Engagement Report

Rotary Club of Newcastle Memorial





City of Newcastle (CN) invited the community to have their say on the proposed location for a memorial to celebrate the Rotary Club of Newcastle's 100 years of service to our City.

The proposed works include:

- the installation of a new granite boulder to display the existing plaques in one location
- a garden bed surrounding the memorial which includes a Queensland Fire Wheel tree.

These plaques honour the visitation of Rotary International Presidents to Newcastle.





Engagement activities

CN sought feedback on three proposed locations from 29 September to 19 October 2023.

The community were able to provide feedback by:

- completing the online feedback form
- calling or emailing us at engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au.

The three proposed locations were:

Centennial Park, Cooks Hill

Nesca Park, Bar Beach

Rotary Park, Hamilton

Number of responses

123

responses received

Communication & promotion



Have Your Say webpage

309 visits



Flyers distributed to residents surrounding each location

500 flyers



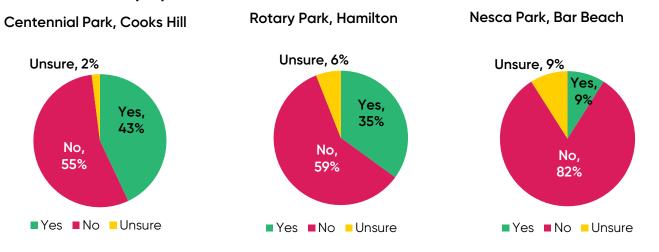
On-site signage installed at each location

6 corflutes

What we heard

121 survey responses were received. None of the proposed locations received majority support, with Centennial Park, Cooks Hill having a marginally higher level of support. Results were divided due to the self-selecting sample, with strong participation from Cooks Hill residents and self-identified Rotary Club members. This resulted in respondents having strong and opposing views about the memorial being located in Centennial Park and Rotary Park. The results are therefore, inconclusive.

Support for each of the proposed locations



Sample size: All survey respondents (N=121)

Centennial Park, Cooks Hill

43% of respondents supported the installation of the memorial at Centennial Park, Cooks Hill. Less than half of respondents provided a comment to explain the reasons for their level of support.

More than a quarter of those who left a comment said that the memorial was not appropriate for the park e.g. not the right location, no relevance to the location, not in keeping with the style of Centennial Park.

Rotary Park, Hamilton

35% of respondents supported the installation of the memorial at Rotary Park, Hamilton.

Less than half of respondents provided a comment to explain the reasons for their level of support.

Generally, those who were not supportive of the memorial to be located in Centennial Park were supportive of the memorial to be located in Rotary Park, given its name. A small percentage said the park has limited significance or connection to the Rotary Club.

Other submissions

Two submissions were received via email. One submission objected to the memorial being placed in Centennial Park.

The other submission objected to the memorial being relocated from Civic Park.

Nesca Park, Bar Beach

Only 9% of respondents supported the installation of the memorial at Nesca Park, Bar Beach.

General comments/feedback

Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide any additional comments and 78 people provided a comment.

Two thirds of those who left a comment suggested that the memorial should remain at Civic Park. The memorial is unable to be placed in Civic Park as CN is currently preparing the Civic Precinct Masterplan. Civic Park has been identified to have memorials for ex-servicemen and women only. There is a Heritage Places Plan of Management that also applies to Civic Park.



Next steps

The project team will review and consider all feedback received during community consultation before making a final decision.

We will continue to work with stakeholders and update the community once a decision has been made.