

ITEM 5.4 MAYORAL MINUTE - VALE PETER WOODS OAM**Attachments:** NilSubmitted by: Councillor Stephanie Di Pasqua (Deputy Mayor)

MOTIONThat Council receive and note the report.

BACKGROUND

It is with sadness that I bring to Council's attention the recent passing of Peter Woods OAM.

Peter Woods joined Concord Council in 1977 and served our community for a total of 26 years, including 10 years as Mayor, remaining with the City of Canada Bay for a term following the amalgamation of Drummoyne and Concord Councils.

His time serving our local community will be remembered fondly by many and should be celebrated today and continue to be celebrated for many years to come by this Council.

A tireless and lifelong champion for local causes and our area, Peter worked with councillors across the political divide to realise a vision for the City of Canada Bay we now enjoy.

Among his long list of achievements, Peter was perhaps most proud of his advocacy alongside his fellow councillors for foreshore access for all. This legacy is important to note as it will continue to benefit future generations.

He was a Director on the Board of Directors for the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, advocacy for which was another of his local passions.

In addition to Peter's service to our Council and community, his service to local government in NSW, Australia and indeed across the world is unparalleled.

Peter served as President of the Local Government Association of NSW for a record 12-year term until 2002 and spent 15 years as member of the National Executive of the Australian Local Government Association, including two years as Australian President. He was also a member of the Council of Australian Governments.

In these years Peter advocated on a national stage for local government causes far beyond our city limits and his influence on communities and governance did not stop at the national borders.

In 1992, Peter became Executive Vice President of the International Union of Local Authorities Asia Pacific, before serving as President in 1996–2004 in addition to his term as Vice President of the International Union of Local Authorities in the same years. Peter also spent 10 years on the Board of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum until 2004.

In this time Peter worked to celebrate participatory democracy and build better local governments and local government practise in the Asia Pacific and across the world.

Peter was involved with the sponsorship of China into the IULA as a full member in 1998 and it is thanks in part to his advocacy that we now have Taipei and Beijing, South Korea and North Korea, and India and Pakistan sitting at the same table at the IULA Asia Pacific.

As we all know, the closest form of government to the people is local government, so the scale of this global advocacy is remarkable.

Those of us here and indeed all in public life should aspire to his extraordinary service and to his lifelong dedication to his local and international community.

Peter is survived by his wife Joyce, daughter Rebecca and grandson Archie.

I ask Council to join me in a minute's silence to commemorate the passing of this significant figure in our Council's history.



Stephanie Di Pasqua

DEPUTY MAYOR