

## **G/4. COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**File Ref:** CM7.2

### **Purpose:**

Cr Churchill submits the following report.

### **GARY COWBURN – MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY**

Gladstone Region, our PCYC and the community has lost a great icon, mentor and truly great Australian.

Gary Cowburn sadly passed away Saturday 27th January 2018, 81 years of age.

His athletic boxing career included 41 fights. Winning 24 (13 knockouts) plus 2 draws.

He successfully achieved prestigious Titles as Queensland, Australian and British Empire Welterweight Champion.

He was officially inducted into the Queensland Hall of Fame in 2009.

Gone but never forgotten.

Gary was honoured with the prestigious Queensland Life Membership of the Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association (PCYC) from the Gladstone Region Branch.

His Wife Joy who sadly passed away last year was also a recipient of this prestigious State PCYC Award.

This was for their long time continuous meritorious volunteer service to our Gladstone Region PCYC, our young people and our community.

In fact, our PCYC a number of years ago, proudly acknowledged and paid tribute to Gary's achievements with the development of the "Gary Cowburn Boxing Room"

He will truly be remembered as a genuine and magnificent man, respected Aboriginal elder, a great friend to many and a trainer / mentor for young boxers, from all colours, races and creeds.

Gary dedicated much of his life to helping others and created so many fond moments, milestones and memories.

He also received high accolades for Regional, State, National and International boxing history as an athlete and as a Boxing Trainer / Mentor for many others.

He also so much enjoyed dancing. "In and out of the Ring" He will now be dancing in the heavenly ballroom or one the divine canvas.

He has left many legacies in and out of the ring through the eyes of young athletes (boys and girls).

I witnessed first-hand how he managed the development of athletic youth, especially building their self-confidence and pride, and driving / encouraging and giving them the chance to reach their full potential as a solid member of the community.

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give". He certainly is very deserved to be in the Queensland Hall of Fame.

His depth of commitment, his quality of service, and the legacies he has left are now the product of his devotion – these are the things that make a difference to the lives of others, especially those less fortunate.

He passionately shared our PCYC Vision to making a stronger, healthier and safer community for all, through the development of our young people.

I have no doubt that Gary is now at peace with his wife Joy and in knowing well that they both made a difference to the lives of others.

Finally "On behalf of our Gladstone Regional Council, Gladstone Region PCYC Committee, Staff, thousands of members, valued supporters and our community, we give a "civic salute of honour" to Gary Cowburn and be noted that we have paid our deepest respects and sympathy to Gary's family and friends as we stand united to celebrate the astonishing life of a great Australian."

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That the report be received.

**G/18 /3328 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Churchill  
Seconded Cr Hansen

That:-

1. The report be received; and
2. Council consider adding to the Approved Place Names Register the names Gary Cowburn and Joy Cowburn to the Register and that the Gladstone PCYC be requested to provide further information.

**CARRIED**

**The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.30 am  
and reconvened at 10.50 am.**