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PIONEER PARK WAR MEMORIAL TO BE UNVEILED ON REMEMBRANCE DAY

Work will soon commence in Pioneer Park to prepare for the installation of a bronze sculptural interpretation of a human hand designed by Robert Hannaford AM as the new Pioneer Park War Memorial.

“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” says Mayor Redman.

Mr Hannaford’s design is inclusive of age, colour, creed, culture, disability, family status, gender, nationality, marital status, parental status, race or social origin, religious beliefs or activity, sexual orientation and all defence personnel (navy, army and air force).

“The final design of the Pioneer Park War Memorial needed to be inclusive and accessible, providing a place of reflection for all the men and women who have served and died for their country in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. The hand sculpture is a unique and modern War Memorial that fits the brief perfectly. I am very excited to see the end result” says RSL Gawler Sub-Branch President Paul Little.

The first works being undertaken in June will be the removal of the current RSL monument. This monument, originally conceived by the Wattle Day League in the early 1920’s, was only erected in Pioneer Park in 2006 after being relocated a number of times as community participation in commemorative events increased. The monument will have some restorative work undertaken prior to being moved to the RSL Clubrooms in Evanston.

Future works for the new War Memorial include construction of a rectangular concrete plinth that the sculpture will be placed on, laying of circular paving around the plinth enabling accessible viewing of the sculpture, redesign of existing lighting and development of signage for the Memorial. The works will be completed prior to the War Memorial’s official dedication on Remembrance Day.

“This Remembrance Day will mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, also referred to as the Armistice Centenary. It is fitting that this new and all-inclusive War Memorial will be unveiled on such a momentous occasion,” said RSL Gawler Sub-Branch President Paul Little. “2018 is also a significant milestone for the Gawler RSL as we celebrate 100 years of service to returned personnel.”

The RSL Gawler Sub Branch, in conjunction with Council, will be holding an Armistice and Gawler RSL Centenary Dinner on 13 October 2018 at Nixon’s Function Centre. The evening will include a 3 course meal, entertainment by the Handley Brothers and fundraising towards the installation of the Pioneer Park War Memorial.

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 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,” said Mayor Redman. “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.”

Council thanks the following supporters for their contributions to date:

Government Funding:

- Australian Government – Stronger Communities Fund



- South Australian Government - Arts South Australia's Public Art and Design Major Commission.

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- Kevin Fischer – Bronze sponsor
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- Royal Australian Airforce Association – Bronze sponsor

Cash Donors:

- RSL Gawler Sub Branch – donation
- Dr Malcolm Richards – donation
- Robert Eley – donation
- Ian Easton - donation

Dinner donations:

- Dr Malcolm Richards
- Willo's Men's Shed
- Sealink
- Adelaide Hills Cider Company
- Novotel Barossa
- LR&M Construction
- Eagle Foundry

Council is looking forward to receiving more support as the project progresses.

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ENDS

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