



MEDIA RELEASE

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Proposal to assign three reserve names

The Geographical Names Board is calling for public comment on a proposal by the City of Sydney Council to name three reserves in its local government area.

Chair of the Geographical Names Board, Narelle Underwood, said feedback is being sought on proposed names of Harold Park, Frances Newton Reserve and Nita McCrae Park.

Harold Park, located adjacent to Ross Street, Forest Lodge, is on the former site of the Harold Park Paceway. The name commemorates the significant social history associated with the use of the site and honours the American stallion 'Childe Harold', a foundation sire of the early days of Australian trotting. The reserve will provide a range of open spaces for recreation, play and social gatherings within a landscaped village green.

Nita McCrae Park, located at 2 Watson Road, Millers Point, is adjacent to the Abraham Mott Hall and Harry Jensen Centre. Nita McCrae (1925-1995) was a local resident and founding member of the Millers Point Resident Action Group. She subsequently started the Rocks Resident Action Group mobilising the local community in protest against the planned redevelopment which would have negatively impacted on the heritage and social fabric of the area. The recently constructed reserve contains play equipment and natural adventure-play features for young children, an open lawn area with seating and heritage structures.

Frances Newton Reserve is located at 222 Palmer Street, Darlinghurst. The proposed name pays tribute to American teacher Frances Newton, an influential female leader in the NSW kindergarten movement. Under her leadership, the number of free kindergartens expanded and dozens of women were trained as kindergarten teachers, providing education and care for young children in the inner city. Construction of the new 'pocket park' will commence in early 2018 and is expected to open to the public mid-2018. The reserve will provide a much needed open space for the local community.

Mrs Underwood said the board is encouraging community comment before it considers the proposal.

"It is important that place names reflect the character and history of the local area and community," she said.

"We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to provide their feedback on the proposed name."

Details of the proposal can be viewed and submissions lodged on the Geographical Names Board's website at www.gnb.nsw.gov.au.

Alternatively, written submissions may be lodged with the Secretary, Geographical Names Board, 346 Panorama Ave, Bathurst, NSW, 2795.

The closing date for submissions is 19 January 2018.

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