

ENOUGH OF URBAN ECO-TERRORISM BRUNSWICK SPARTAN WAR MEMORIAL VANDALISED



When I read the article, the only words that I could come up with were Un-Australian and shame. In the first place, I am left wondering, that if what the spokesperson from Grid Maps said was true, that "the statue was already defaced when the picture was taken". Then why in heavens name did they photograph it and not report it to the responsible authorities. Secondly, was Metlink aware that it was a War memorial? Thirdly, as Metlink is the face of public transport in Melbourne, one would expect that its employees followed the normal rules of expected behaviour.

My understanding of Metlink is that it is also responsible for accepting customer feedback when it receives it. However having said that, the public would think that it would take a responsible and sensitive approach to local matters and especially one that is of a war memorial status. It's therefore a pity that those who took the time to photograph the Australian Spartan war memorial, did not have the decency to find the time to look at the writing on the plaque and realise its true significance.

The Spartan war memorial is for all those who cherish the freedoms that we take for granted and for the life we lead today. Those who found the time to place inappropriate objects on the war memorial are in my opinion Un-Australian in the attitude, behaviour and their negative outlook on life. Consider then, what if someone defaced or ridiculed that the statue of Weary Dunlop standing in St Kilda Road, that grand old man who unselfishly looked after Australian Prisoner of War during world war 2. (For what it's worth, there were Australians of Greek heritage who were also Prisoner of War during that time.)

Furthermore, I am of the opinion that it's not only the members of the Greek or the Spartan community that are offended. The wider community in Victoria would also take a dim view of what has occurred in their back yard and don't take too kindly to acts of vandalism in any shape or form. As far as I am concerned those who are hell bent on carrying out acts of urban eco-terrorism should be dealt with the full force of the law. If anyone defaced or vandalised Weary Dunlop's statue, I and many others like myself would be the first to give them a hiding and send them packing.

I am therefore appalled by what has occurred and hope that in future such incidents do not occur again for they are not only Un-Australian but downright a slap in the face for all those who died fighting for this country and for those who loved freedom and have perished as result of it. Let's get real people and wake up for we live in Australia and not some third world country. In the mean time I would like to think that Metlink has in place a quality management program to overseas such matters. Ex Australian Army Digger. **Peter Adamis**