.1. Council has received 6 submissions in support (4 written and 2 verbal). Submissions were received from residents from Albert Park (3), Mount Helen, South Yarra and Branholme.

- 6.2.2. Comments in support of the naming of the reserve:

*'Support this initiative. It will commemorate this very important part of Australian history and those involved. It is also an important part of the CoPP history in that 'Rats of Tobruk House' in Victoria Avenue has been their 'home' for so many years'.*

*'Support the proposal as my grandfather was at Tobruk and the naming will honour the soldiers that did not come home'.*

*'I would like to support your idea of a memorial park for the Rats of Tobruk. Sir Leslie Morshead was a great friend of my father Ernest Turnbull the 1<sup>st</sup> president of the RSL in 1921'.*

*'My grandfather was Thomas Frederick Charles Smith VX 40841 (2<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Australian Battalion). He was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the African Star (which I understand is associated with Tobruk, the Defence Medal and the 1939-45 War Medal for his World War II Service. He fought in WWI as a member of the Light Horse, including Gallipoli. As grandchildren, my brother and I are his direct descendants'.*

- 6.2.3. As previously indicated Council has received a submission from a property owner in Albert Park suggesting three alternative names:

**Avenue Reserve, Moubray Reserve or O'Grady Reserve – Reflecting the road names.**

**Reardon Reserve – Surname of submitters grandfather who owned Reardon Ice Works.**

**Holsworth Reserve – After the late Joan Holsworth who lived on the corner of Moubray and O'Grady Streets and who was an active member at the South Melbourne Cricket Club.**

## **7. IMPLEMENTATION**

- 7.1. Once final decision has been made to name the reserve, the following will be implemented:
- 7.1.1. A final notice will be placed in the Victoria Government Gazette to formalise the naming of the reserve.
  - 7.1.2. A letter will be sent to local residents and the people who made a submission advising of Council's decision on the proposal.
  - 7.1.3. The Statutory Functions Unit will notify relevant internal stakeholders of Council's decision advising of the name of the new reserve and asking the stakeholder to note the change in their records
  - 7.1.4. The Statutory Functions Unit will notify the Registrar of Place Names of the new name assigned to the reserve.
  - 7.1.5. The Statutory Functions Unit will notify the relevant public authorities of the new name that has been assigned to the reserve.
  - 7.1.6. The Statutory Functions Unit to brief Council's Media Officer for the preparation of a media release on the assigning of the name to the reserve.
  - 7.1.7. The Statutory Functions Unit to organise a small unveiling ceremony including a small function (at a date to be determined) at the reserve.
  - 7.1.8. Appropriate signage to be organised to commemorate the naming of the reserve.

## **8. COMMUNICATION**

- 8.1. The naming of the reserve will be communicated to the community via the media (media release).

**9. RECOMMENDATION**

- 9.1. That the Strategy and Policy Review Committee recommends to Council
  - 9.1.1. That pursuant to Section 206, Schedule 10 (5) of the Local Government Act 1989, resolve to agree to name the reserve on the corner of Victoria Avenue, O'Grady & Moubay Streets, Albert Park 'Rats of Tobruk Reserve'.
  - 9.1.2. Authorise staff to carry out the necessary procedures to assign the new name in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, the Geographic Place Names Act 1998 and the Port Phillip City Council Guidelines for the Naming and Re-naming of Lanes and Roads.