



OPERATION PILGRIMAGE GROUP

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Attention : Chief Executive Officer, Mr Ray Hooper

Shire of York
PO Box 22
York WA 6302
records@york.wa.gov.au

8 April 2012

Dear Mr Hooper

The year 2015 will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the landing of ANZAC forces on the Gallipoli peninsular. This event changed the course of Australian history both intrinsically and politically. It has been lauded as the day that Australia was 'tried and tested'. Remarkable stories emerged of bravery, laconic humour, mateship and indomitable spirit in the face of hardship. There is no locality in Australia that remained untouched. Some never returned to their hometown, some were broken in mind and spirit. Yet, all were heroes.

The ANZAC story now serves as the embodiment of the Australian spirit. While it was first used in the wake of the Gallipoli landing it now stands as the encapsulation of the values and sacrifice which we remember on ANZAC day each year. In the lead up to ANZAC Day 2015, Operation Pilgrimage is seeking to commemorate the contribution of ANZAC forces throughout their service in military campaigns abroad. There are many stories to be told, however Operation Pilgrimage believes that these stories are best conveyed through the actions of our Victoria Cross recipients. There is no better example of the ANZAC spirit to be found than that personified by those bestowed with this honour, our highest military award for valour.

Operation Pilgrimage is a voluntary organization that has earned respect through its actions in honouring the contribution of our pioneering forefathers and the heroic military acts of past generations. In keeping with this ideology, from November 2012 until April 2015, Operation Pilgrimage will undertake 'In the Company of Heroes 1012-2015' a travelling exhibition throughout Australia, where framed portraits incorporating a photograph, citation and biography of each of our 98 Victorian Cross recipients will be on display.

The magnitude of a venture of this nature requires support from a number of organisations – military, governmental and public. With this objective Operation Pilgrimage is seeking your assistance in the following capacity:

- Through financial sponsorship of a Victoria Cross portrait of \$2,500.
- Through provision of a suitable venue for the display of the exhibition throughout its duration.
- Through physical support from the Council for the duration of the visit within the Council's boundaries.
- To allocate a Council Officer to act as Exhibition Liaison between Operation Pilgrimage and the many community groups in your district (RSL, Rotary, Schools, Lions Club Australia, War Widows etc).



Lawrence Dominic McCarthy VC
Great War 1914-1918

Lawrence Dominic McCarthy VC, who fought in the Great War 1914-1918, was a member of your local community, and as such we are garnering your support in the abovementioned capacity out of deference for his contribution to the safekeeping of our country for which he proudly fought.

At the completion of the exhibition (May 2015), Council will be eligible to receive the sponsored portrait to be displayed in Council chambers along with Letter of Authenticity.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this most important matter and would appreciate your prompt response given the level of organization and deadlines associated with this undertaking.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Miles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Allan Miles
Operation Pilgrimage