

p.97 Of interest 8/1/65 Letter to the Royal Horticultural Society in London re. George Longley and Cruickshank (see Mosman File).Also Council records 483/3/2 3/6/1987 Unit No.187 June 1987.

p.287 January 1985

To Mr P.Nicholson. 44 Melrose St. Nth Melbourne 3051

Dear Peter Prime Ministers' Avenue, Botanical Gardens, Ballarat -Bust of J.M.Fraser. Our ref 453/9/5 TC "10"84

Ever since the Fraser bust was added to the Prime Ministers' Avenue it has drawn constant comment, both as being "different" to the rest of the collection, it is a different colour, too big and it is not a good likeness (this is probably a matter of personal opinion). Now that the Hawke bust is in position, Fraser to be more incompatible than before. We realise that it is a delicate situation - Fraser was done by Vic Greenhalgh towards the end of his life and took some time for him to complete. The Council itself is concerned but not unanimous as to whether Fraser should be replaced. It has asked me to enquire from you an estimate of your fee to commission a replacement of Fraser. You might want to comment on the matter. Hawke looks good and is attracting considerable attention. So far he has remained unscathed, but vandals attempted to dislodge Watson. We have had the mason secure it and check on all the others. Kind regards Ian Smith.

Box 167 Page 167 9/5/85 Of interest -letter re Blizzard Statue, Sovereign Hill

p.130 Letter to Mr H.G.Mitchell Unit 5 Buckingham Court 1532 Sturt St, Ballarat re. information regarding George Longley.

Unit 173

23/4/1986 ref.453/9/5

To Mr P.N.Greenhalgh. 116 La Perouse St. Griffith ACT 2603

Dear Mr Grenhalgh. The replacement Fraser bust has now been received and I will expect it to be installed during the next month or so when the mason is available. As agreed, the bust sculpture by your father will be returned to you. We will arrange for this to be done at our cost and i will advise you as soon as it leaves here. Should we have it sent to you at your address ? Yrs etc. I.Smith

Unit 188

1/7/97 To Mrs S.Lindsay 10 Cumber...Court, Clifton Springs 5/65/1

re. Thomas Edward Rooney. Thank you for your further letter about your great uncle, Thomas Edward Rooney. We have no record or knowledge of a plaque in the gardens bearing his name but I enclose a copy of a brief history of the Gardens and you will see that he is mentioned in that history. I hope this information will assist you. Yrs faithfully, H.G.Wright Assistant town Clerk.

Unit 189 August 1987

4/8/87 To The Editor. The Sun Newspaper. Flinders St. Melbourne 3000

Dear Sir. I have had the opportunity of reading your page 1 feature of the 15th July "Bob scrubs a treat" Thank you for your excellent coverage og this unique collection which is, of course, a walk through history lesson. It is a collection of which he are justly proud. One factual correction to your report - it was the Whitlam's bust, not Fraser's that disappeared and was subsequently found and returned. After its disappearance we had a replacement made and now we have two! Some peculiar suggestions have been made as to what to do with the spare one! Yrs faithfully I.C.Smith, acting CEO



its bust. In this we seek your advice as to whether you still have the original bust and, if so, would it be available for another casting? We will be writing to Mr Lemon to come to Ballarat on Sunday, perhaps, to check on other busts and give an opinion whether the base of other busts are sturdy enough or need reinforcing onto the pedestal. Perhaps future busts may require more robust bases where they are fixed to the pedestal. It is regretted that the likelihood of wanton damage may influence the matter.

At present the Council is considering a public lighting scheme of the gardens and the Prime Ministers Avenue as a further security provision.

The cost of this replacement, and a further bust of the present Prime Minister, is a matter of some concern as the Trust Fund is greatly depleted. Your valued advice in our predicament would be much appreciated.

I trust both you and Mrs Greenhalgh are keeping well and Enid and I send our kindest personal regards. We read of the storms and cyclone that visit your area but in your home you probably have a great deal of protection from the Currumbin Headland. We may also see you later in the year.

Yrs etc. F.J.Rogers

Fraser bust in the future. Would you be able to send them down to us as soon as convenient? We would then deliver each to the new firm - Peter Morley, Meridian Founding, for casting, as we are able to commission him. I spoke to him on the phone today and he assured me of an excellent job {equal to Lemon's} and thought that you may not need them to be sent back for checking before placing in the gardens. Do you think this would be satisfactory? I shall leave it to you entirely to decide. He was at Lemon's factory today when I phoned and seems to work closely with Mr Lemon. You said you know Mr Morley and were happy with his work. Mr Lemon ceases work when our present job is completed. The Stonemason would be sure to fix them, extra strongly, on the pedestals to prevent further vandalism. The Gardens lighting scheme is nearly complete and will be switched on in a week or so. It will include the Prime Ministers' Avenue and front sections of the Gardens area.

We are unfortunate that one of our staff was recently on holidays in Queensland and would have brought the busts in their cases back, but we missed out on contacting him soon enough. Enid and I will be coming north towards the end of June but will not be returning until the end of July, a bit late I'm afraid. (Enid....friends) Strangely enough, this week, a film company about to make a feature film of Australian History and early Irish rebellion, was here seeking a life or larger life statue of Queen Victoria. They told us that our Sturt St statue was the only one of that size in Victoria!! They want to make a plaster cast of her head using a rubber based mould to do so, and assured us there is no likelihood of statue damage. The idea is that a plaster cast can be pushed over in a scene in the film and the bust smashed. They need that size to get it properly photographed. We are taking all safeguards and getting best advice. Our "Queen" is considered to be outstanding and the best in the land. It certainly is a majestic piece of sculpture.

Please accept again our grateful thanks and we trust that you will be able to send the two casts to us in the near future. Yrs etc. F.J.Rogers



3.4.1985

166

Mr. P. Nicholson  
44 Melrose Street,  
North Melbourne 3051

Dear Peter,

Prime Minister's Avenue Botanical Gardens Ballarat bust of Malcolm Fraser our reference – please quote 453/9/5.

I am sorry to have taken so long to respond to your letter of 21<sup>st</sup> February.

This was caused because we thought it desirable to acquaint the Greenhalgh family with what we were proposing to do.

It was not an easy letter for me to write, however, they have reacted with understanding and a request that the Greenhalgh bust be returned to them after it's replacement. The Council believes that to be a reasonable request, and have agreed to do so.

The Council accepts your offer to execute a replacement of Fraser for \$2970 on the same contractual arrangement as for Hawke, including acceptance of rejection, of the plaster bust and payment of one third of the fee.

I will be away for the next four months, but you can liase with my Deputy during that time, if necessary.

Yours Faithfully

I.C.Smith

Town Clerk.

I. C. Smith

II.



As I say it is purely an enquiry and not meant to convey a commitment by either of us.

I.C. Smith  
Town Clerk.

Unit 166

5.3.1985

686. Mr P. Greenhalgh,  
116 La Perouse Street,  
Griffith A.C.T.

2603

Dear Mr Greenhalgh

Prime Ministers Avenue Ballarat.

Our reference—please quote 453/9/5 TC “IC” 99

I find some difficulty in composing this letter to you, and it would have much easier, for me, at any rate, if I had been able to have a face-to-face discussion with you.

Let me assure that what I am about to convey to you is not in any way meant to be, or allowed to be construed to be, any form of criticism.

Some little time after the bust of Malcolm Fraser was installed in the Prime Minister's avenue, we began to receive the adverse comment about it, and regrettably, this has continued. Most of the comments relate to the fact that it did not appear to be a good likeness, that it was too big, and that it was not sympathetically compatible with the rest of the collection. The Council became concerned about the receipt of such comments, particularly because it felt it was not a good reflection of your late father's established artistic reputation.

There would seem to be validity in some comments, particularly in relation to its size, for the bust is certainly quite large, and larger than each of the others which your father has done over the years.

As to the likeness, this is probably a matter of personal judgement, though I have to confess that as you approach the Fraser pedestal from the north, an appreciation of the likeness is difficult. Indeed one prominent sculptor recently passed the comment to us that the Fraser bust “does no credit to the ability or the memory of Vic Greenhalgh”.

The matter has now been confounded by the acquisition of the Hawke bust, which is more in keeping with the scale and likeness of the collection, other than Fraser.

The Council has now determined that it should commission a new bust of Fraser so that each piece in the collection should be sympathetically compatible and that the artistic reputation of your late Father is able to be maintained at its highest level by reference to earlier busts that he has done.

I recall visiting your Father in mid 1981 at his Studio when he showed me the work he was doing on the Fraser bust, and explained to me the difficulty which he was having in satisfying himself about the work. As I recall he expressed to me how difficult he had found it to produce a good likeness, mainly as he said, because of Fraser's height, and the fact that most times Fraser was not seen in photographic reproductions in newspapers and the like at eye level, but rather was viewed from below.

I am sure that you understand what I have been attempting to say, and that the decision to commission a replacement does not mean any offence to either you or your Mother. Rather it is a genuine attempt I believe on our part to preserve intact the very fine examples of your Father's work. I. C. Smith

Town Clerk.



38 Capon Street,  
Chadstone 3148

Dear Mr Hammond,

As you probably know Victor Greenhalgh who executed at least six additions to the Prime Ministers Avenue in the gardens, died earlier this year.

Because of his death and the recent Federal Election the Council must now commission a new sculptor to undertake the work of adding the new Prime Minister to the collection. It has resolved to enquire whether you would be interested in being considered for this commission. The Council is also making enquiry of two other sculptors.

There is no need for me to go into detail about the existing collection with which I am sure you are very familiar. Naturally we would expect additions to it to be comparable in style to the existing works.

Should you be interested in being considered, would you also let me have an indication of your fee together with an estimate of the cost of casting the work in

bronze. I. C. Smith

Town Clerk.



476      25.3.1983

Mr T. Slater, 49 Telfor Street,  
Wellington.

Dear Mr. Slater

This confirms the discussion we had about commissioning a new sculptor to add the bust of R. J. Hawke to the collection of Prime Ministers in the Botanical Gardens. I think I indicated to you that the Council was also making enquiries of two other sculptors. I also mentioned that if you were commissioned, and your existing clay model was used we would need to come to some arrangement concerning the future of that model.

You expressed an interest in the commission and I look forward to receiving from you confirmation of that interest together with an estimate of your fee and the cost of casting.

I.C.Smith  
Town Clerk.



31.3.1983

599

Sir J. Burke K.B.E.

“Dormers”

Falls Road,

Mt. Dandenong.

Dear Sir Joseph,

Your old friend Peter Hiscock kindly supplied me with your address—from memory too you are probably aware of the area in the Botanical Gardens known as Prime Ministers Avenue, which contains a bust of every incumbent of that office in Australia. The Victor Greenhalgh was responsible for the last half dozen or so but as a result of his death and the election of a new Prime Minister we must now commission a new sculptor. The purpose of this letter is to ask, should the necessity arise, whether you would be able to advise the Council on a possible choice of a sculptor. We have invited three to consider the appointment, and it may be that a person such as yourself could be of assistance in helping the Council to arrive at a choice.



24.3.1953

438

Mr. P.N. Greenhalgh  
116 La Perouse Street,  
Griffiths N. S. W. 2603 ACT

Dear Mr Greenhalgh,

I apologise for long delay in contacting you but I have spend some time in searching our records trying to find the names of any other foundries which may have been used to cast any of your fathers models of the Prime Ministers. The only reference I could find in our records are firstly to Peter Morley and prior to that F. J. Lennon Statuary Founders whose last address in 1976 was 40 Colconda Avenue Frankston. Whether he had any moulds at the time that he closed down I do not know.

We will arrange collection from Peter Morley of the casts of Fraser, Whitlam and Gordon, and have them handed over to the School of Mines for safekeeping and as a record of your fathers' works.

Please convey to your Mother our kind regards and our appreciation of the decision, which you and she have come to.

As a result of the Recent Federal election we are contacting three sculptors with a view to commissioning one of them to produce a bust of the new Prime Minister.

I.C. Smith Town Clerk.

25. 3. 83.

476

Mr. P. Nicholson,  
44 Melrose Street,  
North Melbourne. 3051.

Dear Mr. Nicholson,

You may be aware of what is known as Prime Ministers Avenue in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. It is a pathway through part of the gardens which is lined with the busts of all Australian Prime Ministers

Those of the last six Prime Ministers were the work of the late Victor Greenhalgh, who died early in January of this year.

As a result of the recent Federal Election, and consequent on the death of Mr. Greenhalgh, it is necessary for the council to commission a new sculptor to undertake a work of the new Prime Minister.

The Council is aware of you caricature of Mr Hawke, at present on exhibition in the Art Gallery, and has resolved to enquire whether you would be interested in a commission to add Mr. Hawke to your garden collection. The council is also making the same enquiry of the two other sculptors.

It will be essential for the work to be executed in a style comparable to the existing works.

I would be pleased to learn from you whether you would be interested in being considered for this commission, in which case you should also furnish me with an estimate of your fee and an estimate of the cost of casting the work in bronze.

I.C. Smith Town Clerk.

25. 3. 83.

477

Mr S.. Hammond



Page 737 26/3/1974 To Mr N Morris SEC of Victoria 1 Wendouree Pde. Ballarat  
From R.J.Sharp

Dear Sir. At its meeting last evening Councillors expressed concern that a number of spotlights for the Statues in Sturt St are not operating. Specific reference was made to one of the statues adjoining the floral clock and the major statue immediately west of Armstrong St.

During general discussion concerning lights several Councillors commented that lights are sometimes in operation for extended periods and I would be pleased to know of the maintenance checking which is carried out by the Commission. Yrs faithfully R.J.Sharp

8118/P1 Unit No 113

17/3/1976

P 174

To - Mr V.Greehalgh  
Panorama Drive  
Currumbin Beach  
Gold Coast Qld. 4223

Dear Mr Greenhalgh.

re. Prime Ministers Avenue

Further to my last letter of 13th October, when I advised of the disappearance of the bronze bust of Mr Gough Whitlam from the Prime Ministers' Avenue in the Botanical Gardens, I regret to say that there has been no information of its whereabouts. This is most regrettable as it is now 6 months since it was removed.

The Council feels that it should now be considering its replacement, as the lettered pedestal stands without



To - Mr F.J.Lemon  
Non Ferrous Founder.  
Cochranes Rd.Moorabbin 3189

Dear Mr Lemon. You may remember that some 5 months ago I phoned you regarding the removal of the bronze bust of Mr E.Gough Whitlam from the Prime Ministers' Avenue at the Botanical Gardens. The bust has not yet been recovered.

I have written to Mr Vic Greenhalgh today informing him of the situation and seeking his advice regarding a replacement. He still has the original work, I believe.

We also discussed the possibility of you coming to Ballarat, perhaps on a weekend, to inspect the other busts in the Prime Ministers' Avenue, and give an opinion whether they are all strong enough where they are bolted to the pedestal, and if strengthening is recommended. We would also like to talk about the replacement casting, and how this is carried out.

Ballarat, at this time of the year, is very beautiful and I would hope that you can come in the near future. Please let me know, so that arrangements could be made at this end. We would be happy to look after your wife and family if they could come with you.

Vandalism is a very costly expense and it is regretted that we seem to be stuck with it in these enlightened days,

Yrs etc. F.J.Rogers.

8118/P1

Unit 133

20/5/1976

P256

To Victor E Greenhalgh  
10 Panorama Drive,Currumbin. Qld 4223

Dear Mr Greenhalgh

Thank you for your kind letter of 8/5/76 confirming that you have generously offered to provide the plaster casts of Prime Ministers G.Whitlam and J.Gorton,and, if required, one of Malcolm Fraser. This news was received by the Mayor, Cr.Maurice Brown and the Councillors with gratification and sincere appreciation. We are happy to accept your offer and understand that you would want to complete the Fraser bust in your own time - using his visits to the Gold Coast as occasions for sittings. This will suit us as our finances in the fund have suffered from the present unfortunate vandalism, and the need to strengthen the bases of five other busts by blocking in the back of the shoulders. This is about to be completed by Mr F.Lemon and we will pick them up on Monday next. Some of the Trust fund is tied up in Government Inscribed stock which it would not be to advantage to cash at this time.

The Council is only too willing to bear the expense of cartage and castings of the two casts you have and the



Kh 8118 p1 1/8/39. Memo to Mr. T. B. Toop from Town Clerk Geo. Morton The Council at the meeting last evening decided to approve of the Chestnut Avenue being the Avenue along the sides of which the busts of the Prime Ministers to be donated by Col. R.A. Crouch will be erected. The Parks and Gardens Committee will again consider your request concerning the construction of the shallow Lily Pond and crazy path around the reflecting bowl and will probably discuss the whole question with you when the Members visit the Gardens.

Kh unit 52 30/10/41

Letter to Manager Comm. Bank of Aust. Ltd. Sturt Street Ballarat.

I have this day received a communication from Colonel Crouch, 7 Wynnstay Rd, Armadale S.1. in regard to a trust fund of \$1000 which he intends to hand over to the City Council for the provision of bronze busts in the Prime Ministers Avenue Botanical Gardens.

I have therefore to request that you prepare an application form to transfer \$1000 bond due on the 1<sup>st</sup>. October 1944 at 4% into inscribed stock in the name of "The Mayor, Councillors and Citizens of the City of Ballarat" No. 4 account.

I have notified Colonel Crouch that this letter has been forwarded and he has undertaken to present bonds for \$1000 at your head office in Melbourne, when the transfer can be completed and certificate for the inscribed stock forwarded to me. Geo. Morton, Town Clerk.

Kh Unit 52 30/10/41

Letter to Colonel Crouch from Geo. Morton Town Clerk Ballarat.

I wish to thank you for your letter of 29<sup>th</sup>. Inst. Setting out your intentions in regard to the trust fund of \$1000.

A letter this day has been forwarded to the Councils Bankers the Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd, requesting that they carryout the necessary formalities as contained in your letter.



Kh 8118 p1 10/7/1939 Clause to Mayors report, also letter of thanks to Col. R.A.Crouch sent to same. Clause----- I desire to place on record the generous gift to the City by Col. R.A.Crouch V.C. ? who has offered to donate bronze busts of the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth from it's birth to present time and to erect them on pedestals at the Botanical Gardens .This is further evidence of the public spiritedness of the Crouch family who in the past have made handsome donations to this City, the principal one being the Crouch Memorial fund donated to the Ballarat Art Gallery to provide the annual competition by Australian artists. This further gift also expresses the pride and love Colonel Crouch has for the City of his birth. Mr W.T.Cotton on behalf of Colonel Crouch, personally conveyed to the Council the donors intention and I now suggest that the valuable offer be accepted officially by the Council and that a thanks under seal be forwarded When the Statues are erected they will form an Avenue that will be unique in Australia and should be added to from time to time so that a complete record of Australian Prime Ministers in bronze busts may adorn our Botanical Gardens. Letter signed by Mayor King and Town Clerk G. Morton.