



Mayoral Minute MM4 Ordinary Meeting

**Venue: Administrative Headquarters
 Civic Place
 Katoomba**

Meeting: 7.30pm 26 May, 2020



ORDINARY MEETING

26 MAY 2020

AGENDA

ITEM NO.	PAGE	SUBJECT	COMMENTS
		<u>MINUTE BY MAYOR</u>	
MM4	4	Condolence Motion - Jack Munday	

ITEM NO: MM4**SUBJECT: CONDELENCE MOTION - JACK MUNDEY****FILE NO: F12701 - 20/101418**

Delivery Program Link*Principal Activity:* Civic Leadership*Service:* Corporate Communications and Marketing

Recommendation:

That the Council notes the passing of Jack Munday and the significant contribution he made to the natural and built environment of Sydney, to democracy, unions and to local government.

Mayoral Minute**Background provided by Councillor**

Jack Munday died on Sunday 10 May 2020, aged 90 years, after a lifetime dedicated to the natural and built environment, working people and an abiding sense of fairness. With the passing of Jack Munday, Australia and the world have lost a person whose contribution to society will live for generations to come.

Councillor comment on funding

Nil

Operational response

This Mayoral Minute is supported.

Briefing

No Councillor briefing is required.

Discussion

Jack was born and grew up in Malanda on the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland and came to Sydney as a 19 year old to play rugby league with Parramatta. Jack became a builder's labourer and became active in the Builders Labourers' Federation (BLF). He was part of a team of rank and file members that won an election against the corrupt leadership of his union in the early 1960's.

Initially focusing on workplace safety and pay, the situation for builder's labourers improved markedly under Jack's leadership. What brought the BLF and Jack Munday to national, and eventually international prominence, was when a number of women from conservative Hunters Hill approached Jack to ask if the BLF would consider banning work for new housing so as to protect remnant native bushland on the harbour. Rather than making a top down decision directing members, Jack asked the women to take their concerns directly to members. The members listened and with Jack's support agreed that the bushland had social and environmental values greatly appreciated by the community, and that the land should be saved.

Instead of declaring work on the site “black”, or untouchable, the world’s first Green ban was placed on the site. The bushland was saved from development by the actions of builder’s labourers, and Kelly’s Bush is there for all to appreciate to this day. Following this success many more requests for support followed including a Green Ban on expressways planned to go through Glebe, Annandale and Lilyfield.

Famously, green bans were placed on The Rocks and Victoria Street, Potts Point, where the State Government and developers planned to remove all the buildings, including those that went back to the beginnings of European occupation, for high rise. These campaigns were often violent as the police took action against residents and workers and violent thugs employed by developers, sought to intimidate residents. Jack was often arrested as he supported residents in their campaigns. However, The Rocks and much of Kings Cross and Potts Point remain to this day to the benefit of current and new generations.

Having observed the problems of career leaders in unions and politics, Jack successfully moved for limited tenure of office bearers of the union, and so put himself out of a job when his term expired. Despite employer opposition Jack returned to labouring work. However, the NSW BLF was soon crushed by the collaboration of the Master Builders and the Victorian BLF led by Norm Gallagher.

Jack Munday continued to campaign around the inner city and was part of a progressive alliance on the City of Sydney Council from 1984 to 1987. Jack later served on the National Trust and maintained an active presence on planning, social justice and environmental issues for the remainder of his life.

Jack was always open to collaboration with good people regardless of their politics.

Councillor Hoare, inspired and collaborated in the preparation of this mayoral minute. We stand together to recognise a man of his time. Jack understood the importance of alliances to achieve a better society. His humanity, as well as his more material achievements, are a lasting gift to all those who follow and an inspiration for us all.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications for Council adopting the recommendation in this Mayoral Minute.

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