

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MALCOLM FRASER AC CH GCL

Mayor, Councilors and Officers,

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission for Council's consideration, and the chance to speak to you directly in support of that submission.

We come to you as nothing more than three members of the local community who happen to share the belief that it would be;

- (1) appropriate to establish a lasting testament of Malcolm Fraser's contribution to Australia, and to this region/electorate in particular, and,
- (2) even more appropriate that this testament be located in Hamilton, given that this is the geographic centre of the Wannon electorate (and the traditional supply location for both the Fraser and Beggs families)

Malcolm Fraser's service to this community...and the Australian nation...has been truly remarkable!

- (A) He was the Member for Wannon (and thus our local Federal Member) from 1955 to 1983! He was elected at the age of 25 years, and served this community as our local Federal MP for a period of 28 years...both of which make him a stand-out politician of his time!
- (B) In addition, Malcolm served as a Cabinet Minister under three Prime Ministers...for the Army, and subsequently Defence, under Holt, for Education and Science under Gorton, and then after a "spell" came back to the same portfolio under McMahon.
- (C) In 1975 he became our Prime Minister in a "land-slide" (which resulted in an historic majority of 55 seats) and he headed the government that won the 1977 and 1980 elections, to not only steer the nation through some of our most turbulent years, but become the 4th longest serving PM in our history.
- (D) After he left politics in 1983, Malcolm pursued a range of personal interests, and gained enormous recognition on an international scale. His incredible array of awards and accolades from a wide variety of sources, (both from around Australia, and across the world), and his founding role with Care Australia, are testament to the roles he played, and the reputation he enjoyed.

While Malcolm had his fair share of criticism in politics (which comes as part of the job), he won the respect of his constituents, colleagues and opponents alike through personal qualities of competence, determination and humility. And then in retirement, his willingness to take on some really controversial issues earned him some even more ardent "flak". However, even his most enthusiastic critic would have to admit that right throughout his career, Malcolm strode the nation, and international scene, as a respected "elder statesman"...and humanitarian...that few before, or after, could hope to emulate!!!

Put simply, Malcolm was a truly extraordinary contributor...and your petitioners respectfully submit that it would not only be deserved, but appropriate, that community recognition be demonstrated.

OUR VISION

We believe that the most appropriate testament to Malcolm's contribution would be to commission a life-size bust...and have it located in an appropriate site in Hamilton.

After much deliberation, we have "settled" on a life-size bronze bust, positioned on a Grampians sandstone plinth, with a bronze plaque recording Malcolm's service record.

We have looked at a variety of sites throughout the City, and, based upon the primary criteria of exposure and security, have ranked our preferences thus;

- (1) In the Hamilton Botanic Gardens, just inside the ornate gates at the French and McIntyre Street intersection,
- (2) In a recessed seating area of Gray Street (perhaps outside the Grand Central Hotel)
- (3) In Coleraine Road adjacent to the Shire Offices (and close to the National Flag Pole)
- (4) In Lonsdale Street, adjacent to the parking areas on the western side of the Uniting Church
- (5) In the fore-court of the Municipal Offices...opposite the pedestrian crossing on Brown Street.

We have also settled on a designer to undertake the work (Linda Klarfeld)...a Sydney based sculptor. Linda is well known with a number of landmark works to her credit, (including the bust of Prime Minister Abbott which stands in the Ballarat Botanic Gardens), Linda has given us an estimate of \$34,000 for the bust itself.

We believe that our "vision" would cost about \$40,000 (bust as estimated, plus plinth, plus base!)

OUR ASK OF COUNCIL

Given that we are not incorporated, we would seek several levels of support from council;

(1) All of the ranked sites are (we presume) on public land, and thus we need either Council's approval, or influence, to establish a site!

(2) While our early enquiries leave us warmly confident that the project would qualify for Federal Government Agency funding, we ask that Council formally “adopt” the project, to lend both status and credibility to any application for public funding, and

(3) we would respectfully submit that the project meets all of the criteria to merit community funding, and that Council should commit financially to the project!

It is relevant to our submission that in our discussions with Mrs (Tammy) Fraser, we have had warm support for the concept of the bust (as described), and for “Malcolm” to be located in the Botanic Gardens. We have also received the enthusiastic endorsement of Care Australia.

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For our part, we undertake to pursue the balance of funds required through contributions from the private sector. While our efforts to secure tax deductability have thus far been unsuccessful, we remain confident that the cause of itself will attract financial support from across the regional community...as well as from some key philanthropic trusts.

So, this is a “chicken and egg” circumstance. We would like to be able to demonstrate our confidence in respect of external funding...but we can’t really go door-knocking until we have an approved site!

And so, the obvious starting point is to seek the support and patronage of Council for our vision...and here we are!!!

Petitioners:
Rex Beveridge,
Peter Schroder, and
Roger Hallam