
Service and Operational Matters - 27 October 2020

ITEM 8.1 **Jack Munday/Green Bans Park**

AUTHOR **City Future**

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

This report outlines the recommended park to be named after Jack Munday as resolved by Council in May 2020. It also identifies the opportunity to undertake community consultation on this naming, along with the future design of the space.

ISSUE

In May 2020 Council resolved to investigate a suitable park or green space, preferably in or near Croydon Park to be renamed Jack Munday/Green Bans Park.

Following a review of possible sites, 15 Close Street Canterbury was identified as a possible location. While the site is to be temporarily used by Sydney Metro as a compound site, it represents an ideal tribute to Mr Munday in the future. This provides an opportunity to not only undertake community consultation on the proposed naming, but more broadly and its future design for when it returns to Council's ownership.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council undertake community consultation on the proposal to name the future Park at 15 Close Street the 'Jack Munday Park'.
2. Council undertake community consultation to seek input into the future design for the community space at 15 Close Street.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

POLICY IMPACT

The proposed naming of 15 Close Street as 'Jack Munday Park' is consistent with Council's Naming Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report does not directly have a financial impact. Any future design of 15 Close Street will be considered as part of a future Operational Plan budget process.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

15 Close Street will be used as a compound site until 2024 by Sydney Metro. On the completion of the works the site will be returned to Council. This provides an opportunity to convert the space into a functional Park. The proposal to name the site 'Jack Munday Park' is appropriate due to the history of the site, from the early proposal by the former Canterbury Council to redevelop the site as residential towers, to this Council's recent decision to now protect it as future open space. Community feedback will be sought on this proposed naming.

DETAILED INFORMATION

Background

Council resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 26 May 2020 the following in honour of the life and contribution made by Jack Munday AO:

1. *Investigates a suitable park or green space, preferably in or near Croydon Park to be renamed Jack Munday/Green Bans Park, supported by photo and history signage at the location*

Jack Munday lived in the Canterbury region for the past 40 years. He spent more than three decades fighting for preservation and urban heritage and calling for the environment to be given a higher agenda. He came to prominence during the 1970s for leading the famous green bans, a successful campaign to protect the built and natural environment of Sydney from excessive and inappropriate development. Munday was the Patron of the Historic Houses Association of Australia, Chairman of The Historical Houses Trust, honoured in the 2000 Australia Day awards appointed an officer in the Order of Australia (AO).

REPORT

As a result of the above resolution Council staff undertook a review of possible un-named open space in the area including:

1. 12 Riverside Road Croydon Park
2. Rose Garden, Corner Brighton Ave and Albert Rd, Croydon Park
3. Garden, intersection of Leith/Roslyn/Hay Streets Croydon Park
4. 15 Close Street, Canterbury – Old Canterbury Bowling Club

Based on the above review it was considered the most fitting site is 15 Close Street, Canterbury.

15 Close Street has had a long history which has significant correlation to the work of Jack Munday. The site was previously used by the community as a bowling club until 2013 when it ceased operation.

The community has long held concerns about Council's intention for the future land since the former Canterbury Council started exploring options for its redevelopment in 2010. These concerns intensified in 2014 when the former Canterbury Council submitted a planning proposal to rezone the land from RE1 Public Recreation to R4 High Density Residential in order to allow over 300 apartments to be built on the site, up to 8 storeys high.

As a result of the amalgamation, this development never proceeded however ongoing misinformation in the community resulted in a Mayoral Minute in November 2017 where it was made clear that the site was critical in the supply of necessary open space for the area. In December 2019 Council adopted the Local Strategic Planning Statement, Connective City 2036, which identified the importance of the site in providing much needed open space in a town centre.

In May 2020 Council resolved that the site would not be sold or redeveloped, and that this site would be retained as open space. Following further assessment, the site was incorporated as part of the current city-wide planning proposal and is now with the Department of Planning for making as public space once again.

Based on the above history, it is fitting that 15 Close Street be named after Jack Munday due to the protection of the site from development and converting back to community open space by this Council.

Community Consultation

It is proposed that community consultation be undertaken on the proposed naming of the site to 'Jack Munday Park'.

Council's Naming Policy notes that Council *"requires the consent of the immediate family for names commemorating a person unless the name is of a historical person that lived in the distant past."* Informal discussions have been had with the family of Jack Munday regarding the proposed site. Subject to this report, formal confirmation will be undertaken as part of the above consultation.

It is to be noted that any new open space will not be until Sydney Metro hand back the site to Council on the completion of the Sydenham to Bankstown Metro, as part of their compulsory acquisition of the site. This is not anticipated to be until 2024. Despite this, it is appropriate to engage with the community to inform a future design of the space so that Council is ready when the land returns to Council.

To commence the process, it is proposed that the following community engagement activities be undertaken:

- Letter box drop – advising of upcoming engagement activities/ directing interested community to HYS to register and follow (digital reached facilitated via social media).
- Onsite pop up engagement session:
 - Visioning exercise for future use of the site
 - Feedback on the proposed naming
- Have Your Say website
- Social Media posts