

# RECOGNITION OF BALLARAT'S OLYMPIANS

## 1.0 Purpose

This policy intends to specify how the content of the Olympic Precinct at Lake Wendouree is to be managed by Council and protocols for recognising Ballarat's Olympians in the lead up to, during and after each summer and winter Olympic Games.

The objectives are:

- To provide protocols for any changes or upgrades to the Ballarat Olympic Precinct at Lake Wendouree.
- To define the site and extent of the Ballarat Olympic Precinct at Lake Wendouree.
- To provide the protocols for additions of the Olympic Athletes individual recognition to the Ballarat Olympic Precinct.
- To provide protocols for Council to conduct Civic Celebrations for Ballarat's Olympians.
- To provide protocols for the display for the Olympic memorabilia at Ballarat Town Hall.
- To protect the unique design elements of the Ballarat Olympic precinct.
- To provide secure storage of athlete's hand and foot casting moulds.

## 2.0 Scope

Council recognised the need to maintain the integrity of the Ballarat Olympic Precinct at Lake Wendouree by the appropriate maintenance and management of its content to ensure it recognises the rights of the Australian Olympic Committee to control the use of specific wording, terminology, and symbols, while acknowledging the history of the site and achievements of Ballarat's Olympic Athletes that have represented Australia at Olympic Games.

## 3.0 Policy Statement

### 3.1 Protocols for any Proposed Changes or Upgrades to the Ballarat Olympic Precinct

Council will inform the elected representative of the Ballarat Olympians of any proposed changes or upgrades to the Ballarat Olympic Precinct. The Ballarat Olympians are to be informed in advance of any planned works so that there is opportunity to consider any recommended amendments prior to the proposed changes/upgrades.

Any Changes or additions of the Olympic symbols would require Victorian Olympic Council (VOC) and Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) approval.

### 3.2 Protocol for Additions of Olympic Athletes to the Ballarat Olympic Precinct

Council staff in consultation with the elected representatives of the Ballarat Olympians are to:

- a. Follow criteria set out in section 4.3 under definitions – Ballarat Olympians to determine which athletes are to be represented. This should be done in the month prior to each Olympic Games to assess new Olympians selected in the Australian Olympic Team, who has the potential to be represented at the Olympic Precinct.
- b. At the conclusion of the Olympic Games verify the potential new Ballarat Olympians are eligible for representation at the Olympic Precinct, by confirming that they have actually represented Australia at the Olympic Games.

- c. Notify eligible athletes within one month of the completion of the Olympic Games of their entitlement to be recognised and invite athletes to have their name and hand or foot imprints displayed at the Olympic Precinct.
- d. Set a date for the group to have clay imprint castings of their hands or feet. This represents a significant media opportunity, preferably for all returning Ballarat Olympians.
- e. Athletes have a choice of hand or foot imprints being displayed as bronze castings. Track and field athletes are encouraged to select a footprint.
- f. Set a date and send invitations to a placement ceremony at the Ballarat Olympic Precinct for the new bronze castings and pathways to be unveiled. The following parties are to be invited:
  - All Ballarat Olympians
  - Victorian Olympic Council
  - Australian Olympic Committee
  - Councillors and Council's guests
  - Media

### **3.3 Protocols for Olympians Inscriptions and Cast imprints at the Ballarat Olympic Precinct**

- a. All recorded competitors of the 1956 Olympic Rowing, Canoeing and Kayaking Events have been engraved in a stainless steel plaque which is displayed on the Olympic Rings monument.
- b. All eligible Ballarat Olympians will have their names, sport and year(s) of representation inscribed in the polished granite pavement sections.
- c. There are currently 5 columns constructed to carry bronze foot and hand imprints. Design provision for a sixth is included in the design drawings / specifications.
- d. Each of the 5 columns has the following significance with Olympians
  - Column 1 1956 and Courage
  - Column 2 Friendship and Spirit
  - Column 3 Rowing and Believe
  - Column 4 Canoeing and Aspire
  - Column 5 Kayaking and Strive
- e. When positioning the bronze imprints, the following rules need to be considered:
  - The athletes Olympic sport or year will determine:
    - All 1956 athlete's imprints must go on Column 1
    - All Rowing athlete's imprints must go on Column 3
    - All Canoeing athlete's imprints must go on Column 4
    - All Kayaking athletes must go on Column 5
    - Where possible place foot imprints at the base of the column (as imprints are larger)

### 3.4 Protocols for the Storage and Display of Other Olympic Memorabilia

Council has in its possession the following Olympic Memorabilia provided by the Australian Olympic Committee, Ballarat Olympians and donors:

- 1956 Olympic Torch
- 1956 small torch statue
- 2000 Olympic Torch
- 2000 Olympic Cauldron
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rowing Oar Blades signed by Olympians
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AOC Statue
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poster
- 1956 Olympic Games Programs and Newspapers
- 1956 Olympic Games Poster
- A mounted and framed 1956 Olympic Games Flag
- Framed 2008 Ballarat Olympians Pages

Council's Olympic Memorabilia is to be stored in a secure and prominent location with the collection being held in the one location. Currently the location has been determined to be the Town Hall Display Area between the lift well and stairs. There is to be a register maintained listing Olympic items of significance.

### 3.5 Protocols for the Protection of the Design Elements of the Ballarat Olympic Precinct

Council is to protect unique quality and design elements of the Olympic Precinct site by ensuring no duplication of hand and foot castings or its concept outside the Precinct at other Council managed sites.

## 4.0 Supporting documents and references

### 4.1 Legislation

[Local Government Act 2020](#)

[Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006](#)

[Gender Equality Act 2020](#)

### 4.2 Associated Documents

*Lake Wendouree Master Plan*

### 4.3 Definitions

#### **Olympians**

*Is defined by the Australian Olympic Committee's Olympians Club constitution as any athlete who attended as an Olympic team member for any summer or winter Olympic Games of the NOC of any country affiliated to the IOC since the inception of the modern Olympic Games. This requires the athlete to be selected and to complete accreditation at the Games to be eligible.*

#### **Ballarat Olympians**

*A collective of Olympians who are represented at the Olympic Precinct who have an ongoing interest in the management of the content of the Olympic Precinct, storage and display of local Olympic memorabilia, Olympic athlete's original hand and foot casting moulds and the social interaction and support between local Olympians. Current contacts are Ray Borner Steve Moneghetti*

and Peter Blackburn. To be eligible to be considered a “Ballarat Olympian” the following criteria must apply:

- a. Must be an Olympian under the definition above
- b. Has been born within the boundaries of the City of Ballarat as established from time to time
- c. Has been nurtured in the sport in Ballarat for a significant number of years prior to achieving Olympic Athlete representation, his or her qualification as a Ballarat Olympian may be considered, paying due weight to the expert opinions of that person’s sporting peers and Olympians, providing those opinions have been recorded and authenticated. The decision will be made by the representative body of Ballarat Olympians and the City of Ballarat.

**The Ballarat Olympic Precinct**

Is defined as the area of Lake Wendouree Foreshore Reserve at the south west end of the rowing course that is bounded by the Moneghetti Track, cycle safety lane, weed cutting access track and access track to the isthmus as shown in the aerial photograph below bounded in yellow.



**5.0 Administrative updates**

From time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this policy. Where an update does not materially alter this policy, such a change may be made administratively. Examples of minor administrative changes include changes to names of Council departments or positions, change to names of Federal or State Government departments or a minor amendment to legislation that does not have material impact. Where any change or update may materially change the intent of this policy, it must be considered by Council.

## 6.0 Policy owner

Executive Manager Governance and Risk.

## 7.0 Authorisation

Adopted by Ballarat City Council on 24/05/2023. R66/23.