

## Indigenous War Memorial Mural Project

### Community Consultation Summary September 2020 – March 2021

#### Stage 1 - Initial Community Consultation

From 29/09/20 a virtual project presentation was made available at <https://lgsc.org.au/projects/>

The presentation provides a project overview highlighting stories of Gunditjamarra Service men and women including Reginald 'Reg' Saunders, the four Lovett Brothers, Allan McDonald and Alice Lovett as examples of the 1000's of indigenous men and women who have served. In addition, it provided examples of large-scale murals of various styles to provoke conversation about community preferences. **Total views 331 to 31/03/21**

From October – December 2020, the project team held a total of **six consultations** with community on 7, 28 and 31 Oct, 21 Nov (all via Zoom due to COVID-19), on 1 Dec for the Gunditj Murring Board (via Zoom) and on 11 Dec in person at Apex Park in Heywood.

**A total of 25 participants attended the six sessions.**

**Consultation Stage 1 Aim** - To discuss the role of public art, to gather themes from community to be included in the mural and to provide an opportunity to answer questions about the project. **From these sessions the main themes discussed were:**

**The role of public art** - Collectively, during these sessions, we agreed the role of public art for this project is to:

- Promote discussion (good, bad, or otherwise)
- Exhibit pride
- Be visible memorial of the sacrifices made by Indigenous service men and women
- Bring people together
- Push boundaries and community members outside of their comfort zones
- Support economic growth in Heywood and broader Glenelg Shire
- Support change in community views
- Provide a tool that allows story telling for future generations

**Project opportunities** - As a group, during these sessions, we decided that the opportunities for this project are:

- Creating a community conversation through process
- Leveraging the location of water tower site being close to existing war memorial
- Elevating the role of art in our community
- Demonstrating a community led process
- Telling local stories
- Creating community connections
- Mentoring and upskilling local artists

**Art interpretations** - The consistent themes across all consultations were:

- A preference for the realistic (not abstract) Colourful (not greyscale) murals
- Links to country should include Budj Bim, Lake Condah and land creation
- Avoid being grim – people looking up with pride not down
- To include possum skin cloak and other Gunditjamarra tokens – like eel traps
- Gunditjamarra people do not do dot painting – lines are used

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#### Stage 2 - Mural Concept Consultation

**From January – March 2021**, the project team, and the appointed artist Adnate held a total of **four consultations** with community on 22 Jan (Face to Face), 23 Jan (onsite at the Water Tower), 24 Feb *Concept One* presentation (via Zoom and Face to Face, 11 March *Concept Two* (via Zoom + Face to Face).

**A total of 24 participants attended these sessions.**

**Consultation Stage 2 Aim** – To gain feedback from community on the important elements to be represented on the tower and progress discussion about who would be represented in the mural. Gain feedback on design concepts presented to community.

**As a group, during these sessions the consistent themes discussed were:**

- How to represent and show respect to all service men and women
- Reinforced additional elements and tokens to be on the tower
  - Links to country should include Budj Bim, Lake Condah and land creation
  - Include possum skin cloak and other Gunditjamara tokens – like eel traps
- Uncle Reginald ‘Reg’ Saunders also recognised
- Agreement to engage Tommy Day to provide approval to use his art in the design
- Four and/or five Lovett Brothers recognised on the tower was discussed in different sessions
- Discussion re what imagery could be used to represent women (no agreement achieved)

#### Stage 3 – Final Concept Feedback Invited Form Elders and Family Members

**March 2021 one on one** - Elders and Family Members were approached individually to provide final feedback these included: Uncle Denis Rose, Uncle Damein Bell, Jason Kanoa, Joey Saunders, Aunty Raelene Lovett, Aunty Delsie, Uncle Michael Bell, two Albert Family reps, King Family rep, Aunty Denise Lovett, Aunty Wendy Lovett

**A total of 12 people were contacted – 9 responded**

**Consultation Stage 3 Aim** - To give respected Elders and family members the opportunity to provide final feedback on concepts presented by Adnate on 24 February (*Concept 1*) and 11 March (*Concept 2*).

**The consistent themes in the feedback received is as follows.** Individuals to be included on the Heywood Water Tower Indigenous War Memorial Mural:

- Representation of four Lovett Brothers (Fredrick, Herbert, Edward, Leonard) is a clear request x 5
- Representing Reginald ‘Reg’ Saunders x 4
- Suggestion of representing five Lovett Brothers x 2

#### Stage 4 – Final Mural Concept Completed by Artist week of 11/04/21

Large scale mural artist Adnate will complete the final concept with a view to commencing the mural in April 2020. Adnate will include the following elements and individuals as endorsed by community:

- Elements and tokens
  - Links to country i.e., Budj Bim, Lake Condah/land creation
  - Gunditjamara tokens i.e., possum skin cloak and eel traps
- Include Tommy Day artwork in the design (confirmed)
- Four Lovett Brothers (Fredrick, Herbert, Edward, Leonard) + Reginald ‘Reg’ Saunders