

7 Presentation of officer reports

7.6 Canterbury Community Precinct Heritage Centre Naming

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- outline feedback received during the community consultation on the naming proposal (**Attachment 1**)
- seek endorsement of the Canterbury History Group and Surrey Hills Historical Society's request to name the heritage centre at Canterbury Community Precinct the Maling Heritage Centre, (**Attachment 2**).

Background

The Canterbury Community Precinct Stage One comprises the Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre, Canterbury Maternal and Child Health Centre, Canterbury Gardens Kindergarten, Playstation and the Toy Library.

As a part of the Canterbury Community Precinct's Stage Two, the former Canterbury Library, at 190A Canterbury Road, Canterbury, is being redeveloped for the purpose of a heritage centre and meeting space. The heritage centre's key tenants include the Canterbury History Group and the Surrey Hills Historical Society (including their collections).

On 18 May 2023, the Canterbury History Group and Surrey Hills Historical Society submitted a request to Council for a suggested name for the building (see **Attachment 2**). Upon this request, Council undertook additional background research to verify the suitability of the request prior to presentation to Council and community consultation (refer **Attachment 3**).

In February 2023, Council endorsed the Naming Policy (the Policy) to establish Council processes for the naming of Council managed assets including roads, features and localities. The Policy is guided by the Victorian Government's *Naming rules for places in Victoria, Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities 2022* (often referred to as the Naming Rules). These Naming Rules designate local Councils as a 'naming authority', which means they must process all eligible naming requests received from external parties in line with our Naming Policy. The current proposal from the Canterbury History Group and Surrey Hills Historical Society is an example of a community generated naming proposal and is not a Council initiative.

Key Issues

In line with our Naming Policy, community consultation was conducted from 10 November to 11 December 2023. It is important to note that the consultation sought feedback on the proposed name 'Maling Heritage Centre'. Other potential names for the heritage centre were not being sought as part of this process. Despite this, Council received a total of 77 submissions some of which proposed alternate names, with responses including:

- 32 (42%) supporting the name Maling Heritage Centre

- 21 (27%) supporting the suggestion of naming after Aunty Merle Jackomos
- 17 (22%) wanting an Aboriginal name or word
- 7 (9%) suggesting another name for the centre.

Submissions from Surrey Hills and Canterbury, the focus area of the historical societies research and the catchment area for the letterbox drop, totalled 29 or 38% of the total responses. The remaining responses came from residents in other suburbs in Boroondara. Almost 70% of Surrey Hills and Canterbury residents supported the proposed naming of the building the Maling Heritage Centre. This included the tenants of the Canterbury Community Precinct.

When considering the responses from the consultation, there was support for both the naming proposal, as well as alternatives that focus on Aboriginal heritage and culture.

Council consulted with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC) on the proposed name 'Maling Heritage Centre' on two occasions.

Next Steps

Based on the original request (**Attachment 2**), background research (**Attachment 3**) and consultation feedback (**Attachment 1**), it is proposed Council:

- acknowledges and thanks participants in the community consultation process
- proceeds with the naming proposal from the Surrey Hills Historical Society and Canterbury History Group to name the building at 190A Canterbury Road the Maling Heritage Centre and register the building name with Geographic Names Victoria
- continues to explore opportunities for the use of Woi-Wurrung language in future naming proposals with the WWCHAC
- in line with Council's Naming Policy, capture in our records Aunty Merle Jackomos' contribution for future naming opportunities
- reviews operational guidelines and practices to make it clearer about naming options being sought as part of place naming consultation processes.

Officers' recommendation

That Council resolve to:

1. Formally name the building at 190A Canterbury Road, Canterbury, the 'Maling Heritage Centre'.
2. Register the name 'Maling Heritage Centre' with Geographic Names Victoria.
3. Advise the Canterbury History Group and Surrey Hills Historical Society their place naming application has been endorsed by Council.
4. Thank participants in the Maling Heritage Centre community consultation process.
5. Continue to explore opportunities for the use of Woi-Wurrung language in future naming proposals with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

6. Receive an update from officers regarding the operational review of place naming guidelines to make it clearer about naming options being sought as part of consultation processes.

Responsible director: Kate McCaughey, Director Community Support

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- outline feedback received during the community consultation on the naming proposal (**Attachment 1**)
- seek endorsement of the Canterbury History Group and Surrey Hills Historical Society's request to name the heritage centre at Canterbury Community Precinct the Maling Heritage Centre, (**Attachment 2**).

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

This report is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025 and the Boroondara Community Plan 2021-2031, in particular the following themes:

- Theme 1 - Community, services and facilities
- Theme 4 - Neighbourhood character and heritage.

3. Background

The Canterbury Community Precinct Stage One houses the Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre, Canterbury Maternal and Child Health Centre, Canterbury Gardens Kindergarten, Playstation and the Toy Library. Multicap will also have offices and deliver programs from the Canterbury Community Precinct. All these services are in the main building at 2 Kendall Street, Canterbury with the exception of Multicap, which will have its offices in the former maternal and child health centre immediately adjacent.

As a part of the Canterbury Community Precinct's Stage Two, the former Canterbury Library, 190A Canterbury Road, Canterbury, is being redeveloped for the purpose of a heritage centre and meeting space. The Canterbury History Group and Surrey Hills Historical Society will be key tenants. The heritage centre will house the Canterbury History Group and the Surrey Hills Historical Society and their collections, as well as provide a meeting room for public use managed by the Canterbury Neighbourhood House. Construction of Stage Two is expected to be complete by late March 2024 with the tenants moving in soon after.

On 18 May 2023, the Canterbury History Group and Surrey Hills Historical Society submitted a request to Council for a suggested name for the building, 'Maling Heritage Centre' (see **Attachment 2**).

In February 2023, Council endorsed the Naming Policy (the Policy) to establish Council processes for the naming of Council managed assets including roads, features and localities. The Policy applies to all proposals to name Council managed assets including roads, features or localities for which Council is the naming authority, whether originating internally or externally. This Policy is guided by the Victorian Government's *Naming rules for places in Victoria, Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities 2022* (often referred to as the Naming Rules).

These Naming Rules designate local Councils as a 'naming authority', which means we are obliged to process all eligible naming requests received from external parties in line with our Naming Policy. The current proposal from the Canterbury History Group and Surrey Hills Historical Society is an example of a community generated naming proposal and is not a Council initiative.

In accordance with the Policy, after the submission was received, Council officers undertook research on the suggested name to assess the suitability of the request prior to presentation to Council and community consultation (see **Attachment 3**), as well as investigated if there were any other suitable names. The Maling Heritage Centre was deemed an appropriate naming suggestion under the requirements of the Policy and the following Principles in the Naming Rules:

- Principle A - Ensuring public safety
- Principle C - Linking the name to a place
- Principle I - Using commemorative names.

Following this research, Council undertook community consultation of the naming proposal.

4. Outline of key issues/options

4.1 Community consultation process

In line with our Naming Policy, community consultation was conducted from 10 November to 11 December 2023 and included:

- letters sent to all residents and property owners in a 500m radius of 190A Canterbury Road inviting them to have their say on the proposed name
- a dedicated project webpage on Council's Engage platform outlining the naming proposal, the background to the request and the purpose of the consultation. Feedback submitted on the name via the Engage platform was visible to all website visitors.

Two consultations were also held with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC).

4.2 Consultation findings

It is important to note that the consultation sought feedback on the proposed name 'Maling Heritage Centre'. Other potential names for the heritage centre were not being sought as part of this process. However, many respondents chose to suggest an alternative name following a petition from the Boroondara Reconciliation Network.

Council received a total of 77 submissions with responses as detailed below:

- 32 (42%) supported the name Maling Heritage Centre
- 21 (27%) supported the suggestion of naming after Aunty Merle Jackomos
- 17 (22%) wanted an Aboriginal name or word
- 7 (9%) suggested another name for the centre.

Submissions from Surrey Hills and Canterbury, the focus area of the historical societies research and the catchment area for the letterbox drop, totalled 29 or 38% of the total responses.

Almost 70% of Surrey Hills and Canterbury residents supported the proposed naming 'Maling Heritage Centre'. This included a submission from tenants of the Canterbury Community Precinct supporting the naming.

Forty-nine per cent (49%) of respondents supported Aboriginal naming. Many of these supported naming the centre after Auntie Merle Jackomos who was a distinguished Yorta Yorta Elder who resided in Balwyn North and Kew. She received an Order of Australia Medal for her services and for advocating for the rights of Aboriginal people. She was also inducted onto the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll in 2011.

When considering the responses from the consultation, there was strong support for both the naming proposal, as well as naming places after First Nations people or in Aboriginal language. Seeking appropriate words in local Aboriginal language of the Wurundjeri people, namely Woi-wurrung, can be done through consultation with the WWCHAC. The WWCHAC has advised they would only undertake this work with the support of Council - i.e., there was support for naming a place or space in Woi-wurrung language at the outset of a process.

Auntie Merle has no direct link to the area where the Canterbury Community Precinct is based or the area the Canterbury History Group and Surrey Hills Historical Society focus their research. Auntie Merle resided in Boroondara from the late 1960s until her death in 2019 and her connection is with the Balwyn North and Kew East area. Consideration could therefore be given to acknowledging Auntie Merle Jackomos' link to Kew and Balwyn North when there are opportunities for future place naming in this part of the municipality.

4.4 Summary of feedback

A summary of the feedback to the naming proposal and responses from Council officers is in **Attachment 1**. Feedback included:

- support for Maling Heritage Centre
- preference for Merle Jackomos Heritage Centre
- preference for Aboriginal name to acknowledge original custodians of land
- preference for name Boroondara Heritage Centre
- Maling is already acknowledged in the area
- dual naming to acknowledge European and Aboriginal people
- preference for Canterbury-Surrey Hills Heritage Centre
- preference for naming after a woman, including Lori Buttner
- preference for naming after a person from a culturally diverse background
- preference for Memories, Footprints Centre.

4.5 Consultation with the WWCHAC

While the Naming Policy indicates that Council will consult with the WWCHAC when considering an Aboriginal name or words, officers also consulted with the WWCHAC on two occasions to discuss the naming proposal and the feedback received. The WWCHAC advised they were comfortable with the proposal and would support names of non-Aboriginal people, as long as it was respectful and not racist. They also advised that should Council support Aboriginal naming, they would prefer naming in Woi-wurrung language, given their stewardship responsibility to promote the cultural heritage of the Wurundjeri.

4.6 Future opportunities

In addition to Aunty Merle Jackomos, there was also a suggestion of the name Lorri Buttner for the centre, who was key supporter of the campaign in the 1990s for heritage listing the central area of Canterbury.

In line with the Naming Policy, suitable names identified but not used for the purpose of a naming proposal may be recorded for future use. Names such as Aunty Merle Jackomos and Lorri Buttner can be captured in Council records for future opportunities.

5. Consultation/communication

The late 2023 community consultation and associated findings are described in section 4 of this report.

The 2023 consultation was the first engagement process under Council's recently adopted Naming Policy. Learnings and evaluation of this process have identified opportunities to review operational guidelines and practices to make it clearer about naming options being sought as part of place naming consultation processes.

Once a name for the facility has been finalised it is proposed that Council:

- contacts and thanks participants in the community consultation
- formally advises the Surrey Hills Historical Society and Canterbury History Group of Council's decision regarding their naming request
- takes the necessary next steps to register the building name with Geographic Names Victoria (subject to Council's decision)
- continues to explore opportunities for the use of Woi-Wurrung language in future naming proposals with the WWCHAC
- records the names in Council's records of Aunty Merle Jackomos and Lorri Buttner for future opportunities (in line with the Naming Policy).

Note: Any future initiative will involve working with the estate and/ or families of these individuals.

6. Financial and resource implications

The preparation of this report and consultation on the naming proposal was undertaken within the operational budget.

The cost of designing, building and installing signage on the building can be met from the Canterbury Community Precinct project budget.

7. Governance issues

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have a general or material conflict of interest requiring disclosure under chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Boroondara City Council.

The recommendation contained in this report is compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006 as it does not raise any human rights issues.

8. Social and environmental issues

Naming the building at 190A Canterbury Road provides an opportunity to create a profile within the Canterbury Community Precinct for the new heritage centre, that reflects its purpose, function and 19th and early 20th century heritage of the area.

The name Maling Heritage Centre connects not only to the immediate location, but also to the information and history that will be preserved within the centre.

A unique name will also make it easier for emergency services to locate the building, as well as visitors to the centre.

Manager: **Fiona Brown, Manager Community Planning and Development**

Report officer: Emily Grant, Local and Family History Lead

Table 1: Summary of topics raised

Note: Some respondents raised multiple topics. This has been reflected in the numbers, so the total responses add to more than 77.

Topic raised	Response
Support for Maling Heritage Centre (32 responses, 42%)	Submission noted.
Preference for Merle Jackomos Heritage Centre (21 responses, 27%)	<p>Submission noted. The community consultation sought feedback on the proposed name Maling Heritage Centre. The consultation did not seek proposals for names for the heritage centre.</p> <p>However, naming for an appropriate Aboriginal person or word was investigated. Aboriginal history is an oral tradition passed down through stories, art and dance.</p> <p>Aunty Merle Jackomos is connected with Kew and North Balwyn and passed away in 2019. She is a highly respected Aboriginal woman and has been acknowledged for her contribution to the welfare, support and recognition of Aboriginal people. Names such as Aunty Merle Jackomos can be noted in Council records for future opportunities.</p>
Preference for Aboriginal name to acknowledge original custodians of land (17 responses, 22%)	<p>Submission noted. The community consultation sought feedback on the proposed name of 'Maling Heritage Centre'. The consultation did not seek alternate proposals for names for this building.</p> <p>However, naming for an appropriate Aboriginal person or word was investigated. Aboriginal history is an oral tradition passed down through stories, art and dance.</p> <p>Seeking appropriate words in local Aboriginal language, namely Woi-Wurrung, could be done through consultation with the WWCHAC once Council supports in-principle naming of a place or space in Woi-Wurrung language.</p>
Preference for name Boroondara Heritage Centre (3 responses, 4%)	<p>Submission noted. The community consultation sought feedback on the proposed name of 'Maling Heritage Centre'. The consultation did not seek alternate proposals for names for this building.</p> <p>The name Boroondara Heritage Centre is not appropriate for this site, as the centre will house two of the six historical societies in Boroondara. The Canterbury History Group and Surrey Hills Historical Society focus and expertise is the suburbs Canterbury and Surrey Hills.</p>

Topic raised	Response
	The Kew Historical Society is currently housed at the Kew Library, and the Camberwell and Hawthorn Historical Societies are located in Inglesby Rd, Camberwell. The Tuck Stand has been identified as a future potential site to house the Hawthorn and Kew Historical Societies (and may be part of an EOI for the Tuck Stand moving forward).
Maling is already acknowledged in the area (2 responses, 2%)	<p>Submission noted. The name Maling is linked to the heritage of the area in which the heritage centre is located, as well as material within the centre.</p> <p>The name Maling also links the heritage centre to a place, a key intent of the historical societies. The centre is in the vicinity of Maling Road and within Maling Ward.</p> <p>The Maling name also enables other historical societies from the area e.g. Balwyn to form part of the centre at a future date.</p>
Dual naming to acknowledge European and Aboriginal people (1 response, 1%)	<p>Submission noted. The community consultation sought feedback on the proposed name of 'Maling Heritage Centre'. The consultation did not seek alternate proposals for names for this building.</p> <p>However, naming for an appropriate Aboriginal person or word was investigated. The Naming Rules allow for co-naming in English and First Nation languages. Seeking appropriate words in local Aboriginal language, namely Woi-Wurrung, to support dual naming could be done through consultation with the WWCHAC once Council supports in-principle naming of a place or space in Woi-Wurrung language.</p>
Preference for Canterbury-Surrey Hills Heritage Centre (1 responses, 1%)	<p>Submission noted. The community consultation sought feedback on the proposed name of 'Maling Heritage Centre'. The consultation did not seek alternate proposals for names for this building.</p> <p>Further, other historical societies in the area may occupy the centre in future. It is preferred that the name doesn't restrict this opportunity by directly referencing the current tenants.</p>
Preference for naming after a woman (5 responses, 6%)	<p>Submission noted. The community consultation sought feedback on the proposed name of 'Maling Heritage Centre'. The consultation did not seek alternate proposals for names for this building.</p> <p>As per the Naming Policy process, naming the heritage centre after a woman who has made significant contributions to the area was investigated. The Maling family was influential in the development of Canterbury, Surrey Hills, and Balwyn. This included women of the Maling family. There is an opportunity for the historical societies to name a room in the centre after a local woman who has made a significant contribution to the area, and this will be investigated.</p>

Topic raised	Response
Preference for naming after a person from a culturally diverse background (1 response, 1%)	Submission noted. The community consultation sought feedback on the proposed name of 'Maling Heritage Centre'. The consultation did not seek alternate proposals for names for this building. As per the Naming Policy process, naming the heritage centre after a person from a culturally diverse background was investigated. No person from a culturally diverse background was identified whose name could be linked to the heritage centre and its activities.
Preference for Memories, footprints Centre (1 response, 1%)	Submission noted. As per the Naming Policy process, the community consultation sought feedback on the proposed name of 'Maling Heritage Centre'. The consultation did not seek alternate proposals for names for this building.



18 May 2023

Fiona Brown
Manager, Community Planning & Development
City of Boroondara
8 Inglesby Road
Camberwell 3124

Dear Fiona

Re: Naming of the Heritage Centre as part of the Canterbury Community Precinct (CCP)

This letter is to formally respond to the request to propose a name for the new heritage centre being developed as part of Stage 2 of the CCP.

As well as fitting with the Council's recently adopted Naming Policy, we believe that there are 2 guiding principles in selecting a name. Firstly, the name of the centre needs to be inclusive of both societies. Having Canterbury as part of the name is not inclusive of Surrey Hills. Secondly, the name needs to distinguish this building from the larger complex in Kendall Street, so that there is clarity in terms of emergency services and the general public.

The committees of the two groups have discussed potential names both independently and in a joint meeting of their representatives and our preference is for the facility to be called the Maling Heritage Centre.

We believe that this name is appropriate for practical locational reasons and that it also has strong historic relevance. It anchors the facility to the Maling Ward and nearby Maling Road and acknowledges the strong historic association of John Butler Maling and his family with the whole Balwyn-Canterbury-Surrey Hills area. J B Maling lived in Shepreth Street, Surrey Hills and part of his land became Chatham Primary School; a number of his family members lived in Balwyn Road and the family was involved in building/extending St Barnabas church (then in Canterbury, now in Balwyn). Then, in the wider context of the City of Boroondara, there is of course, J B Maling's commitment to local government which makes acknowledging his name appropriate. He was a councillor with Boroondara Shire from 1886-8 when it became the Borough of Boroondara and Camberwell. He was the North Riding Councillor from 1889-1905. When the Borough became Camberwell Council, he was a Councillor for North Ward from 1905-1915. All told, he was a Councillor from 1886 to 1915, 29 years of continuous service, including being the first Mayor of Camberwell.

It should also be noted that we have previously expressed concern over one name that was proposed – that is 'Boroondara Heritage Centre'. This would imply that the facility holdings would cover the whole of Boroondara, whereas the collecting focus for our societies are primarily 3126 and 3127. It could also create difficulties with the Camberwell, Hawthorn and Kew Historical Societies, with whom we currently enjoy good working relationships.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Barnett".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Libby Wilson".

Sue Barnett and Libby Wilson
President, Surrey Hills Historical Society and Secretary, Canterbury History Group

Address for correspondence: 157 Union Road, Surrey Hills, 3127
Email: Shhistory3127@gmail.com

History of the Maling family

John Butler Maling lived in the Balwyn-Canterbury-Surrey Hills area having arrived in Australia from England in 1858 to join his uncle. Initially a tenant of William Eades, Maling leased land in Whitehorse Rd, and made his initial land purchase in 1864 becoming a significant landowner in the late 1800s.

Maling was a carpenter, mostly building houses. As well as building houses, Maling had connections to local government, schools and churches in the area. He built the original St Barnabas' Church in Balwyn in 1872 and extended the nave in the 1880s with his sons. His son William carved the pulpit in 1907 and the church was finished by the family in 1930. Maling was also associated with the building of Pentridge Gaol.

Maling was a councillor for 29 consecutive years, from 1886-1916, President of the Shire of Boroondara in 1887/88, 1897/98, 1904/05 and was the first Mayor of Camberwell (1905/06), when it was officially gazetted as the Town of Camberwell in 1906.

The extended Maling family had significant land holdings in Boroondara, some of which was used for a market garden. Maling and his children purchased 17 properties in Boroondara between 1862 and 1912, 13 of which were in Elgar's Special Survey, now Balwyn.

Part of Maling's land became Chatham Primary School.