

Extraordinary Council Meeting

27/05/2020

Item No	6.1
Subject	Mayoral Minute - Vale Jack Munday
File	F20/417

Motion

1. That Council provides support to rename Eastlakes Reserve in honour of the late Jack Munday, whose leadership during the green ban movement was instrumental in the establishment of this open space reserve in Eastlakes.
 2. That Council commences the necessary community engagement and submission to the NSW Geographical Names Board to rename Eastlakes Reserve, as Jack Munday Reserve.
 3. That Council applies for a grant under the NSW Community Partnerships Grants seeking funding for park signage detailing the history of the green ban which led to the establishment of Eastlakes Reserve, including the influential role played by Jack Munday, the Builders Labourer Federation and the local residents.
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Mayoral Minute

Bayside residents have the enjoyment of some of the most beautiful parks and gardens Sydney has to offer. One of these parks, the much loved and utilised Eastlakes Reserve, came about through the tenacity and leadership of the legendary, and recently departed, Jack Munday.

As Secretary of the Builders Labourers Federation (BLF), Jack Munday listened to the concerns of Eastlakes residents, who were frustrated with the sudden raft of apartment buildings in their area. The call to preserve land from the former Rosebery Racecourse for open space and recreation came via the introduction of a green ban, commencing in November 1971. This was one of the earliest green bans and was successful in stalling building work on this site. By mid-1974 an agreement was reached with the Council and the developer, ensuring this land would be free from further development.

The success of the green ban movement speaks volumes for the strength, courage and leadership of Jack Munday. Jack convinced workers not to work, he stood up to developers at a time when violence and murder was far too common in the building industry. Jack, with strong grassroots support made rational decisions based on long term socially and culturally responsible objectives. There was no personal gain for Jack Munday, everything he did was for the greater community.

Beyond the green ban movement, Jack also supported safer workplaces, gay rights, the aboriginal community and feminism. We pay tribute to Jack Munday, a man who shaped Sydney and gave us the precious green spaces we know and treasure, like Eastlakes Reserve.

I also pay tribute to the union members who, at the time, turned down work for the benefit of the Eastlakes community. No green ban existed without strong and vocal support from the community and I also thank local residents who successfully lobbied their cause to the BLF. With the fiftieth anniversary of the start of the Eastlakes Reserve green ban only eighteen months away, now is the time to tell their stories. I call on the NSW Government, to provide funding under the NSW Community Partnerships Grants for appropriate signage in the Reserve, preserving the Jack Munday story and the green ban.

The Member for Heffron, Ron Hoenig, and members of the community, have also approached me to request that Council considers renaming Eastlakes Reserve in honour of Jack Munday. I cannot think of a better way to express our gratitude to Jack Munday, and ensure his role in socially responsible development is preserved in our local history.

Attachments

Nil