

ITEM A

LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - JOSEPH MARCEAU - WOLLONGONG CONNECTION TO QUEBEC, CANADA

Wollongong has a fascinating historic and largely unknown connection with Quebec, Canada. Joseph Marceau was a French-Canadian revolutionary who was transported as a convict to NSW in late 1839 with 57 compatriots for their rebellion against the British Empire. In 1844, they were pardoned by Queen Victoria and permitted to return home however Marceau stayed and became farmer at West Dapto. He is buried at West Dapto Catholic Cemetery.

Joseph Marceau's quest is seen as an important part of the evolution of responsible government and parliamentary democracy in Canada and Australia. The unveiling of a plaque for Mr Marceau at West Dapto Catholic Cemetery in 2022 was attended by many of his descendants, Canadian dignitaries and Consul General of Canada in Sydney.

RECOMMENDATION

That Wollongong City Council -

- 1 Recognise the historic connection between Wollongong and Quebec, Canada through Mr Joseph Marceau, a French-Canadian patriot who is buried at West Dapto Catholic Cemetery.
- 2 Investigate opportunities to formalise and progress the connection between Wollongong, Quebec, Canada and with Mr Marceau's original home town of Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.