

REPORTS TO COUNCIL - ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION

9.5 Post Exhibition Report - Proposal to Name the Heritage Library (Ref: ; Author: Richards/Goiser)

File Reference: 3.1.1

Recommendation

For Council consideration

Summary

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 13 November 2024, Council resolved to place on public exhibition the proposal to name the former Queanbeyan Council Chambers building at 253 Crawford Street, the Frank Pangallo Heritage Library (**Resolution 512/24**).

This report provides the results of the public consultation.

Background

The Heritage Library, located at the former Queanbeyan Council Chambers building, was officially opened in April 2024. It includes a local and family history research library, resources, meeting room and reading areas. The former offices and committee meeting rooms are now research, reception/office, living history recording, digitisation, and resource areas. The Heritage Library is also used as a community meeting space.

The Heritage Library's extensive local history collection contains a wealth of historical resources with a wide selection of books on the history of Bungendore, Braidwood, Queanbeyan and the surrounding region. It is of particular interest to local residents, visitors, historians, descendants of early families, researchers and students.

The proposal to name the Heritage Library after former Queanbeyan Mayor and Councillor, Mr Frank Pangallo, acknowledged the achievements of Mr Pangallo as Queanbeyan's longest serving Mayor. He first stood for election to Queanbeyan Council in 1971 and retired in 2008. He served as Councillor or Mayor from 1971-1983 and 1989-2008. He was the popularly elected Mayor at elections in 1991, 1995, 1999 and 2004.

Report

At the 13 November 2024 Council meeting, Council endorsed placing the proposed name, the Frank Pangallo Heritage Library, on public exhibition. The consultation period ran from 14 November to 12 December 2024 via the Your Voice consultation website.

The engagement opportunity was promoted through QPRC communication channels including e-notices to Your Voice subscribers, the weekly QPRC eNews, the fortnightly QPRC newspaper advertisement in both the Regional Independent and Braidwood Changing Times, and was referenced in the Council meeting summaries published on social media and the QPRC web site.

During the public exhibition period, 141 people visited the Your Voice page. 33 engaged participants provided feedback. Of those who provided feedback, 70% were opposed to the name, 27% were in favour and 3% provided a mixed response.

The respondents in opposition to the naming (70%) cited concerns that:

- naming the library after Mr Pangallo would not adequately reflect the broader

9.5 Post Exhibition Report - Proposal to Name the Heritage Library (Ref: ; Author: Richards/Goiser) (Continued)

Queanbeyan-Palerang region, as his tenure was Queanbeyan-centric

- the name Frank Pangallo Heritage Library might be misleading, implying a personal collection or museum dedicated to Mr Pangallo rather than a broader historical archive
- the name does not clearly reflect the library's purpose
- heritage should represent multiple individuals and eras rather than a single person.

Several comments expressed a preference for retaining the current name, Heritage Library, as it clearly conveys its purpose without confusion.

Those in support of the proposed naming (27%) highlighted Mr Pangallo's contributions as a long-serving mayor and his role in developing Queanbeyan. Some viewed the naming as an appropriate recognition of his legacy.

The remaining 3% had mixed views. Some suggested alternative names of other notable local figures including historian Bert Sheedy, journalist Jim Woods, or heritage advocate Connie Colleen.

Some also suggested a compromise solution, such as naming a section of the library after Mr Pangallo rather than the entire facility. Several participants opposed naming a public facility after a single individual, regardless of their contributions, suggesting a commemorative plaque recognizing multiple figures instead.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations

Council can name its public buildings and spaces, and public comment was sought.

Financial, Budget and Resource Implications

Replacing the signage at the front of the building to read Frank Pangallo Heritage Library would require a minor Heritage Works Application approval and will cost approximately \$5,000.

The suggested alternative to name the former Council Chambers, now a reading, research area and meeting room as the Frank Pangallo Room would require a small amount of vinyl lettering signage at minimal cost, estimated to be less than \$150.

Links to QPRC/Regional Strategic Plans

The current Community Strategic Plan 2042 Mission Statement includes: 'We value the heritage, cultural diversity and country lifestyle of our vibrant towns, villages and rural districts.'

Strategic Pillar 1 – Community

A safe, harmonious, happy and healthy community leading fulfilled lives.

- 1.1 Our community is strengthened through connection and participation that enhances our community and cultural life.

Conclusion

Given the majority opposition (70%) and concerns expressed about regional representation, Council might reconsider naming the entire Heritage Library building after Mr Pangallo.

Given his long tenure and contribution that Mr Pangallo made to the Queanbeyan City and region, as both Mayor and Councillor, it would be appropriate to name the former Council Chambers room, within the Heritage Library, the Frank Pangallo Room.

9.5 Post Exhibition Report - Proposal to Name the Heritage Library (Ref: ; Author: Richards/Goiser) (Continued)

Council consideration of the proposal is sought and a motion to either name the Heritage Library building or the former Council Chambers room in recognition of former Mayor and Councillor, Mr Frank Pangallo.

Attachments

Attachment 1 Community Engagement Report - Naming of the Heritage Library (*Under Separate Cover*)