



15. NOTICES OF MOTION

I, Councillor David Brand, give notice that I intend to move the Motion outlined below at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 01 August 2018:

That Council:-

- 1 Notes the extraordinary contribution made to the beauty and utility of this city's foreshore and public reserves by the late Carlo Catani, the centenary of whose death in July 1918 we are commemorating through a series of events this year.
- 2 Requests that officers investigate the feasibility of installing a bell chime in the Catani Memorial Clock Tower on the Esplanade as a completion of Catani's long held vision for the St Kilda Foreshore precinct he designed.
- 3 Requests officers to report back to Council on the technical requirements and timing issues involved; strategies for an effective community consultation; the policy alignments of such a project with the current Council Plan; the costs involved and the possible sources of funding for the project.

Supporting Information

Carlo Catani's legacy of brilliant civil engineering and landscape design has bestowed immeasurable benefit upon the City of Port Phillip, The City of Melbourne, and numerous communities across Victoria for more than 100 years. He carried out all his works as a devoted public servant in the Colonial and State Governments of Victoria between 1876 and 1917. Among his best-known works are the roads, embankments, bridges and landscaping of Alexandra Avenue and Domain Gardens in the City of Melbourne, and the reclamation and beautification of the St Kilda foreshore. He initiated projects across our whole city, from Elwood to Part Melbourne, and he was the driving force behind The St Kilda Foreshore Committee from its inception in 1906. He lived in St Kilda, in Blessington Street, where he died in 1918.

Catani's vision for the St Kilda Foreshore set down the fundamental aesthetic principles upon which its continuing fame and popularity are based. As part of his vision for the St Kilda Foreshore – as a cosmopolitan Mediterranean-style entertainment and promenading park-scape – Catani pictured a prominent public clock tower as its centrepiece. This clock tower was delivered posthumously by the City of St Kilda and the Foreshore Committee in 1932 in honour of his service.

To keep costs down the brief for the design competition for the Memorial Clock Tower did not require a bell chime. The winning architect, Norman Shefferle, did however allow for a future fitting of a bell chime, as evidenced by the large grilled openings on each side of the tower just below the clock-faces. The Memorial Clock Tower Committee sought costings for the additional mechanism, but it is not known why the bell chime was not proceeded with. The onset of the Great Depression may have been a factor. The idea of a new chime installation is consistent with the scope of the committee's thinking, the architect's design intent, and the long-held foreshore vision of Carlo Catani himself.

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Three objectives would be served: to introduce a 'village bell' into St Kilda's central public domain; to 'complete' the original vision of the heritage clock tower; and to endow Catani's Foreshore with an enduring commemoration of the centenary of his death. It is contended that the initiative would make a significant contribution to the realisation of Council's policy objectives in placemaking, community development, and heritage enhancement.

Through history, the ringing from a bell tower has bound communities together. A simple chime, heard by a multitude in their individual pursuits, brings a brief moment of consciousness of a place and a community in common. This momentary shared experience might be enjoyed as much by the general public on St Kilda Beach as the resident community of St Kilda Hill.

Key to the community consultation will be the Esplanade Market traders, and the residents of the Bayview apartment block, the resident community who will be most closely affected by the chiming. Their experience of the bell-chime will be the key to calibrating its performance. (The proposal is comparable to the South Melbourne Town Hall clock tower with its digitally controlled electronic bell-chimes, which are quiet through the small hours of the night.)

This proposal has arisen from the community. It is an inessential but beautiful idea -- one which might be shared and enjoyed by all the various and diverse communities of this renowned precinct.