
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Public Art Midget Farrelly Recognition (Stage 1 of 1)

Consultation period:

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1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement regarding a proposal by the Midget Farrelly Recognition Committee to undertake a public art project commemorating Midget Farrelly. This would involve an artist being commissioned to carve a relief sculpture of Midget Farrelly surfing on the roadside face of Black Rock at Palm Beach.



The feedback collected during consultation indicated a high level of support for the proposed commemoration of Midget Farrelly in Palm Beach, with comments citing his contributions to the community and to the sport of surfing.

Feedback also indicated that many community members, whilst supportive of the idea of commemorating Midget Farrelly, did not feel that a permanent relief carving on Black Rock was an appropriate form of recognition.

1.1. Key outcomes

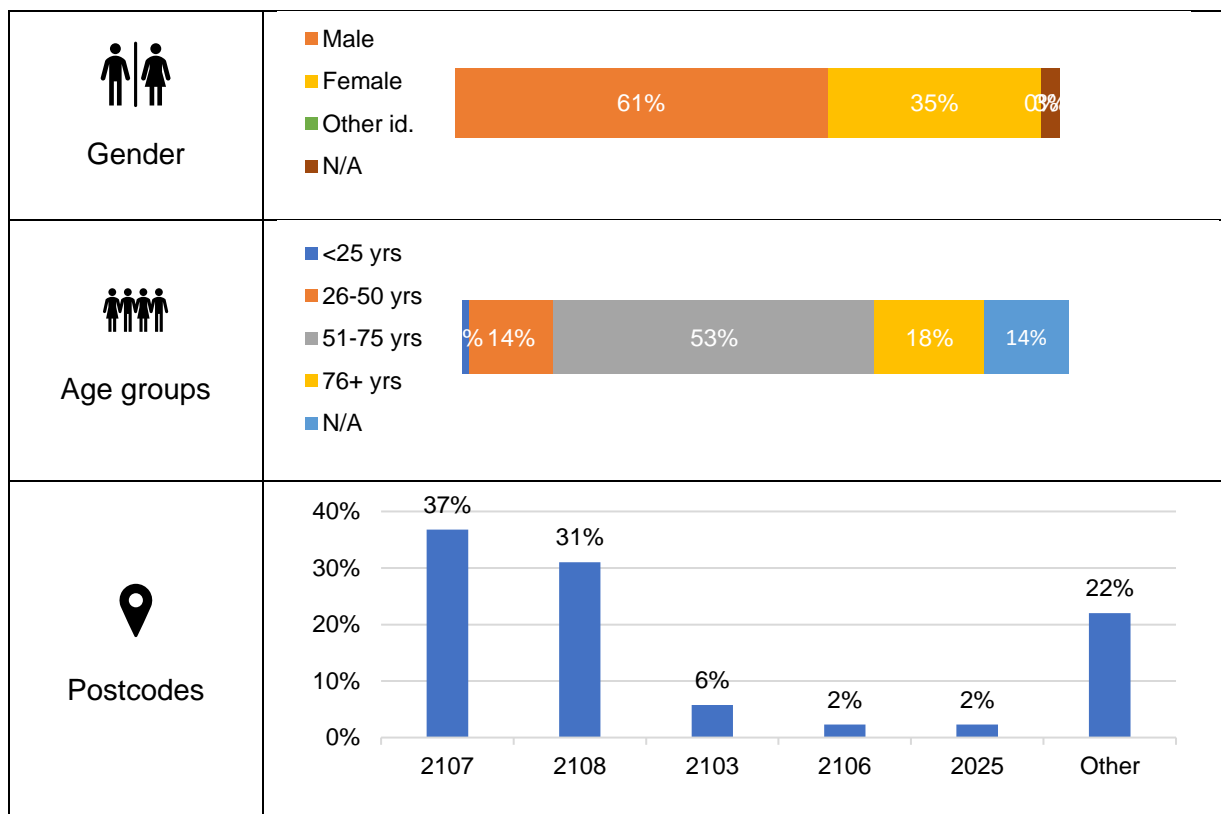
 Total unique responses	101*	
 How responses were received	Comment form Written responses (email/letter)	Completions: 88 Number received: 13
 Feedback themes	Midget Farrelly should be commemorated in Palm Beach Midget Farrelly should be commemorated in Palm Beach in another location linked to his favoured surfing locations	Defacing natural landscape feature Consideration of other artwork types, including statues and plaques

1.2. How we engaged

 Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 454	Visits: 659	Average time onsite: 2mins 3secs
 Print media and collateral	Letterbox drop: 2108 Post Code		Number: 50

*Not every respondent made a comment

1.3. Who responded¹



2. Background

The Midget Farrelly Recognition Committee (the Recognition Committee) has raised \$56,000 for an artwork to commemorate Midget Farrelly in Palm Beach.

The Recognition Committee identified Black Rock on Ocean Road as a preferred site for a relief rock carving to commemorate Midget Farrelly.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to seek community feedback on the proposal put forward by the Recognition Committee.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Public Art Midget Farrelly Recognition was conducted between 27 July and 24 August 2023 and provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Strategy](#) (2022).

¹ Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.

A project page was established on our Your Say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format; and a letterbox drop was undertaken in the surrounding vicinity of the project site.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the Your Say project page. An open-field comments box provided community members a space to provide comment or feedback.

Email and written comments were also invited.

5. Findings

Community feedback indicated broad support for the idea of commemorating Midget Farrelly in Palm Beach but was divided on the preferred art form to recognise him. Many community members recognised the significant contributions Midget Farrelly has made to Australian and international surfing culture.

Many community members felt a carving on Black Rock was unsuitable. They felt that environmental features should be left as they are. Some community members were concerned that a public art outcome in the form of a relief sculpture on the face of Black Rock would set a precedent and could encourage illegal graffiti.

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Midget Farrelly should be commemorated in Palm Beach	Midget Farrelly had a strong local connection and is a surfing icon who made significant contributions to Australian and international surfing culture. He is deserving of a permanent tribute in the local area.	Council will explore options to commemorate Midget Farrelly in collaboration with the Midget Farrelly Recognition Committee.
Midget Farrelly should be commemorated in Palm Beach in another location linked to his favoured surfing locations	Midget Farrelly favoured surfing in southern part of the beach, such as near Kiddies Corner or the Pavilion.	Council will explore other locations in collaboration with the Midget Farrelly Recognition Committee.
Defacing natural landscape feature	Black Rock is considered a natural landscape feature and significant to Palm Beach. Carving into the rock will impact its geological features and encourage vandalism and graffiti.	Council understands that the rock in its current location is not a naturally occurring landscape feature but a result of the creation of the roadway. A relief sculpture would wear away over time.
Consideration of other artwork types, including statues and plaques	Other artwork forms, such as statues and plaques that do not have a permanent impact on local landscape features, should be explored.	Council understands that the Farrelly family do not believe a traditional figurative statue/sculpture is in keeping with Midget's character and may present a safety risk to the community. Council will

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
		explore other three-dimensional forms and plaques with the Midget Farrelly Recognition Committee.

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Submission
68624	I do not support a permanent relief sculpture carved into the rock face, as it would set a precedent. I would prefer to retain the rock face as a natural feature and the funding be allocated to a life size sculpture. This would be in keeping with the existing sculpture of the Hawaiian surfing legend, Duke Kahanamoku, on Freshwater Headland. A life-size free standing sculpture with a plaque would provide an informative and photogenic art work in recognition of Midget Farrelly, the inaugural world surfing champion.
68623	Whilst my wife and I both support the idea of a sculpture commemorating Midget Farrelly, we are totally against defacing the rock as has been suggested. We believe this would be an act of vandalism to a natural rock which itself is a Palm Beach icon. Please design a standalone sculpture instead.
68622	I had the pleasure of knowing Midget as a member of the SLSC. He gave tirelessly to that organization as well as being a dual World Champion and surfing legend. That is what the beach is about. Midget deserves to be recognised and remembered by this permanent tribute. I would prefer the sculpture to be on the surf side of Black Rock. Then Midget could watch the waves every day and people would need to stop to seek him out.
68621	Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I have no issue with public recognition of people who have contributed to the community in some way and this includes the recognition of Midget Farrelly in regard his contribution to surfing in Australia. However, it would seem counter to a respectful acknowledgement of a significant natural feature of Palm Beach, being the item known as 'Black Rock', to carve a permanent image of a person into the feature no matter how significant the person. In fact, it could be deemed an act of environmental vandalism by many. Where this fashion to be perpetuated, it would be disappointing to see similar sorts of 'artwork' imbedded into nature features around our Municipality. There are many other ways a contribution can be acknowledged without such impact and without permanent disfigurement of a natural feature.
68620	My very first board was a Farrelly, Midget did so much for surfing and the northern beaches community. I feel this would be a wonderful way to celebrate one of our best surfing icons.
68619	He was a champion and I think a sculpture commemorating Midget at Palm Beach is a great idea.
68618	I am opposed to the relief sculpture carved into Black Rock. Defacing an iconic natural part of the Palmy landscape is not appropriate, no matter how significant the person being honoured. I wholeheartedly support the erection of a statue to honour Midget, which I feel will be appreciated and understood by more people.
68616	I do not support the relief carving in the rock at Palm Beach. Midget Farrelly was a local legend and is absolutely worthy of recognition, however, permanently defacing the natural environment is not a suitable way to recognise Midget's contribution to the community. I believe that an early version of this proposal was for a statue to be erected near the pavilion at Palm Beach. I support this form of recognition of Midget's contribution to the community, as it does not unnecessarily impact the natural local environment, but rather is a piece of art. It would be ideal if the the art or statue were donated by members of the public who were strongly in favour of recognition rather than funded by council / all rate payers.

*Personal details and inappropriate language have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

Number	Submission
	<p>I am a volunteer surf life saver at Palm Beach and a servant of the local community. I am familiar with Midget's contribution to the community. A permanent relief carving in the rock is not appropriate recognition.</p> <p>Please redact my name and contact details in any public publication and do not include my name when giving this information to proponents of this initiative.</p>
68615	<p>Whilst I am not against recognising Midget Farrelly as a surfing great, this is not the place to do it. Not only will it deface the rock but a far more appropriate place would be along the sandstone wall that borders the southern side of the walkway to the Palm Beach Rock Pool. This is one of the places where Midget Farrelly could often be seen taking advantage of the rip to take him out beyond the breakers on his surfboard. It was also where a "paddle out" was conducted to celebrate his life after he died.</p> <p>Further, some years ago I proposed using the northern rock at Palm Beach as a place to erect a plaque to recognise the amazing array of creative people from the northern peninsula who have been inspired by and/or lived in the area, a place where they created some of their finest works. In round numbers there are over 50 such people drawn from fields as diverse as fashion design, film, art, music, architecture and writing. Among them are luminaries such as Joern Utzon, Bryan Brown, Peter Weir, Trent Nathan, Dorothea Mackellar, Thomas Kenneally and many others. Kylie Walsh, Executive Manager Arts & Culture has been given a briefing paper on this proposal and offered her support for it. Why use this valuable space to recognise just one famous sporting hero, when there are 50 cultural heroes that can be recognised? And for the most part, the general public would be totally unaware of how significant the northern beaches has been in influencing and providing a home for cultural greats.</p>
68614	<p>I agree that Midget Farrelly should be recognised at Palm Beach, but carving a statue into the natural environment doesn't seem the right way to do it. It's destructive, it's likely to suffer wear and tear and depending on how subtle it is it may not be noticed at all! Surely a sculpture / statue / etc next to Black Rock would be a more appropriate memorial?</p> <p>It also sets a precedent that this is an appropriate type of memorial all along the Northern Beaches which becomes concerning.</p>
68612	<p>I strongly recommend that the council fully support the Midget Farrelly project and the carving on Black Rock at Palm Beach.</p> <p>I have been an active member of the Sue's club since the late 1970's and experienced the positive impact he had on the beach.</p> <p>Midget was a Australian surfing and palm Beach and Australian community leader and this is a highly appropriate recognition.</p>
68611	<p>I support the recognition of Midget and his contribution to the community. This should be recognised in some form.</p> <p>I do not support the defacing of the natural landscape by carving into black rock. As a reflection of what he added to the community, his memory should not take away from the natural environment. This would set an example to the community that it is "okay to mark the natural landscape" and to carve away an iconic landmark on the palm beach waterfront.</p> <p>Palm beach is a space for all, and each landmark has different significance to those who frequent the area. natural landmarks should not be signified to others as dedicated to one particular person.</p> <p>The rationale for carving into a rock as opposed to erecting a statue because "kids would climb on it" does not mitigate the fact that damage could still occur. Black rock could attract further attention to vandals who pose a risk of further defacing black rock (eg spray paint). This would be a tragedy to damage the natural beauty and ambience of the palm beach walk.</p>
68609	<p>I fully support the idea of dedicating an artwork for midget at palm beach, however I do not support the vandalism and defacing of a natural landmark ie carving into black rock. A statue or</p>

Number	Submission
	alike would be much more tasteful and would add to area rather than taking away something we can never put back.
68607	<p>I do not support the relief carving in the rock at Palm Beach.</p> <p>Midget Farrelly was a local legend and is certainly worthy of recognition. Defacing the local environment forever is not a suitable piece of recognition for Midget's contribution to the community.</p> <p>I understand that an earlier version of this proposal was for a statue or similar near the pavilion at Palm Beach. I support something along those lines that does not permanently impact the physical local environment, but rather is a piece of art. Better yet, if the art or statue were donated by members of the public who were strongly in favour of recognition.</p> <p>I am a volunteer surf life saver at Palm Beach and a servant of the local community. I am familiar with Midget's contribution to the community. A permanent relief carving in the rock is not appropriate recognition.</p>
68603	<p>Just a fabulous way to recognise a wonderful Australian and equally a wonderful local identity. I am very pleased to wholeheartedly support this initiative and hope it is installed at the earliest.</p> <p>My thanks to all involved in making the memorial happen.</p>
68602	I have no objection to a memorial to Midget Farrelly but it should not involve disfigurement of existing rock formations. A plaque on the dressing sheds would be more appropriate
68601	I do not support the carving of rock face for sculptural likenesses of well known people, or for any reason in fact. By all means make some other type of commemoration of Midget Farrelly's achievements but please do not alter our beautiful environment. Many will not know who Midget Farrelly, others will not approve of the artwork for various reasons. Save the controversy and keep the geological features of our coastline intact and let's not set a precedent for who knows what else might be proposed.
68600	I support the proposal. Rocks have been used as a "canvas" for art for thousands of years. It looks reasonably subtle and will weather into the rock. I think this artwork will actually "respect" the rock/boulder and value it unlike many of the rocks/boulders which have been destroyed during recent massive excavations to make way for new dwellings.
68599	Please recognise Mr Farrelly otherwise than by damaging a rock face forever. There are numerous other ways to honour the achievements of Mr Farrelly. Once a natural rock face has been etched, it is impossible to restore its original geological features. Rocks and cliffs are part of our environmental heritage and should remained untouched whenever possible for anyone to admire as they are.
68598	<p>I have no objection to the creation of a memorial to Midge Farrelly. However, I strongly object to the proposal to carve this memorial onto a rock face. Rock faces are part of the natural environment and it is not appropriate to deface them in this way.</p> <p>I suggest that a mural could be painted on the wall of the surf club, as this would incorporate the beauty of the ocean as well as Midge Farrelly.</p>
68597	I object to the public art Midget Farrelly recognition. There are many other ways to recognise our well known locals including Midget, other then defacing the natural rock beauty. Along the walkway there could be brass plaques enabling more then one person contributions to Pittwater be acknowledged.
68593	<p>Midget was certainly an extraordinary surfer, community member and worthy of Council's consideration for some form of recognition.</p> <p>However, I have serious concerns about the proposed relief carving.</p> <p>More detailed work would need to be done in preparation for community consultation for an art work of this scale. I also have concerns about changing a natural icon of Palm Beach.</p>

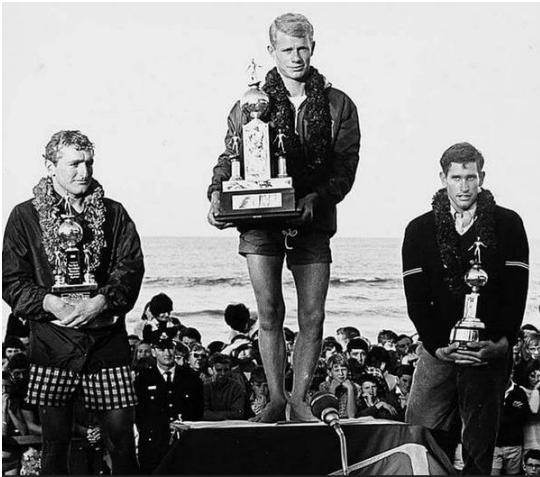
Number	Submission
68592	I can not believe that man as humble as Midget would ever want anything carved into the iconic landmark known as "Black Rock" let alone a carving of himself. This is a terrible idea and does not reflect the hero he was and will only detract from the beauty of Black Rock
68591	I am totally against the proposal. I would love to celebrate Midgets achievements especially at Palm Beach where he spent so much of his life but defacing a beautiful iconic rock formation is not appropriate. Black Rock is part of Palm Beach. Surely we can find a better way to remember our local hero without ruining another of our beautiful Palm Beach features.
68590	A perfect gentleman, a hard working achiever, a pioneer in his field, you could'nt pick a better subject, however i'm sure he'd a little embarrassed by the fuss!
68576	Would fully support this unique art project. A wonderful idea!!
68575	I absolutely support the Midget Farrelly tribute project. I am a Life Member and Past President of Whale Beach SLSC Inc. Midget lived in the same street, Morella Road Whale beach in the 1960's and I knew him and occasionally surfed with him. He was a member of Whale beach SLSC, our Boat Captain and a member of an senior members patrol for many years during which he was a one of the patrols designated board rescue member. And a good friend. The club has named a surf boat Midget Farrelly in respect when he was training and competing crews.
68566	I like the idea but would like to see an image of what is being etched on to the rock.
68565	I strongly support this wonderful initiative and congratulate the council for proposing it. I had the pleasure of knowing Midget well for many years including doing time together on patrol at Whale Beach SLSC. In addition to his stellar athletic career, Midget was a thoughtful, generous and kind contributor to his community and a role model and mentor to many young people. He richly deserves this most appropriate and lasting honour.
68470	I feel strongly that the rock face at Palm Beach should be left in its natural state. This piece of work in particular has no place in a suburb where there is continual environmental vandalism masquerading as development. Idolising individuals in this way is a outdated practice that has an insidiously - and largely unrecognised - undermining effect on community.
68457	I am a Palm Beach resident and object to the proposal of carving any kind of petroglyph into the beachside rock as identified and proposed by the Midget Farrelly recognition group. Make a new sculpture by all means but do not deface this natural rock that is interesting for its weathered patterns, colours, shapes and forms that nature has created.
68448	This is a great initiative by a local group interested in the history of surfing at Palm Beach and on the world stage. As a resident of Palm Beach since 1955 I can't think of any better ambassador for surfing and the surf industry.
68445	I am happy to acknowledge Midget Farrelly but not by a relief sculpture on the rock in Ocean Road, Palm Beach.
68443	I think it's a beautiful idea. It's important to celebrate the lives of people who have been an important part of the community.
68421	This submission has been prepared by Barrenjoey Alliance for Arts and Culture established in 2017 as a project of the Avalon Preservation Association. We note the proposal by the Midget Farrelly Recognition Committee to commission a sandstone relief artwork on the western face of the northern rock/boulder on Beach Road at Palm Beach. We support the concept of celebrating Midget Farrelly's life and contribution to

Number	Submission
	<p>Australian surfing heritage, and endorse the capacity that this Project demonstrates for Council and community partnerships and collaboration.</p> <p>We note that Council and the Committee have provided very little detail on the Project and therefore BAAC has based our submission on this limited documentation. We suggest that once more information is developed that a further consultation period is provided to include for example concept designs, concept interpretive detail, indicative location, artist's name etc. Based on the above, BAAC does not support the current proposal for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not meet the Coastal Walkway Public Art Plan which recommends a number of Artistic Approaches including - artistic excellence, empathy to specific sites or diversity in function and form. The sandstone relief concept does not seem to meet these recommendations. • Detracts from, rather than enhances, a widely recognised and valued natural stone feature of the Palm Beach landscape. • Provides nil detail in relation to possible First Nations cultural heritage linked to the site. • Does not acknowledge Midget's regular surfing habitats which were specifically linked to Kiddies Corner or the surf nearer to the Surf Club. He did not regularly surf near to the nominated boulder/rock features. <p>In order to progress this Project we recommend that a stand-alone stone sculpture similar to the granite sculpture of the knitting girl on the promenade at Collaroy Beach or a metal cut out such as the Chifley sculpture in Chifley Square in the CBD. We suggest that a location along the beach to the south is considered and that if the Project progresses that more detail is provided in a follow-up consultation period.</p>
68370	<p>I do not agree with this proposal. Why desecrate a natural rock? That rock has weathered thousands of years. No one has the right to carve into it.</p> <p>Why not create statue in honour of Midget Farrelly?</p>
68271	<p>I knew Midget and am in favour of some memorial, but NOT a defacing of Black Rock, which is what appears to be proposed. I think that is quite inappropriate. Black Rock is special and should be left in its natural form. Any memorial should be separate and free-standing.</p>
68268	<p>I support a commemoration of Midget Farrelly's residence in Palm Beach, but I oppose defacing an iconic natural feature of the landscape to do it. I have two alternative suggested motifs apart from the traditional - and probably hideous and expensive - bronze statue. One is a life size metal silhouette similar to that of Ben Chifley in Chifley Square in Sydney CBD. The other is a block of freestanding sandstone inscribed with Midget's likeness, but not a natural landmark.]</p>
68113	<p>I strongly support!</p>
68003	<p>I think Midget deserves to be recognised.</p> <p>He was a champion surfer and a champion bloke.</p>
67958	<p>Intervening in the landscape for an indefinite period of time is an inappropriate form of recognition and should be rejected. Far better to have a statue, or a plaque or a named area. Additionally there is no mention of First Nations consultation, an oversight in this day and age. Further much depends on the quality of the sculpture. If it is simply pedestrian, or kitsch, as the idea already tends, residents will have a long time to regret the mistake. Midget was a singular and memorable individual of the area, but so are there others equally deserving in different ways. Let's remember Midget, but not with this proposal.</p>
67842	<p>I support the rock carving in honour of Midget Farrelly. He was a gentleman and a local icon. It would be appropriate to also have one at Manly if a suitable location is available.</p>
67840	<p>What a wonderful gesture honouring this great Australian</p>

Number	Submission
67836	I attended Manly Primary School at the time "Midge" was also there. I often saw him on Manly beach with the Toothpick hollow boards in vogue in the '50s. He was a popular guy at school and well remembered by many, and deserves to have this recognition.
67835	As a life long resident, I strongly support this unique recognition of Midget Farrelly. A true legend of surfing locally and internationally, quiet and humble achiever, local advocate and thorough gentleman. Always took time to engage others and pass on surfing tips to those learning - as he did to me in my teens. Supported!
67832	This is a great idea - absolutely love it
67770	As a long time resident of Palm Beach I totally support this great idea. A wonderful initiative to commemorate this Aussie ikon. Miss seeing him on the beach.
67573	I am not in favour of defacing a natural icon such as black rock. Whilst Midget was a great surfer, there are many people in the local area who have achieved far greater services to mankind and do not have visual recognition in our beautiful and natural area.
67560	I do not think it is appropriate that such a memorial/art work/relief sculpture is appropriate if it is proposed to be on one of what is known as the 'Black rocks' on Palm Beach. My reason for this is that such a relief sculpture could be seen to be offensive to Indigenous people of the area. I am aware that there are/were rock engravings (now partially eroded) on the rock platform at the south end of Palm Beach. There may very well be some reason that Indigenous people did not engrave the Black rocks. has the Council made enquiries to the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council as to whether this is culturally insensitive or even offensive to them? Such an engraving will probably also encourage others to vandalism the rocks or make more engravings. I'm sure an alternative location for a memorial, e.g. a stature could easily be made. Also I understand that while Midget Farrelly lived in Palm Beach he mainly surfed elsewhere.
67559	The Avalon Preservation Association approves in principal of a commemoration of Midget Farrelly's residence in and association with Palm Beach. He was a world champion professional surfboard rider and surfed regularly at Palm Beach until his death in 2016. The original concept was for a freestanding sculpture to be placed on the grass verge opposite the 2108 Espresso café on Ocean Road. However, the concept presented on the Council's website is completely different and unexpected. It calls for the memorial to be "a rock cut relief located on the western face of the northern rock on Barrenjoey Road at Palm Beach". Avalon Preservation Association cannot approve of such a defacement of a significant natural feature. If the project returns to its original concept APA will reconsider its position, but we stand opposed to the concept of defacing a rock face.
67558	Carving an image into natural rock at Palm Beach is not an appropriate way to recognise the achievements of Midget Farrelly. Rocks are part of our natural heritage and need to be respected as such. They have their own beauty which would be ruined by this work. Allowing this carving to go ahead would also establish a precedent for more carvings on rocks. We need to value our natural surroundings and not deface them.
67551	I was horrified to learn of the proposal to deface the "Black Rock" on Barrenjoey Road at Palm Beach. Whilst I recognise the outstanding achievements of Midget Farrelly I do not regard the

Number	Submission
	installation of a relief sculpture into a rock formed by nature which has become a landmark as an appropriate method to record his contribution to surfing.
67543	I support the proposed Midget Farrelly recognition plaque at Palm Beach.
67538	I am opposed to the installation of a relief sculpture, carved into the northern rock (or any rock) at Palm Beach. I believe the natural beauty of Palm Beach needs to be preserved at all costs and do not support the rocks being permanently altered/engraved/cut into in any way, even for a commemorative purpose. This would set a dangerous precedent and potentially encourage unauthorised commemorations/graffiti on our rock faces. The rocks should be left in their unadulterated splendour.
67534	It would be vandalism. Don't do it!
67533	I strongly object to the idea of carving an artwork into the Palm Beach cliff face. This is sheer vandalism. An artwork carved into the cliff would set a terrible precedent, which would put all of our iconic headlands at risk. I cannot believe that Council is supporting this idea. It shows they are not fit to protect the beautiful natural environment of Pittwater.
67531	I do not support this proposal for these reasons: 1. Defacing natural elements is contrary to the values and principles of environmental stewardship. Palm Beach is renowned for it's natural beauty; to further erode it's natural capital is to erode the environmental and indigenous heritage which we are bound to honour and preserve. 2. Approval would set an untenable precedent for future applications to deface natural elements. 3. It's debatable that Midget Farrelly's contribution to society was significant enough to warrant a permanent memorial of any such impact as the one proposed.
67514	I would like to support the proposal as outlined
67508	As a local business owner and resident, I think the Midget Farrelly artwork proposed at Palm Beach is a fitting tribute to a world champion surfer and a long time resident of Palm Beach. I think the style that it will be rendered in is iconic, tasteful and appropriate. I look forward to it coming to fruition, and seeing it as a journey up and down the beaches looking for surf.
67504	I object strongly to any carving into natural rockfaces. Sandstone cliffs and rock outcrops are a wonderful natural feature of our area and they need to be respected as our geoheritage and preserved in their natural form. In the 1970s or 80s there was a local man who carved Aboriginal heads and native animals into various beach headlands like Freshwater and Curl Curl. At the time I heard he was a Council worker and even at the time, I was shocked that no one stopped him. 50 years later, I imagine that people would not approve of the Aboriginal head engravings. They look crass, dated and inappropriate. But there they are and will be for a long time to come. We all know how controversial statues have become. This proposal is actually for a sculpted figure, a statue using the rockface as both the material and the location. IF there was to be a memorial stature for Midget Farrelly – or anyone else – it needs to be freestanding and not compromise the natural heritage of Palm Beach. While Midget Farrelly obviously has some good friends, it is a big jump to say that he deserves a permanent memorial in one of the world's most beautiful landscapes. I would have thought that such an extraordinary honour would only be bestowed upon someone who had contributed in some really lasting, selfless and beneficial way to the broader community or planet. Reading the summary of reasons why Midget deserves a permanent memorial, I do not find any such remarkable service or exceptional achievement. He was a great surfer, loved surfing at Palm Beach for 54 years, was a member of the Surf Club and worked making surfboards. LUCKY Midget! What a fortunate life!

Number	Submission
	<p>The first governor of NSW, Arthur Phillip, is honoured in the naming of the Palm Beach park and his head is engraved on the stone entrance to the park, along with the park's name. Even Governor Phillip does not get a full figure like that proposed for Midget Farrelly.</p> <p>If this proposal was approved, to me it would be a desecration of the natural rockface. What approval processes would it be subject to?</p> <p>It would also set a precedent for many other requests. If Midget deserves such a memorial, so do many, many other people.</p>
67494	I am in support of this proposal. I was a good friend of Midget and feel this is a fitting and poetic way to remember a great person. I particularly like the idea of the sculpture being in this are where I saw Midget regularly and the way I expect it will weather subtly over time, marking his presence and importance as a local legend.
67458	<p>I believe that this is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge a local pioneer in an activity which is now a global phenomenon of massive proportions. I did not know Midget personally but as a surfer of the same age I regularly saw him around the Northern Beaches and was always impressed by his demeanour and humility not to mention his skills as a surfer.</p> <p>A fabulous idea.</p>
67456	I wholeheartedly support this proposal, Midget was an icon in the area and this artwork will provide a great memory of him as well as the bonus of having a unique piece of public art.
67449	In recognition of Midget Farrelly's achievements, I support the proposed rock sculpture at Palm Beach.
67447	I fully support this initiative, both its intent to honour a local icon and also the form - a sculpture on the rock at Palm Beach. A very fitting tribute to a sporting legend and a man who gave so much to the palm beach community.
67445	This is a wonderful proposal, remembering an Australian legend in a unique way that will allow us all to celebrate his life and contribution.
67443	A wonderful idea to celebrate a true local hero.
67439	Great initiative to honour arguably the most important figure in all things surf related on the Northern Beaches. That is surfing surf lifesaving and surfboard making who else has done all that at the highest local and international level.
67433	What a great idea to recognise such an Australian. The first male World Surfing Champion at his home beach where he was a regular surfer. A relief "living art" sculpture on "Black Rock" would be a fitting recognition and add to the fabric and atmosphere of the beach.
67431	I think this proposal is a wonderful idea supporting a true legend in surfing. I couldn't think of a better place to remember him.
67429	I wholeheartedly support this proposal.
67425	<p>I am very pleased that Midget will be recognised by our local community in this way. He is a national treasure and his influence on surfing and the surfing industry globally should be celebrated.</p> <p>For me it was his presence in the ocean that will stay with me. On the biggest days at Palmly or Avalon he would always find spot away from the pack and catch the biggest waves. It was also mesmerising to watch him effortlessly manoeuvre a surf boat or paddle board and he will always be the Bradman of watermen to me.</p>
67424	This will be a great addition to an already popular tourist / surf culture destination
67384	<p>I support the proposal. I was a member of Warriewood S.L.S.C. for over a decade in the 1950s and early 60s. Midget often surfed there in the big Southerlies which round Turrimetta Headland. He would have been in his teens at the time. I now live New Zealand and have done for years. Hopefully, the vandals won't deface what is a great idea. Another Pioneer was Dave Jackman who was the first surfer to ride the massive Bombora off Freshwater and Queenscliffe</p>

Number	Submission
	beaches. His feat was reported in most of the national media and in magazines around the world. Dave was a member of Freshwater SLSC for many years. Like me, he married a Kiwi and eventually lived in NZ where he was an outstanding SLSC member until in his 70s.
67382	<p>It would be more than a fitting tribute to our first world champion and a fitting memorial not only for Beverlie his wife and family and an inspiration to generations of Surfers all around the world. There are so many FB Groups around the World who have looked up to the man who put Australia and Manly to Palm Beach after his World Title Win.</p> 
67375	Carved into the rock? No. Pure vandalism. Council stoneworkers vandalised plenty of rocks around from the pool in the mid-Seventies with faux aboriginal heads and fish. Don't let it happen again. Make it a free-standing sculpture.
67362	<p>I acknowledge that Midget Farrelly may have been an outstanding surfer but his prowess in that department I believe doesn't warrant such a prominent position at the entrance to Palm Beach where it will be seen by everyone visiting the area. It is also on a rock face that has its own beauty and integrity as it is, can't we leave nature alone for once. A sculpture in the courtyard in front of the retail shops further south would be in my opinion more appropriate. We all have our preferences as to who we define as a hero. Many people in the community would choose someone else. Why should one group claim such a prominent and public position. The obsession with sporting excellence ignores the many historical and cultural figures that have shaped this area and indeed the country, for instance Dorothy Mackellar the great poet who lived in the area has no recognition nor the aboriginal inhabitants that have been whitewashed out of our history. With all due respect to Mr Farrelly and his accomplishments I am against the proposal.</p>
67361	I support the proposed memorial to Midget Farrelly. He was a ground breaker, and a good human being.
67360	<p>I feel it's not the appropriate place. To carve into a rock that many have seen and recorded a photo of would be detrimental to Midget's memory. It would cast some negativity particularly if the completed work isn't liked. I don't think it's the best option.</p> <p>I'd like to see 'Midget' representing the area more broadly. He deserves to be celebrated loudly, after all he was a champion of the world, a pioneer of surfing. Soon after his victories surfing dramatically changed in image with the 60's and 70's. A time where Midget started devoting his time to the local community.</p> <p>I was under the impression that there was funding available in the Avalon chamber of commerce (or similar) to put in place a statue of Midget farrelly at the 'Kamikaze roundabout' at Bilgola.</p> <p>I think this would be appreciated by almost all of the local community.</p>

Number	Submission
67357	This is a great idea and as a surfer and climber of the local area I admire midget. However, this rock is an iconic draw card for climbers of the area and from afar. In that community defacing natural rock is upsetting. I would alternatively recommend a seperate sculpture or token being created and installed as a seperate piece. We really don't know the full significance of these rocks so carving into it would be a shame.
67356	I think this is a fantastic idea but in my opinion instead of the western face he should be on the eastern side so he can watch the waves.
67354	Despite his passing he remains an icon. He deserved recognition. My concern about the black rock proposal is that it is out of the way. I like the proposal put forward some time ago of a sculpture opposite 1080 Cafe on the grass verge .
67353	I fully support this Initiative !!! Midget is still my Hero !!
67352	I support this project
67351	Sounds great - a long overdue recognition of the first ever World Champion and a gentle man who did much for many without seeking any praise or return for decades.
67342	In support of this idea

Emailed submissions:

1	<p>Dear Sir,</p> <p>Midget Farrelly was a friend. We were both members of the PBSLSC and both rowed (although I was before Midget was involved).</p> <p>He made my surf boards & I still have the last one he made for me.</p> <p>I certainly support some form of recognition for Midget at Palm Beach but wonder if there is some other way than carving his relief into the western face of Black Rock.</p> <p>The photos of his beautiful, classic left hand turn on a wave could be used as the outline of some kind of statue carved in stone & placed near the seating just south of Black Rock.</p> <p>Please don't use Black Rock.</p>
2	What a great idea! I'm 100% for recognising Midget and it sounds like it will be very tasteful as well. I hope this project goes ahead.
3	I'm a big yes to recognition to this achievement and acknowledging the first world champion surfer, Midget, from Palm Beach.
4	I am against this. Why desecrate a rock? By all means ask a local sculptor to create a statue in commemoration of his achievements. No, no, no to remember co art from me.
5	I support the carving commemorating Midget Farrelly at Palm Beach's Black Rock.
6	Thank you for your letter regarding the Public Art Midget Farrelly Recognition. What a wonderful idea to commemorate this wonderful Australian.
7	This is a great initiative by a local representative group interested in the history of Palm Beach. Growing up in Palm Beach from 1955 I can't think of a resident that has achieved so much in any other sport.
8	Have a growing up in Palm Beach since the mid 1950s and a member of the Palm Beach Surf Lifesaving Club for over 50 years I have enjoyed watching the development of surfing on the beach over that period, and particularly the emergence of Midget Farrelly as a champion of surfing and later a loyal member of PBSLSC where he was a sweep in the surf boat, over many years until his death.

	<p>The proposition to create an artwork carved into the iconic Black Rock of the beach is a gross disfigurement one of the last remaining natural elements of the beach scape . Black Rock is a landmark from the sea for all those who have enjoyed surfing at the beach and also forms an entrance on the roadway, which marks the symbolic entry to the beach precinct.</p> <p>Midget Farrelly was a modest and self-effacing individual who found pleasure in the natural beauty of Palm Beach. As such, I find it hard to believe that he would be comfortable with a carving onto one of the last natural features , so emblematic of Palm Beach , no matter how well-intentioned.</p> <p>As the modest individual Midget Farrelly was we should be seeking to record his contribution to our community and surfing, which is more commensurate with the individual and one more likely to accord with the individual he was.</p>
9	<p>I object to memorialising Midget Farrelly in this location and in this way. This rock is a part of our natural landscape and should not be defaced. An undesirable precedence could be established if this was permitted.</p> <p>Those who want to create a rock sculpture could do so by finding a sandstone slab or rock, install it near a surf club and use that for the sculpture.</p> <p>Those who wish to do this should pay for it themselves. The Council should not fund this.</p>
10	<p>It is not unreasonable to expect that the public arts policy of any local government area should pass the Hippocratic test of balance first do no harm. This is especially so with that of the Northern Beaches Council. It's LEP's and DCP's, consistent with the publically expressed views of its elected councillors and staff and indeed most residents, emphatically support the concept that our natural environment should be preserved for current and future generations. Natural environment means what it says. It should remain natural, unadorned, undecorated, and not to be missed with. Upon the sand, leave only footprints.</p> <p>That the important contribution of Midget Farrelly AM to the Northern Beaches and the lives of so many young Australians of his generation should be recognised is unarguable. As the graceful talent on any surf craft, as the forerunner of successes of Australia surfers in formal competitions over the last 70 years, and more importantly, as a man who so courageously stood against the drug culture that once pervaded surfing and destroyed the lives of so many, he has no equal.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the commendable initiative of the Committee to recognise Midget's contribution, to engrave his image set in a sporting context into a piece of the natural environment so iconic to the foreshore of Palm Beach is in my view wholly inappropriate. It is so contrary to the values I have long understood to have been dearly held by Midget himself, that surely it should be abandon forthwith. Black Rock at Palm Beach is an iconic piece of the natural environment and should be preserved as such, not decorated as a commemoration by carving an individual's image thereon. Just because it can be done, does not mean it should be.</p> <p>Perhaps the vision of the Commemorative Committee can be delivered more appropriately via a blank piece of sandstone, quarried elsewhere and erected where such image cannot be said to interposed upon the natural environment.</p> <p>This alternative will do no harm, establish no difficult precedent, and deliver a commendable initiative that would not disturb the regard that this wonderful Australian had for any natural beachside environment, and that of his home, Palm Beach.</p>
11	<p>Pittwater Natural Heritage Association is opposed to the proposal to create a permanent rock-cut relief on a sandstone rock at Palm Beach.</p> <p>Geological features such as rocks and cliffs are part of our environmental heritage. The</p>

	<p>sandstone rocks and cliffs around Palm Beach are in the Ku-ring gai Geo-region, which includes significant geological environments of the Triassic sandstone landscapes of the Sydney Basin. They constitute an important part of the character of our local suburbs, including Palm Beach, and should be preserved and appreciated in their natural state. Further, we believe that should this proposal go ahead it is likely to set an unwanted precedent. For example, at some time in the future there may be a proposal to honour other prominent sports persons in this way, on this rock or others in the area. Or there could be a proposal to carve a relief sculpture into a local cliff face. Once the genie is out of the bottle it is impossible to put it back in.</p> <p>Pittwater Natural Heritage Association has no objection to honouring Midget Farrelly, but we feel that the proponents of this proposal must find a better way, a way that doesn't damage the rock-face.</p>
12	I support both the recognition and the relief sculpture on Black Rock for Midget Farrelly.
13	<p>I have lived in Palm Beach for over 50 years. The two rocks at Palm Beach have been here for thousands of years and I am sure plan to be here for another thousand years.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the great achievements of Midget Farrelly, I believe to carve into these rocks to recognise the achievements of a man who lived here for a short period of time compared to the age of the rocks themselves is undesirable.</p> <p>We must recognise great achievements. Midget should be recognised but not by defacing these beautiful aged thousand year old rocks.</p> <p>Think of something else.</p> <p>Johnny Carter has had the pool named after him. My children and grandchildren benefited by this man's swimming lessons and I am pleased we will not forget him.</p> <p>Come on guys. You can do better than this. Don't ruin these magnificent thousand year old rocks.</p> <p>Don't forget Midget. Statue, plaque, park, seats, rename part of the beach. Do something else.</p>

Document administration	
Version	1.0
Date	25 August 2023
Approval	Content provided and approved by Community Arts and Culture Team. Responsible manager: Josephine Bennett
Status	Draft
Related Projects	Coast Walk Public Art
Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.