

ITEM 7.1	MAYORAL MINUTE NO 10/2019 - NAMING OF BELROSE PLAYGROUND - LINDRUM STREET, BELROSE TO HONOUR THE LATE MARCUS GHATT SMITH
TRIM FILE REF	2019/353768
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

BACKGROUND

Many of us were shocked and saddened to hear of the unexpected passing of Marcus Alexander Ghatt Smith on 29 April 2019.

Marcus, who suffered from a severe disability, was the cherished son of Caroline Ghatt and Tim Smith and big brother to his sister Amelia. Marcus sadly passed away at the very young age of 12 years old and for those of us fortunate to have met Marcus, his smile will remain forever in our hearts. Our thoughts are still with Caroline and Tim, their family and friends, as they continue to come to terms with this terrible loss but I think it is important that we take the opportunity to celebrate this very special young man.

The all abilities sensory playground located in Lindrum Reserve in Belrose is a unique and special place. Marcus provided much of the inspiration that brought this playground to life for children of all abilities. For Marcus, it was all about fun – he was amazing and a disability was not going to stop him. His sense of joy, his strength and his courage motivated his parents to advocate for improved accessibility and inclusiveness within our playgrounds. Caroline and Tim through their experience with raising Marcus knew just how difficult it is for children and parents to interact and as Caroline put it so succinctly – “it’s about social inclusion – not social isolation”.

Council worked with Ms Ghatt in her capacity as co-founder of Play for All Australia, completing a design innovation project transforming five neighbourhood play spaces in Belrose that now all children, regardless of their ability can enjoy. The playgrounds continue to be incredibly popular since they were opened in 2017. This was one project that I think everyone across Council took great pride in and we will always be very grateful to Marcus for that inspiration.

To celebrate the short but significant life of Marcus, I want to propose that Council undertake appropriate action to rename Lindrum Reserve, Belrose to Marcus Ghatt Smith Reserve. As I understand Council records indicate that the Reserve was purchased by Council in 2013 and the Reserve has never been formally named. The street however was named in honour of Mr Horace Lindrum for his charity work within the community.

I have discussed this recommendation and received a letter from Caroline and Tim who are fully supportive of this idea and would be greatly honoured to have Lindrum Reserve renamed in memory of their late son Marcus.

I am aware, under the Geographical Names Board Place Naming Policy that commemorative names are applied posthumously, at least one year after the decease of the person, however, I ask Council to begin the process and submit an application to the NSW Geographical Names Board in recognition of young Marcus Alexander Ghatt Smith seeking special consideration on this particular matter.

Funding is available under existing operational budgets for this process to be undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR

That:

- A. Council write to the NSW Geographical Names Board to formally request the renaming of the public reserve currently known as Lindrum Reserve, Belrose to be renamed Marcus Ghatt Smith Reserve.
 - B. Council include notice of Council's application to the NSW Geographical Names Board requesting the renaming of the public reserve (4029m²) located at 2-10 Lindrum Street, Belrose (DP 1179618) to be renamed Marcus Ghatt Smith Reserve in the local print media and on Council's website.
 - C. Staff be delegated authority to respond to the Geographical Names Board if any comments are received on the proposal.
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Michael Regan
MAYOR