

7.3 Allocation of 2020 Commemorative Grants

Abstract

This report contains the recommendations of the Community Grants Assessment Panel for the 2020 Commemorative Community Grants program. The total funding pool of \$20,000 was included in the 2020-21 Council budget.

Commemorative grants support initiatives that recognise significant occasions, providing an opportunity for the community to acknowledge and remember.

The Panel has recommended funding allocations that align with Council's strategic objectives and priorities. The recommended applications support initiatives, which recognise Australia's wartime heritage, in particular, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War Two.

Council officers provided support and advice to applicants with their proposals. The program was promoted through e-newsletters, Council's social media and the City of Boroondara website.

The Panel has recommended full funding for the two applications received. The total amount allocated is \$10,000. The Panel proposed that the remaining funds of \$10,000 be rolled over to the current round of Annual Community Strengthening Grants.

Confidential information is contained in **Attachment 2**, as circulated in the confidential section of the agenda attachments for the purposes of section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

- a. because it is Council business information, being information that would prejudice Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released (section 3(1)(a)); and
- b. because it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs (section 3(1)(f)); and
- c. these grounds apply because these Attachments concern the ongoing allocation of grants that would, if prematurely released, diminish the strength of Council's position in regard to its final decision about the allocation of the grants.

This item has been included in the public agenda to facilitate transparency and accountability in Council's decision making.

If discussion of the confidential information in the attachments to this report is required in order for Council to make a decision, this item will be deferred to the confidential section of the agenda.

Officers' recommendation

That Council resolve to:

1. Endorse the 2020 Commemorative Community Grant funding allocations (as provided in **Attachment 1**, as annexed to the minutes).
2. Endorse the allocation of the remaining \$10,000 to the 2020-21 Annual Community Strengthening Grants program.

Responsible director: Carolyn McClean
Community Development

1. Purpose

This report seeks Council endorsement of the recommendations of the Community Strengthening Grants Assessment Panel for the 2020 Commemorative Community Grants.

2. Policy implications and relevance to community plan and council plan

Boroondara Community Plan 2017-27

The Boroondara Community Plan is Council's key strategic document and describes the community's 10-year vision and priorities. It guides Council's decision making, and directly informs the Council Plan, budget processes, and Council strategies, plans, policies and actions.

The Boroondara Community Plan is structured around seven themes our community told us were important to them, and each includes a strategic objective describing the outcomes we are seeking to achieve. The strategies for how we will achieve this, of relevance for this report, are:

Strategy 1.3 Deliver, facilitate and advocate for services and programs that promote health, wellbeing, safety and a sense of community.

Strategy 1.4 Provide, facilitate and advocate for life-long learning opportunities for people of all ages.

Strategy 1.5 Provide, facilitate and advocate for opportunities to increase connections within the community, with a focus on local neighbourhoods.

Strategy 1.8 Facilitate and produce diverse Arts and Cultural programs to provide entertainment and increase participation in community life for residents and tourists.

Strategy 1.9 Facilitate and advocate for opportunities to maximise older people's quality of life and engagement in the community through the provision of programs, volunteering and community sharing projects.

Council Plan

The Council Plan June 2017-21 articulates Council's overarching commitment to being a vibrant and inclusive city, meeting the needs and aspirations of the community. The Community Strengthening Grants program supports the strategies outlined in the Council Plan, particularly those listed above.

Policies

The Boroondara Community Strengthening Grants Policy 2019 sets out the parameters for the allocation of grants, including the Commemorative Community Grants. It integrates Council's grant funding activities so they strategically align to community needs, as identified within the Boroondara Community Plan.

The allocations recommended by the Community Strengthening Grants Assessment Panel also support commitments contained in the Boroondara Arts Plan.

3. Background

The Community Strengthening Grants Program supports community organisations to meet the social, cultural, economic, recreational and environmental needs of Boroondara residents. It is guided by the Boroondara Community Strengthening Grants Policy 2019, which includes the category of Community Commemorative Grants.

The 2020 Commemorative Community Grants support local community-based projects and activities that commemorate the end of World War Two. Applications opened on Monday 2 March 2020 and closed on Sunday 5 April 2020.

Organisations and schools were eligible to apply for grants of up to \$5,000 to support community-based projects or activities such as:

- public events that commemorate the end of World War Two
- educational and cultural programs with a World War Two focus
- the collation of stories that honour our wartime history activities that preserve, interpret and display memorabilia from World War Two.
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All projects and activities funded must be completed by 31 December 2020.

Council officers from Arts and Culture and Community Planning and Development provided support and advice to applicants to strengthen their proposals.

The two applications submitted for the 2020 Commemorative Community Grants are in the Creative Community Grant stream. Officers assessed the applications and the Panel considered this advice and the ratings in its deliberations. The Panel also based its decisions on the program guidelines, and an analysis of the financial investment against the potential community benefit from the project.

The Community Strengthening Grants Assessment Panel comprised four councillors being Councillors Ross, Wegman, Sinfield and Watson.

4. Outline of key issues/options

As noted above, the funding pool for the 2020 Commemorative Community grants was \$20,000 and \$10,000 has been allocated.

The Panel has endorsed full funding for the two applications listed in **Attachment 1**, as they align with Council's strategic objectives and departmental strategic priorities. The applications are for local community-based projects and activities that commemorate the end of World War Two and remember Australian service men and women.

The table below shows the community demand for the 2020 Commemorative Community Grants funding compared with the funding allocated.

Grants category	Applications received	Total pool funding	Total amount requested	Funded amount	Funds unallocated
2020 Commemorative	2	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

The Panel has recommended that the remaining funds of \$10,000 be allocated to the 2020-21 Annual Community Strengthening Grants program.

5. Consultation/communication

The 2020 Commemorative Community Grants program was promoted through:

- *The Fuse* e-newsletter
- Council's social media
- *Boroondara Creative Network* e-newsletter
- the *Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre Member Bulletin*
- an email to the Creative network
- City of Boroondara website on a dedicated webpage.
- a specific website news item.

Personalised SmartyGrants training was available to support applicants in the online application process and Council officers also provided information and advice to applicants.

6. Financial and resource implications

As noted earlier, the funding pool for the 2020 Commemorative Community Grants was \$20,000. The total amount allocated was \$10,000. It is proposed that the remaining funds of \$10,000 be allocated to the Annual Community Strengthening Grants program.

7. Governance issues

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

In response to officer assessments, the panel provided individual recommendations via email on 22 and 30 June 2020.

8. Social and environmental issues

The two applications recommended for funding support activities and projects which will commemorate the end of World War Two and remember Australian service men and women.

The recommended applications will support a range of activities that enhance community inclusion, promote a sense of community and provide cultural engagement opportunities.

Manager: Fiona Brown, Manager Community Planning and Development

Report officer: Kate Natsume, Community Development Officer/Relief and Recovery Internal Liaison Officer

Attachment 1: 2020 Commemorative Community Grants - Recommended

#	Organisation	Project Title	Project description	Panel Recommendation	Partial and/or conditional funding	Conflict of Interest
1	2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion Association	Blood and Bone	A new play will be presented at the Kew Courthouse in November 2020 focussing on World War II and the migration story. The play is inspired by interviewing World War II veterans, one of whom enlisted at Hawthorn. This is a partnership with Highlight Productions who have produced various plays across Victoria. Organisations involved will be schools, the Hellenic Returned Services League (RSL), local RSLs, libraries and the Battle of Crete Commemorative Council. It is the Battalion's vision to promote the work which they undertook in World War II and their work today in the community.	\$5,000.00		No Conflict of Interest
2	Friends of the Auburn Tower Inc.	75 Years that changed the world	A public performance and civic celebration featuring professional musicians playing the music of the wartime era and the intervening 75 years. The proposal commemorates the end of WWII and recognises all aspect of war time - not just the men and women who served - but those who stayed home and served, subsequent migration and the achievements of Australia in the following 75 years.	\$5,000.00		No Conflict of Interest