

TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT TO YARRA RANGES REGIONAL MUSEUM TRUST

Report Author: Manager Economy, Tourism and Culture

Responsible Officer: Leanne Hurst, Director Communities

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

Following notice from The Chair of the Trust, Maria McCarthy, the Trust wish to fill a current vacancy through the appointment of a new Trustee. The current Trust Deed requires a written nomination from Council to appoint a Trustee.

The Chair has provided the Trust's endorsed recommendation for Council to consider Margaret Birtley be appointed a Trustee. The nominee has confirmed their willingness to be nominated and appointed as a Community Appointed Trustee to the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum Trust.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the nominee, Margaret Birtley, as recommended by the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum Trust.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

There are no related Council decisions relevant to this item.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

The Museum of Lillydale Trust was formed in 1989 by the (then) Shire of Lillydale. In 2014, after the opening of Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, the Deed was changed to reflect the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum Trust.

The Trust is structured as a public ancillary fund, with the purpose of fundraising for Yarra Ranges Regional Museum. The Trust is currently going through a process to

update the Deed to align with current ATO requirements. At the time of this appointment, this work remains in progress, therefore the 2014 Deed remains current. The purpose of the Trust has not changed since its inception, and this is laid out in the Trust Deed.

In accordance with the Trust Deed:

- 8.3.3 The appointment of each Community Appointed Trustee must be approved by Council in writing either by nomination under clause 8.8.1 or otherwise in writing.
- 8.8.1 Where a Retiring Trustee is a Community Appointed Trustee, the Trustees must procure from Council a written nomination of a person to replace such Retiring Trustee in accordance with the following periods of time (as is applicable).
- 8.8.3 The Trustees may recommend to Council the names of persons suitable for nomination under clauses 8.8.1 and 8.8.2.
- 8.8.4 Council is not obligated to adopt any recommendation made by the Trustees under clause 8.8.3.

The current members of the Trust comprise:

- Two Council appointed members including Cr Tim Heenan and Cr Richard Higgins.
- Five Community appointed members including Ray Yates, Maria McCarthy, Guill de Pury, Angela Stainwall, with one current vacancy.

Nominations

Margaret Birtley AM

Margaret Birtley brings over 45 years of distinguished professional experience in the not-for-profit museums and heritage sector. Based in Carlton, Victoria, her exceptional skills and experience will be an invaluable asset to the Trust alongside Yarra Ranges-based Community Appointed Trustees.

Key Qualifications

Leadership & Governance

- CEO and Company Secretary, Collections Council of Australia Ltd (2005-2010)
- General Manager Heritage and Tourism, Melbourne Cricket Club (2010-2013), overseeing the National Sports Museum, MCG Tours, and MCC archives
- Executive Officer roles with Museums Association of Australia (Victorian Branch) and History Council of Victoria
- Holds Graduate Certificate of Management and Certificate in Governance for Not-for-Profits
- Completed the Australian Museum Leadership Program

Museums & Heritage Expertise

- Principal, Margaret Birtley Consulting (established 2010)
- Associate, Significance International Pty Ltd (since 2013)
- Manager of Visitor Programs, Scienceworks (1990-1994)
- Lecturer in Museum Studies with honorary roles at University of South Australia and Deakin University

Strategic Contributions

- Directed national heritage sector research and contributed to National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries (2008)
- Expert assessor for Australian Research Council (20 years)
- Member, National Collection Advisory Panel, Singapore's National Heritage Board (two terms)
- Helped inaugurate Blue Shield Australia (an equivalent of the Red Cross for cultural heritage)
- Helped shape Museums Australia's definition of 'museum' and pioneering sustainability guidelines

Recognition

- Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) 2017, for significant service to cultural heritage, museums sector, education, and historical preservation.

Options considered

No other nominations were received.

Recommended option and justification

That Councillors endorse the appointment of the recommended nomination, Margaret Birtley AM to the Trust.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Members of the Trust are appointed in a voluntary capacity. Therefore, there are no financial implications regarding this report.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

- Healthy Connected Communities

Yarra Ranges Regional Museum strengthens our collective identity, our culture and heritage and creates a sense of belonging for our diverse community.

- Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places

Yarra Ranges Regional Museum is a key cultural venue and community facility, contributing to fostering wellbeing and innovation.

- Prosperous Communities and Vibrant Economy

Yarra Ranges Regional Museum is a key tourism asset, contributing to a sustainable tourism sector and regenerative economy.

This report contributes to the Creative Communities Strategy:

- Connection to shared heritage experience

The degree to which the activity creates a sense of connection or belonging to a shared past, present and future.

RELEVANT LAW

A public ancillary fund must comply with Taxation Administration (Public Ancillary Fund) Guidelines 2022, authorised by the [Taxation Administration Act 1953](#).

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

This appointment may lead to improved capacity for the YRRM Trust to undertake fundraising activity, indirectly supporting the financial sustainability of Yarra Ranges Regional Museum and Yarra Ranges Council.

Social Implications

The Yarra Ranges Regional Museum Trust supports cultural heritage in the region.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Recommendations for the vacancies were discussed by and endorsed by the Trust at a Trust meeting on 24 September 2025. Members considered the skillset required to fulfill the current vacancy.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

No collaboration with other Councils, Governments or statutory bodies was sought.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk	Mitigation
One of five community appointed members' seats vacant.	Appoint one new member for the vacant community appointed position in line with the Trust Deed. This ensures good governance.
Members appointed are not suitably qualified to hold member positions in the Trust.	Councillors ensure new members are suitably qualified. This ensures good governance.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

Nil