Ordinary Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 13 May, 2025
Location: Council Chambers, City Administrative Building, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 5.30pm

Addendum Agenda

Mayoral Minute

<u>Mayoral Minute</u>

MM25.9   Mayoral Minute - Report - Tom Bingle a celebrated figure in Australian Racing

HPERM Ref: D25/206217

Recommendation

That Council writes to congratulate Shoalhaven local, Tom Bingle on his recent honour from the Australian Turf Club of more than 50 years' service in the colourful art of bookmaking.

Details

Australian racing is a huge industry which contributes more than 5 billion dollars to the economy and more than 1 billion in State and Federal taxes. It is an industry which employs more than 75,000 people in a full-time capacity. There are 380 race clubs in Australia, the most in the world.

Tom Bingle was recently honoured for more than 50 years of service to the industry with a race named after him at Royal Randwick. Tom swapped accountancy for bookmaking in 1967 as it was "more fun" than just doing the numbers.

Racing first occurred in Sydney in 1810, and Randwick entertained the game in 1860. In 1882 bookmaking became a serious, acknowledged profession with the AJC invoking registration fees and licencing for bookmaking.

In 1930, over 400 bookmakers fielded at Randwick in the paddock, the leger and the flat. Bookmaking was a colourful part of a huge industry.

Tom Bingle was a part of the true heart of NSW and Australian racing at Randwick from 1986 and was promoted to the "Rails" in 1989 where he fielded for more than a decade.

Now in his 80's, Tom still opens the book in an ever-diminishing part of the industry at Kembla Grange.

Tom Bingle – a celebrated figure in Australian racing with 58 years in bookmaking.

MM25.9

MM25.10   Mayoral Minute - 50 Year Anniversary of End of Vietnam War

HPERM Ref: D25/206307

Recommendation

That Council acknowledge all Vietnam Veterans who served admirably in the Vietnam War and at the same time the Vietnamese community of the Shoalhaven at this poignant marker in history.

Details

Even though Australian troops were withdrawn from Vietnam in 1971-72 and US troops in 1973, the official end of the tumultuous war was 30 April 1975, when the North Vietnamese stormed the Presidential Palace in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City).

That marks 50 years of a tumultuous war which saw around 60,000 Australians called to action. More than five hundred Australians died in battle or as a result of being called into battle and over 3000 Australians were wounded.

It was a long, drawn-out war which began in 1954, escalated between 1965 and 1969 with the US forces build up, and ended 50 years ago this year. Australia's involvement spanned 13 years between 1962-75.

The anniversary is not only a poignant one for many Australians and their families, but for other nations who were involved, primarily the US, but also for the Vietnamese and the Australian Vietnamese community.

In the vicinity of 3 million Vietnamese soldiers and civilians died in the war, which they call 'The American War'. Prior to 1975, Australia's Vietnamese community numbered around two thousand. Today it numbers close to 340000 with 268000 born in Vietnam, representing 1.3% of the Australian population.

The 50-year anniversary is a stark reminder of the pain and suffering inflicted across the years of the Vietnam/ American War for the Australian Community, Australia's Vietnamese and America communities and all nations who fought on the battlefields of Vietnam.

MM25.10