

7.1. MM01: Vale Terence (Terry) Byrnes

Terry Byrnes was an architect, eminent town planner and long-time North Sydney resident. He was a Fellow of both the Australian Institute of Architects and the Planning Institute of Australia. He sustained a career as a consultant in both disciplines during his professional career.

Early in his career Terry worked for the renowned architect, Minoru Yamasaki, whose work included the New York World Trade Centre. Following planning studies at Yale University, he co-founded and taught the inaugural planning course for the Department of Architecture at Hong Kong University.

In the early 1970s he joined George Smith to found Wellings Smith and Byrnes, a consultant practice in planning, architecture, and urban design that became one of Sydney's largest multi-disciplinary firms.

In 1971 North Sydney Council imposed a moratorium on all new residential flat development and appointed Terry Byrnes to undertake a review of Council's planning controls and to prepare a new plan and code. The brief included a requirement that Terry encourage public participation in the preparation of the new plan. Terry revolutionised community consultation by inviting 240 residents to assess planning issues for the development of the draft planning controls.

As a result of Terry's groundbreaking work on community participation in town planning, the Council then resolved to establish the Precinct System more formally. Initially there were 56 residential precincts and seven commercial precincts, many met in private homes, and all addressed strategic planning issues.

Since then, the Precinct System has not only been awarded and lauded but copied, both across the country and even in Japan. Today, there are precinct systems in Randwick, Waverley, and Kiama, and Manly residents still mourn the loss of their precinct system following amalgamation into Northern Beaches Council.

In more recent years, Terry has been an active and respected member of Milson (now Kirribilli) Precinct.

I therefore recommend:

- 1. THAT** Council acknowledge Terry Byrnes' contribution to North Sydney, particularly, his legacy of excellence in town planning and the vital role of community participation in planning.
- 2. THAT** Council write to Mr Byrnes' family expressing sincere condolences and gratitude for his contribution to our community.
- 3. THAT** Council commemorate Mr Byrnes' contribution by planting a tree with a commemorative plaque in a suitable location to be decided in consultation with Mr Byrnes' family.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER
MAYOR**