

1920-1951
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The Town Clerk
City of Melbourne

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19 MAR 1980

J. W. Allen,
29 Brasey St.,
Swanbourne.
WA., 6010
18/3/80.

Dear Sir,

Chairman

1920-39

Allen Park your ref J.V.DG:TCA3.
3840 3303 3864817

Thank you for the advice contained in your letter of 2/3/80 regarding the erection of a limestone Pinnacle complete with memorial plaque to commemorate my father's efforts in securing the land known as Allen Park for public usage.

I understand that the pinnacle will be erected along the Parkwood Street frontage among the rose beds as result of enquiry made with Mr. Voyli. Although I at first thought that a more suitable location would have been at the foot of Milton (?) Hill near the pavilion, it appears that after discussion with other members of the family, ~~that~~ the situation you propose has advantages and is generally favoured. The original entrance to the Park was for example at Cross Street under a wooden frame. The rose bed site would we feel be less prone to vandalism than in the more secluded pavilion area.

In connection with this subject we feel that the following points should be brought to your notice in case you are not aware of them -

I remembered my father stating that the reason

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he went to a lot of trouble travelling far & wide, ^{with} the expenditure of much time, getting people to sell their blocks which now make up the park, was the hill - commonly known as Melon Hill. The attractive bush covered hill caused him to make the effort when he moved into Swanbourne in 1919 - otherwise he most likely would not have bothered to seek election to the then Claremont Road District, ~~at~~ and to which he put a great amount of time in succeeding years with resultant domestic inconvenience. ✓

In the 1930's my father, in addition to personally helping with the digging ^{laying} of the first well and reticulation system, etc., also instigated a tree planting programme by means of an arbor day. As I recollect, on the arbor day local citizens including school children planted trees, some of which still remain - popperment, Paterson's native fir and gums.

Regretably over the years many of these trees have succumbed through neglect, climate and vandalism. (including those vandals who at Christmas time remove whole trees).

At present Melon Hill looks neglected - the ^{recent} ~~recent~~ dry winters partly to blame - and somewhat scruffy. Would it not be possible for the Council to make the area on and around the hill more interesting. I believe that the Council has planted trees on the reserve near the ocean and at other spots. And the reserve at the corner of Alped and Davies Roads looks quite attractive (more so as you go by) with the
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growth of trees on the steep bank.

Allen Park is much older than these two reserves and in view of my father's effort and interest in the hill could not something be done to make the Park, especially the hillside, more attractive?

Regarding history of the Park, I have extracts from Royal W. S. Historical Society journals, dealing with the ownership of the land in the early days of the state - the King family. Would this be of interest to the council? -IES

To get the record straight I would appreciate accurate information as to the spelling of the name of the hill (Melon, Melin, Mellon) and the origin of the name, also height of the hill, if you are able to supply such. 7
4
also
mean
S. L

We the family of John Allen would greatly appreciate any advice you can offer, and fulfilment of any suggestion especially as regards making the hill (the core of the park) more attractive. 7m
4m

Unfortunately the hill has divided ownership, although the Army do not unduly respect the status quo.

Finally, has that awful idea of cutting through the hill by the bowling club, and building a road to Masson Street been discarded? - No action proposed at present.

Yours sincerely
J. M. Allen
Porter between rifle range
& Golf - to join to
Challenge for Dr W.C. Hunt

- 41 Moten - 134 ft
- 7 ✓ 23 -
- 4 ✓ 13 -