Proposal for DCC funding to erect an information board at the South African / Boer War Memorial

**SITUATION:** The Oval, 799 Princes Street, Dunedin

**INITIATORS:** The Otago Military History Group (OMHG)

About us: The OMHG formed out of an initial involvement with the NZ Remembrance Army, cleaning and restoring war veterans’ graves, and then wanting to be involved in a broader range of projects. The first, in conjunction with the RSA, was the WW1 Upper Junction Project, which now has gardens and a garden seat, a flagstaff, ceramic poppies on each soldier’s memorial, and information on each one. It now also has safer access to the site.

The OMHG is dedicated to preserving military history sites, objects, and knowledge of people with military service significant to society, in Dunedin and the Otago region. Work to date has included restoring grave sites and headstones and erecting information boards about the service person, the NEV School ‘Great war’ Memorial archway, and archeological digs. We are working towards having memorial boards at all historic sites that are significant to the city’s history. We wish for the memories to be preserved for future generations.

The OMHG has worked in conjunction with Heritage NZ, the University of Otago, Dunedin RSA, Remembrance Army NZ and various archives and military history specialists.

The DCC’s support will enable this project to be realised.

**PROPOSAL:** To erect an information board about the South African / Boer War at the Memorial site. that will benefit our citizens, as well as visitors who walk past, by providing information of NZ’s involvement in the war, the war’s significance and why we went. We hope, also, that NZ school children will become better informed on this important piece of our history.

: The board to be in the style of other DCC signs, for example, at the lower entrance to the Southern Cemetery. Picture below. It is proposed to consist of two capped 5cm (2”) steel poles supporting a board of 1200 x 900mm.

: Of note, near this site, is understood to be the barrel of a 7” German gun from WW1, which, when restored, will hopefully be installed in its original mounted position in front of the memorial. If this is the case, a proposal will be made to install an identical sized information board for it on the adjacent side of the memorial.

: The unveiling of the information board should be a publicly advertised event with an afternoon tea provided for invited guests.

: We hope, that in future years a short ceremony of remembrance will be reinstated on an appropriate date, to commemorate the war and remember the soldiers who lost their lives. The OMHG are happy to take the lead or pass it onto any other interested party.

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: We, the Otago Military History Group (OMHG), are seeking council sponsorship for this significant local project.

**WHAT’S INVOLVED? There are three options:**

1. The council is welcome to take the lead in this venture if they wish to do so utilizing previous suppliers of signs and graphics.

2. The council would take the lead with the OMHG developing the graphic for the sign and presenting it to the DCC for approval and printing.

3. The Otago Military History Group (OMHG) takes the lead under a DCC grant. The estimated costs are:

Steel poles 2.4m x 5cm square, 5mm thick – 2x $120; pole caps; powder coating $400

Board 900 x 1200mm $80

Plates to connect board to posts, screws, concrete to anchor poles – Donated N/C (Cost value $120)

Graphics $350 - $500

Printing, weatherproofing + graffiti proofing:1200x900 ($299+$60) $360

Installation – OMHG members – time donated estimated at 30 hours (collection of materials, drop off and uplift of board from printer’s, anchoring poles, erecting information board, inviting dignitaries, receiving replies, constructing the unveiling programme, etc)

Attendance – 70-100 people are estimated, if open to the public

Catering – 50-60 px @ ($15-21pp) = $700-$1200 $1000

Venue – Army Hall or venue of the council’s choice if council is arranging N/C

**A suggested list of people and groups to be invited:** Otago Military History Group members, Dunedin and Mosgiel RSAs, RNZN, RNZNVR Association, The Garrison club, 2/4 RNZIR Otago Southland Regiment, Cadet units (Navy, Army, Air Force), DCC – Mayor and councilors, local MPs, Otago Officer’s Club , Brenda Harwood from The Star,

**Total cost:**  **$2300**

**Photos:** (Below) Sample DCC sign at Southern Cemetery, Graphics for Boyes Memorial board, Boyes Memorial board installed - example of our graphic designer’s work.

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