

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

10 AUGUST 2016

AGENDA ITEM C1

ANZAC HALL LANDSCAPING

Purpose of Report

To inform the Council of the recommendations of the Featherston Community Board on landscaping proposals for the Anzac Hall and to obtain approval to proceed.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receives the information;*
2. *Revokes resolution DC2012/85;*
3. *Approves the proposal to create a Memorial Garden at the Anzac Hall, with a revised placement of the rock referred to in DC2012/85; and*
4. *Approves the proposal to install three flagpoles adjacent to the Memorial Garden.*

1. Executive Summary

Landscaping work is proposed for the grassed area to the east of the Anzac Hall (corner of Bell and Birdwood streets). This work would incorporate the Anzac Club Society's revised proposal to create a Memorial Garden, featuring a large rock extracted from the Rimutaka hill road. The landscaping would also include three flagpoles to enable the New Zealand, Australian and Belgian flags to be flown outside the building on commemorative occasions. The replacement of the flagpole on the top of the hall is proposed to be decorative rather than operable.

2. Background

The original certificate of transfer of the building from the Wairarapa Anzac Club to the Featherston Municipal Council was contingent on the erection of a "suitable monument...on the grass plot at the East of the building". The building itself was intended as "a Memorial to Wairarapa soldiers who were killed in the Great War of 1914-18". No monument has ever been erected on this site.

The Featherston Anzac Club Society Inc made a submission to the Long Term Planning process in 2012 requesting approval to place a large rock,

excavated from the Rimutaka Hill, on the south-east side of the building. The rock was intended to carry a display panel telling the story of the Featherston Military Camp and its link with the Hall. Council's response (DC2012/85) was to allow the placement of the rock "beside the driveway on the south eastern side of Anzac Hall provided it is installed into a concrete base for ease of mowing and it has some reason attached to placement".

In the same submission, the Society also noted the deterioration of the building's original flagpole and requested that this be reinstated.

3. Discussion

3.1 Memorial Garden

Since the 2012 submission, the Featherston Anzac Club Society's committee revised its proposal for the placement of the rock. A landscape design for a memorial garden was submitted for consideration, and is attached as Appendix 1. This design shows the rock and garden at the northern end of the grassed area. At their meeting of 16 September 2014, the Featherston Community Board approved this in principle, but requested that the design take into consideration outputs from Victoria University architecture students. The architecture students' work provided nothing that was relevant to the design of the garden. In July 2016, the Anzac Club Society undertook some community consultation, which had a relatively low response, and a number of suggestions, some of which have been incorporated into the final design.

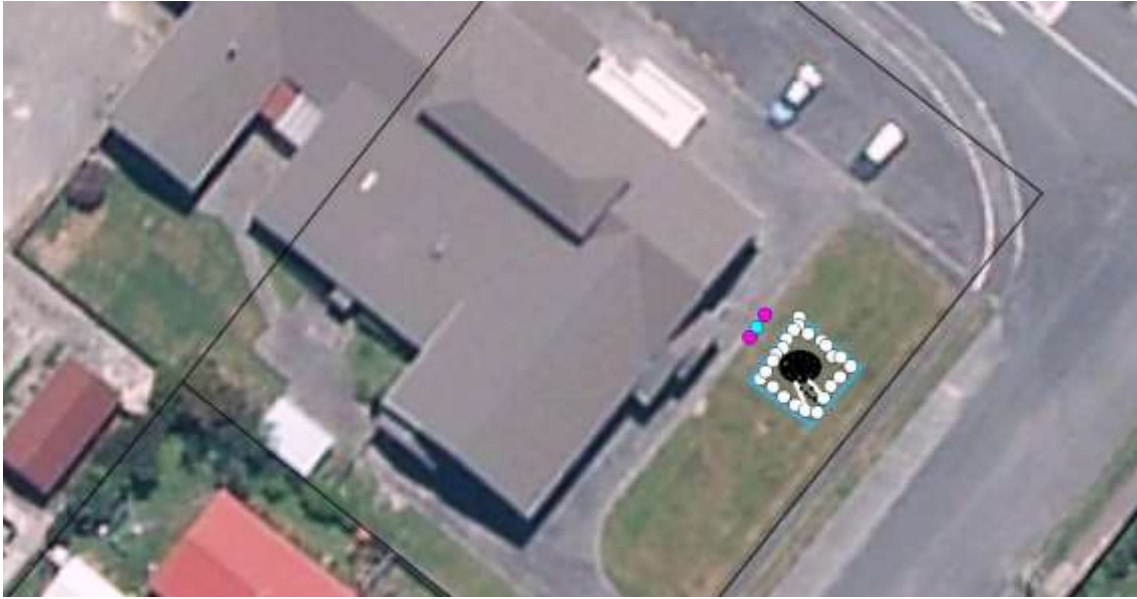
Any change to the location of the rock requires the revocation of Council resolution DC2012/85. At the 19 July 2016 meeting of the Featherston Community Board, the Board made the following recommendations:

- that Council revokes resolution DC2012/85;
- to endorse and recommend to Council the proposal to create a Memorial Garden at the Anzac Hall, with a revised placement of the rock referred to in DC2012/85;
- to endorse and recommend to Council the proposal to install one or more flagpoles adjacent to the Memorial Garden;
- to contribute \$3,000 towards the total cost.

FCB2016/53

3.1.1. Location and design

The Memorial Garden is proposed for the centre of the grassed area on the east side of the building (corner of Bell and Birdwood streets). A low maintenance garden would surround the Rimutaka rock, with a memorial plaque. Provision would be made for future lighting. An exposed aggregate path within the garden would provide access to the plaque, and symbolise the final march made by soldiers from Featherston Camp over the hill to Trentham Camp. The garden would be surrounded by a concrete strip, in which would be embedded white-painted rocks similar to those used for gardens at Featherston Military Camp. Sufficient space for mowing will be left around the garden for mowing. An indicative layout is shown below.



3.1.2. Memorial Plaque

While the original donors of the building contemplated a memorial to fallen Wairarapa soldiers of World War 1, the Anzac Club Society proposes that, given the passage of time and subsequent wars, the memorial honours all of the soldiers who trained in Featherston. They note the significance of the hall to the social lives of the men who trained at the camp. The final part of training at the camp was the march over the Rimutaka hill to Trentham camp, hence the symbolic nature of the rock which was excavated from the hill carrying the memorial plaque. The wording for the plaque has not yet been proposed, but the Anzac Club Society committee would undertake the research to find and propose suitable wording.

3.1.3. Costs

The Anzac Society Club has undertaken to meet the costs of moving the rock from its current location to the Memorial Garden, and to seek sponsorship for the remainder of the costs. Featherston Community Board will contribute \$3000 towards the costs.

3.2 Flagpole

The issue of the building's missing flagpole has been raised a number of times, including by the Anzac Club Society in its 2012 LTP submission. Photographs from the time suggest that the flagpole was used to fly the "Anzac Club" flag rather than the Union Jack. The flagpole's halyard would appear to have been on the exterior of the building. It is now felt it would be unrealistic to reinstate the original flagpole, as a simple halyard on the exterior of the building could easily be interfered with by vandals. The building flagpole will be reinstated as a decorative element, similar to a finial.

3.2.1. Freestanding flagpole(s)

The Anzac Club Society and the Featherston Community Board have agreed on the installation of three new flagpoles to be installed on a hard-stand in the centre of the grassed area on the east side of the building. The central

pole, for the New Zealand flag, will be the tallest, and will align with the apex of the roof of the main hall. The flagpoles will be purchased from the Amenities operating budget, and the concrete hardstand will be prepared by sponsors.

4. Conclusion

This report recommends the honouring of the condition of the original gift of the Anzac Hall by the establishment of a Memorial Garden on the east side of the building. The focal point of the garden will be a large rock extracted from the Rimutaka hill, bearing a memorial plaque. Also recommended is the establishment of a hard-stand with three flagpoles in the centre of the grassed area on the east side of the building. The completed landscaping will both honour the building's past and provide a "finished" landscaped appearance to the eastern aspect of the building.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Landscape design proposal for Memorial Garden

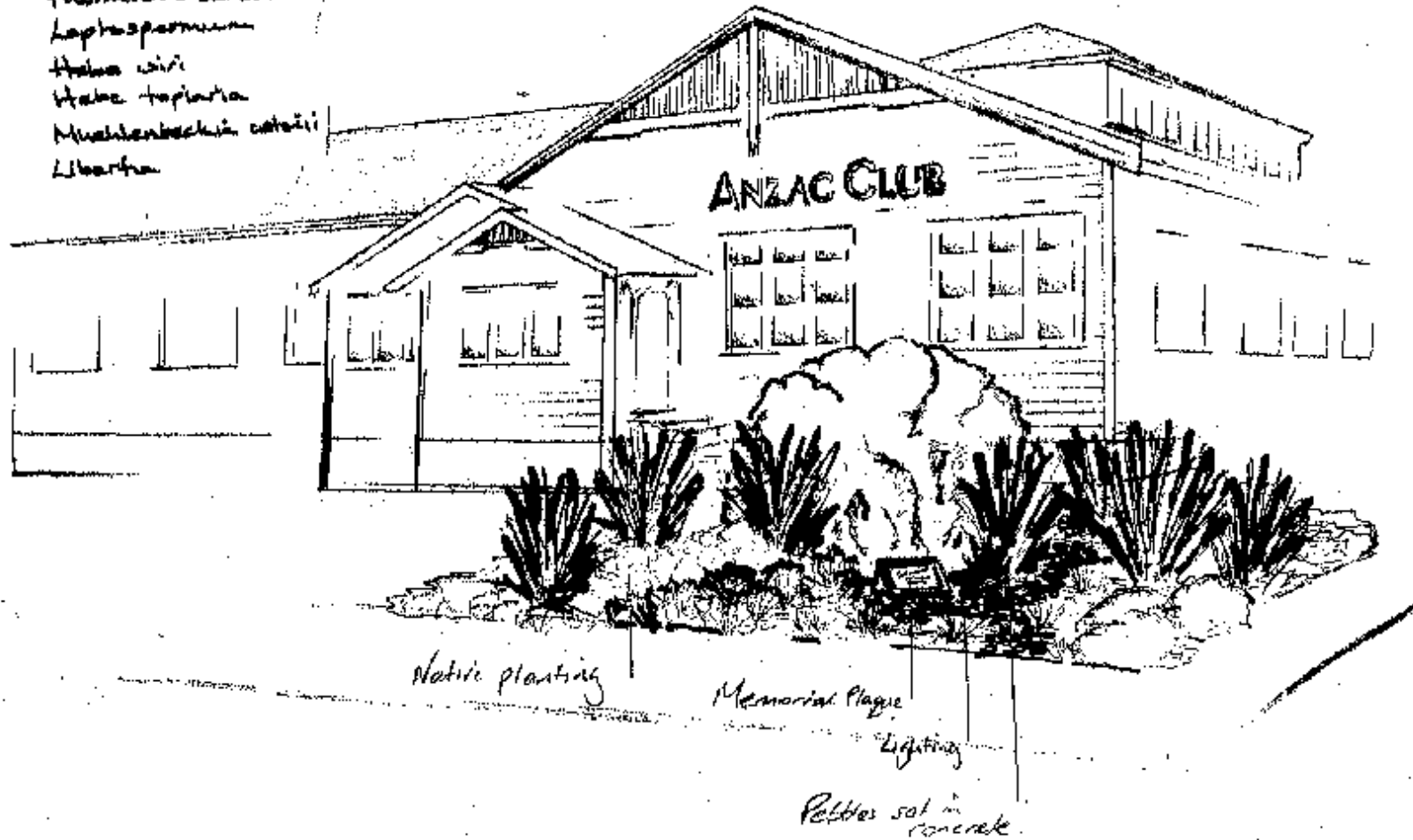
Contact Officer: Helen McNaught, Amenities Manager

Reviewed By: Mark Allingham, Group Manager Infrastructure Services

Appendix 1 – Landscape design proposal for Memorial Garden

Planting Suggestions

- Azalea
- Prostrata caskinam
- Lepidospermum
- Habe wisi
- Habe topiaria
- Muehlenbeckia catoii
- Libanthe



Native planting

Memorial Plaque

Lighting

Pebbles set in concrete