



OPENING OF THE COMMUNITY RECOVERY WALL - 13 FEBRUARY 2022

LIONS CLUB OF PARK ORCHARDS – PRESIDENT’S SPEECH

Welcome – the Mayor, Cr Kleinert, the Deputy Mayor, Cr Diamante & Cr Mayne.

- The Hon Ryan Smith MLA
- The heads of local community and sporting groups.
- Past Lions Members and wives of deceased Lions Members

Very Special Welcome – the men, women and children of Park Orchards and surrounding suburbs.

You have endured a lot over the last two years, displaying seemingly endless resilience and patience.

Some examples:-

- The significant birthday celebration at the French Chateau was cancelled.
- Couldn't travel around Switzerland in the campervan.
- The annual two weeks in Port Douglas was postponed yet again.

But mainly it's the interruptions and stresses in day to day living that will be remembered:-

- Unable to visit friends and relative.
- Changes to work and schooling arrangements
- No sport or other activities.
- Missed celebrating Grandma's birthday because she was locked up in her room in the nursing home.

Community Recovery Wall.

The idea of a Community Recovery Wall was developed by Lions to provide a permanent reminder of the resilience shown by the Park Orchards community during the great pandemic of 2020 – 2022.

The pandemic is going to finish this year isn't it?

We have a Millennial Wall and the plan was to build a similar wall opposite. A concept was taken to the council for discussion and approval.

As we know, life is about compromise, so needless to say, the as built wall looks nothing like the original concept, but I think it's an excellent final design.

Thanks to the following organisations, businesses and individuals:-

The City of Manningham – Ben Harnwell and Barbara Ozga who provided council services in the way of cooperation and understanding of the project, and assistance and direction with the necessary approvals. The council also provided a grant towards the cost of the project and Street Party.

Vine & Vault – Nigel Pemberton and his team who fabricated the steel frame. It was not an easy fabrication job if the rumours of profanities during fabrication are to be believed. Nigel is a Park Orchards Lions member and gave us a discount on the fabrication cost.

Signature Engraving who made the engraved tiles.



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Ardex Australia (Brett O'Loughlin, James Wilson and Mark Collins) and Bravada Waterproofing (Andrew Milan) who supplied the glue and grout for the tiles at no charge.

Kees Kos and Martin Kos who fixed the tiles to the wall at no charge.

Opulent Homes – Rob Ameer and his team including Jeff McMahon who provided concrete, equipment and expertise in the installation of the steel frame at its final site, all at no charge.

Park Orchards Residents. Last, but by no means least, a big thank you to all those who purchased a tile or tiles. There are approximately 170 tiles and the application was oversubscribed.

Street Map

Having finalised the wall design, Lions thought we might freshen up the Street Map.

There were some concerns on Facebook about touching or possibly even defacing Pauline Brooke's excellent original work.

We asked around to try and find some detailed history of the original map. We understand it was completed in the late 80's or early 90's and Pauline had at least one assistant. Perhaps someone here today may be able to provide us with more information.

Our aim was to keep to the original, despite a couple of minor current inaccuracies.

Thanks to the following organisations, businesses and individuals:-

Fresh Start Painting – Peter Clough, Sam Clough and Asir who repainted the east wall of the grocer's shop at no charge. After I approached Peter and described the project, he was glad to offer his services for this community project especially when we mentioned a possible mural. Peter asked Jo Kline at Haymes Paints to supply the paint.

Haymes Paints – Jo Kline who supplied the paint to repaint the wall at no charge.

Park Orchards Health & Wellbeing Centre – Nicole Tracy. It took some time to find someone to hand paint the street names, but Nicole confidently stepped up and completed the job at no charge.

Anne Gibson who assisted with some of the hand lettering and touched up the two scenes within the map at no charge.

Cam Sutherland who provided the stencils for the acknowledgements on the wall and on the mural at no charge.

Tony Gibson who provided assistance with the stencils and moral support to the Mural Designer and Artist in Chief at no charge.

David McNiff who provided trestles and planks at no charge to enable the hand letter painters to reach the names at the top of the map.

Sean, the business licensee of the grocer's shop and also the owner of the shop for giving permission to paint the wall and add the mural as well as approve the design of the mural.

So, you might say we've put Park Orchards back on the map again!



OPENING OF THE COMMUNITY RECOVERY WALL - 13 FEBRUARY 2022

Mural

Having decided to rejuvenate the Street Map, our attention was drawn to the newly painted blank canvas next to it.

I said to Anne Gibson; I've seen the quality of your wildlife art, so why don't you paint a couple of birds flying across the wall. So, Anne offered to produce a design for the wall reflecting the diversity of flora and fauna in the 100 Acres.

Lions were happy with the design and what you see now is this magnificent mural.

Anne sought assistance from her Nature in Art group which operates out of the Community House and Learning Centre. The Nature in Art group is very capably lead by the master, Terry Napier. Many of the group quickly jumped on board to paint their own specialities. Some of these artists are world renown. Park Orchards is very fortunate to have this highly skilled, talented and dedicated group offer their services for this project at no charge.

Nature in Art has a stall at the Park Orchards Market where you can view and purchase their work.

Thanks to the following organisations, businesses and individuals:-

Nature in Art. Artists were Anne Gibson, who designed the mural and organised the other artists, Terry Napier, Peta Harrington, Dave Reynolds, Deb McNeil, Ellie Bryant, Margie Napier, Graeme Pilley and Beth Twentymen.

Eyecare Plus Mitcham - Tony Gibson and Riki Gibson who paid for all the paint used in the mural. If you can't or don't appreciate the mural, suggest you make an appointment with Eyecare Plus Mitcham.

Super Safe Hire – Peter Scott who gave us a substantial discount on the hire of the scaffold. Peter was a local and is almost still a local.

Drinking Fountain

In walking around Park Orchards, you and your dog are often in need of some water.

Thanks to the following businesses and individuals:-

Peter Villani, a local who poured and finished off the concrete slab at no charge.

Lowther Plumbing – Mark Lowther, a local plumber, who connected the water to the drinking fountain.

Time Capsule

The Time Capsule is still open for submissions. It will be sealed and placed in the ground in about one week's time.

Submissions don't need to be anything fancy; anything that reflects current life in Park Orchards. E.g. take a family photo in front of your house. Make sure you include Fido, Fluffy and Nemo in the photo. In 50 years time, who knows, pets may not be permitted and you and your house probably won't be around.



OPENING OF THE COMMUNITY RECOVERY WALL - 13 FEBRUARY 2022

The opening year of the Time Capsule has not yet been decided and we are open to suggestions. One suggestion is to open the capsule in 25 year's time and put the articles on display.

Apology

I don't think we've left anyone out who needed to be thanked. Many apologies if we have, but we thank you now.

Conclusion

This whole project was conceived, designed, planned, developed, organised and supervised including lots of manual labour by the Lions Club of Park Orchards. Of course it wouldn't have been completed without the input, in many cases free of charge, from all those people I have just thanked.

Finally, thanks to all my fellow Park Orchards Lions Club members for their input in bringing this project to a conclusion; in particular Rob Ellis, Stephen Scott and Andy Margetts who put in a million manhours, well not quite a million but what seems like half a million.

Lions International is 100 years old and the Lions Club of Park Orchards is coming up to 45 years. During that time Park Orchards Lions has raised and donated well in excess of \$1 million to local, national and international causes.

If you would like to know more about the Lions Club of Park Orchards, talk to anyone of us here today, check out the notice board outside the milk bar, see our website and we're on Facebook.

It's good to see the whole community out today. It doesn't happen often but there is of course the ever growing popular monthly Park Orchards Market where you can meet and purchase a wide variety of produce and goods.

Thanks also to all the local traders for their cooperation and input into today's Street Party. They need your support.

Thank you everyone.

Trevor Street

President

Lions Club of Park Orchards.