



MAYORAL MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, 24 September 2018

Mayoral Minute

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Mayoral Minute

Item: MM019-18 Council to Host a Free, World-Class Opera "La Bohème" at Marana Auditorium, Hurstville

Mayor: The Mayor, Councillor Greene

Background

On Friday, 19 October 2018 at 7:00pm, Georges River Council will host the world-famous opera, *La Bohème*, composed by Giacomo Puccini at Hurstville Entertainment Centre's Marana Auditorium. The opera will feature tenor, Lorenzo Rositano who recently performed at the Councillors' Charity Ball. Rositano has made it one of his goals to bring opera to the people of Georges River and, for one night only, he and international piano showman, Glenn Amer will be joined by a stellar cast of some of Australia's finest voices to present one of opera's greatest stories of love at first sight.

The libretto of *La Bohème* (translation "The Bohemians") is based on Henri Murger's novel, *Scènes de la vie de Bohème*, a collection of vignettes portraying young bohemians living in the Latin Quarter of Paris in the 1840s. The relevance of this well-known story and its characters continues to inspire modern musical artworks such as the 1996 Broadway musical, *RENT!* and Baz Luhrmann's film, *Moulin Rouge* in 2001.

Council is currently consulting with the community via Your Say to obtain feedback on the Georges River Council Cultural Strategy Discussion Paper. The results of this engagement will inform the vision of Georges River as a culturally rich, liveable and connected community that celebrates the arts and cultivates creative activity, innovation and participation. Council's free production of *La Bohème* assists this vision by making arts and culture accessible and inclusive, as well as supporting a culture of nightlife and cultural identity and positioning the Hurstville CBD as a cultural destination.

Operatic pieces and vocalists of this quality are rarely seen outside of Sydney's major entertainment venues, so I call on my fellow Councillors and community leaders to join me by attending and promoting this premium evening of entertainment in Hurstville.

Free tickets can be obtained by visiting www.hec.org.au or in person at either of Council's Customer Services Centres at Hurstville or Kogarah.

It truly is a night at the Opera not to be missed.

MOTION:

That Councillors promote this free world-famous opera event, *La Bohème*, throughout their networks and support Council's vision of making arts and culture accessible and inclusive in the Georges River area.

Item: MM020-18 Vale Mervyn "Merv" Evers

Mayor: The Mayor, Councillor Greene

Background

It takes a special kind of person to always put others first – to spend one's life tirelessly advocating for the rights of others. Mervyn Evers, fondly known to many in the community as "Merv," was that kind of person.

What Merv cared about most in the whole world was helping others, which he did all his life and never asked for anything in return. Merv was awarded the 2005 Hurstville Council Citizen of the Year award, an honour he shared with his wife, Betty for their admirable community work.

Merv and Betty were proud residents of Beverly Hills, and for more than 25 years Merv was an activist for local community issues, and attended Council meetings on a regular basis. Merv and Betty were both members of the Hurstville Residents' Association and were committed to bettering the community. It was through Merv that the entire community could have a voice.

Together, Merv and Betty were able to achieve great things for the local area. Working side by side, they successfully campaigned for the former Beverly Hills Bowling Club to become the Jack High Child Care Centre. They represented residents' concerns as members of the M5 Committee and took a keen interest in the development of the Beverly Hills Development Control Plan.

Merv was loved and respected within the community, and a devoted husband and father to Betty and his two sons, Robert and Stephen. While it is certainly with great sadness that we lose a devoted community member like Merv, there is no doubt his legacy will live on through his wife Betty, and through the lives that he has touched throughout his lifetime of service to the community.

MOTION:

That Georges River Council formally recognise the significant contribution Mervyn Evers has made to the Georges River community. We thank him for representing our community with such determination and compassion.