

## 15. OFFICIAL NAMING OF THE PARK OF REMEMBRANCE



<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment DDI 941-8608
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Unit Manager Asset and Network Planning
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek a Council resolution to adopt the name “Park of Remembrance” for the area of reserve lying between Cashel Street and Hereford Street, bounded on the west by Cambridge Terrace, and on the east by the River Avon.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. On 7 March 2007 a memorial to Private Henry Nicholas was unveiled at the Park of Remembrance, alongside the Avon River, on the downstream side of the Bridge of Remembrance. The memorial was commissioned by the Canterbury District Returned and Services' Association (RSA) and the Council.
3. This name for the park was first used by staff in February 2004. The idea of a Park of Remembrance was suggested as a logical progression from the nearby Bridge of Remembrance, which it was feared could in time become cluttered with commemorative plaques unless alternative sites were identified and planned. It was also proposed that the new park could acknowledge future overseas peacekeeping activity.
4. The new name was used in the titles of the various staff reports and in the public consultation that led to the erection of the statue to Private Nicholas in the park. Councillors made no recorded comment for or against the use of the name at that time.
5. Up to that time there had been no popular name for the area. The Council maintenance staff had generally referred to it as ‘Police Bank’ because it was near to the police station.
6. On 17 June 2008 the RSA wrote to Council staff requesting the erection of a name sign and offering a contribution towards the cost of the sign. In this letter the RSA explained that “when the project was first approved by the Christchurch City Council it was agreed to name the area where the Nicholas statue is positioned as “The Park of Remembrance” reflecting the closeness of the Bridge of Remembrance, and the “Peace Theme” that Christchurch is known for.
7. To date, the Council has avoided introducing name signs which might clutter the open space character of the river corridor. At present the only name sign is a cast bronze one at the Firefighters’ Reserve. However several of the riverbank areas do have names, for instance The Bricks (named before 1850), Victoria Square (named around 1896), Rhododendron Island (named before 1902, probably 1880s), Barker Avenue (named around 1898), Mill Island (named around 1898), Poplar Crescent (name formalised around 1928), Friendship Corner (named by Council resolution in 1978), Cambridge Green (named by Council resolution in 2000), and Firefighters’ Reserve (named by Council resolution in 2002).
8. At the time of the RSA letter, staff were about to prepare a new standard practice for park signage throughout the city, and therefore there was a need to delay this matter until the new sign standards had been introduced. They are now being installed, for instance around Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens, and therefore it is now possible to move forward on the RSA proposal.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. See below.

### Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

10. The RSA have offered funds to be put towards the cost of the sign. They have also said that they “would be more than happy to make representation direct to the Mayor for some financial support if required”, should the cost of the sign installation (including obtaining resource consent if needed) is greater than the funds that they have set aside for it.

## LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

11. See below.

### Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

12. This report is directed to the Council meeting rather than first going through the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board because the Delegations Register says that Delegations for "Roading and Parks issues" in the "Central City Area" are to be exercised by the Council with reports on those matters coming directly to the Council.
13. The Policy Register's Naming of Reserves and Facilities Policy says that "For reserves having local or major status, naming proposals, including options, shall in the first instance be referred to the appropriate Community Board. To the extent deemed necessary, proposals will then be referred to the community for comment prior to formal adoption and recommendation, to the Council", but in practice the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board has traditionally treated naming as a delegated power.
14. There are no other known legal implications. The park is already a reserve managed for the purposes of lawns, ornamental gardens, and ornamental buildings under the Christchurch City (Reserves) Empowering Act 1971 and the Reserves Act 1977, and this will not change.

## ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

15. See below.

### Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

16. Not applicable. The LTCCP is not concerned with the naming of features.

## ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

17. See below.

### Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

18. The recommendations align with the Council Policy Register's code of practice for the naming of parks and reserves.

## CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

19. The Policy Register's code of practice requires public consultation for naming of reserves "to the extent deemed necessary". Staff consider that consultation would not be needed, because this has been the unofficial name of the area for at least six years.
20. On 17 June 2010 Mana whenua were invited, through Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd (MKT), to propose a Maori name for the park. MKT concurred "that it is unlikely the Rūnanga would now oppose the erecting of a sign", but at the time of writing they have not been able to provide a Maori name.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Formally resolve to adopt the name "Park of Remembrance" for the area of reserve lying between Cashel Street and Hereford Street, bounded on the west by Cambridge Terrace, and on the east by the River Avon.
- (b) Confirm that no public consultation on the name is required.
- (c) Thank the Returned and Services' Association for the offer to pay for the erection of a name sign.