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War Memorial Breaks Ground and Governor to Attend Dinner

The ground has been broken at Pioneer Park in preparation for the installation of the new War Memorial. Last week the old brick and concrete plinth was removed and the footings and base for the new plinth were prepared. Paving was removed and is currently being stored so that it can be put back once the new plinth is installed.

“Unfortunately the community won’t see all the construction elements occurring at the moment as they are not all happening at Pioneer Park,” said Mayor Redman. “The hand sculpture is currently being welded together by Robert Hannaford’s bronze caster, Tim Thompson, at his workshop in Crafers whilst the new plinth is being pre-cast at Bianco. The new plinth will be etched with the words ‘Lest We Forget’ by a commercial memorial engraver prior to it being transported to Gawler and lifted in place by cranes.”

While preparations at Pioneer Park have commenced, so too have preparations for mounting the former monument at the RSL Gawler Sub Branch’s clubrooms. For cost effectiveness, the company engaged to prepare the Pioneer Park site have also prepared the plinth at the RSL for the monument to be fixed to. All of these works occurred last week.

“It’s great to see construction at the Pioneer Park War Memorial site commencing,” Mayor Redman continued. “Renowned South Australian artist, Robert Hannaford AM, has produced a moving and important sculpture that will be the centrepiece of all commemorative activities for our town and region. As a reflective space, many people will visit Gawler and the memorial to understand this community’s service and sacrifice to our country. Council is looking forward to seeing the final result in early November.”

In addition to the ground-breaking at Pioneer Park, Council is also pleased to announce that His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC and Mrs Le will be attending the Armistice and Gawler RSL Centenary Dinner to be held on 13 October 2018 at Nixon’s Function Centre. The dinner, which is being held by the RSL Gawler Sub-Branch in conjunction with Council, will include a 3 course meal, entertainment by the Handley Brothers and fundraising towards the installation of the Pioneer Park War Memorial.

“This Remembrance Day will mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, also referred to as the Armistice Centenary. This year is also a significant milestone for the Gawler RSL as they celebrate 100 years of service to returned personnel,” said Mayor Redman. “The dinner is an opportunity for the community to come together to show our support and commemorate these significant milestones of the RSL and Armistice Centenaries while raising funds for the War Memorial. The Governor’s acceptance of our invitation to this event further reinforces this”.

The community is encouraged to participate in this historic event. Tickets are \$35 for RSL Gawler members and \$50 for non-members. They can be purchased from the RSL Clubrooms or the Gawler Administration Centre.

The community can also assist by providing donations of suitable auction items for the fundraising dinner or by simply providing monetary donations towards the installation of the War Memorial.

“Council is very thankful for the support received from the community to date with over \$25,000 being provided by local residents, businesses and service clubs which reinforces just how important this project is to the community,” said Mayor Redman. “In addition to this local community support Council has also received over \$100,000 in grant funding from both the State and Federal Governments, Arts South Australia – Public Art and Design Major Commission and Australian Government – Stronger Communities Fund, towards the Memorial.”

The Pioneer Park War Memorial has received financial assistance from, amongst others, the Australian Government, South Australian Government, Taylor and Forgie Funerals and the Rotary Clubs of Gawler. Council is looking forward to receiving more support as the project progresses.



Pictured is Mayor Karen Redman at Pioneer Park along with staff member Christopher Chisholm, Graduate Engineer.

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