

**ITEM                    CONCORD ANZAC DAY SERVICE**

**Department        Executive Services**

**Author Initials: AT**

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**REPORT**

Due to the deregistration of our local Concord RSL sub-branch and the closure of Concord RSL last year, there is currently no ANZAC day service planned for this year in Concord. I consider this to be unacceptable for an area so steeped in history and with so many close links to the service of our men and women fighting abroad.

Traditionally, the Concord ANZAC Day dawn service for veterans and the Concord community has been held at Concord RSL and was well attended by our local community.

The former president of the Concord RSL sub-branch has approached Council and requested that we investigate hosting a service in Concord and to assist with resources and communications as required.

To ensure the tradition of a local Concord ANZAC day service is kept alive, I propose Council host a commemoration at the Pavilion of Honour in Queen Elizabeth Park this year on ANZAC day at dawn. This will not only provide support to our local servicemen and women, it will enable our community to come together and to reflect upon the sacrifices made.

Significant conservation works were undertaken by Council with funding support from both the Federal and State Governments during the Centenary of ANZAC 2014 – 2018 to restore the Pavilion of Honour at Concord. The memorial was also the site of the Remembrance Day service on 11 November 2018 which marked the conclusion of the Centenary of ANZAC commemorations in the City. This is a good opportunity to bring our recognition to this important local site.

The City of Canada Bay has a proud history of supporting local RSLs and honouring the service of our fallen men and women.

Council has previously provided event support for services in Drummoyne, Five Dock, as well as support to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway Board and also to the former Concord RSL Club.

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council provide event support for an ANZAC Day dawn service to be held at the Pavilion of Honour in Queen Elizabeth Park on Saturday, 25 April 2020 at 5am and provide assistance to local veterans in the Concord area to facilitate the event and to notify the community accordingly.

THAT Council note the estimated event cost of \$3,000, funds for which are available in the Place Management budget.