

NATHAN HOMESTEAD

A Submission to the Manurewa Local board on behalf of the Nathan Family

The Nathan family appreciate the opportunity to be included in the process to rebrand the Nathan Homestead.

We were most surprised however when we met your officers on the 6th of May to learn that the consultation process had gone as far as it had; i.e. to the point that a proposition was on the table that required defending.

We pointed out that as well as the gifting creating a legacy for the city which is public in its nature there is also an internal family legacy of recognition that is passed on by way of family name connection and the value expressed of generosity and sharing. These are important values and it would be hurtful to overlook these because they were and remain important to the Nathan family and our brand.

The original deed signed by our fathers on 14.11.1962 clearly states (Clause 4, page 2) that the intention was to keep the name of David Nathan and the existing homestead building in perpetuity:

*"That insomuch as the Trustees are desirous of creating an amenity for the public and particularly the citizens of the borough of Manurewa and **to perpetuate thereby the name of the late David Nathan and the existing homestead building** and sufficient of the surrounding land as shown on the plan attached hereto and marked "B" has been deemed by the parties to satisfy the purpose of providing such amenity in an adequate manner etc."*

We believe that something of immense cultural importance to Auckland and its history would be lost if the Nathan name was changed or diluted in any way, and request that the board reconsider its intentions and take the following further points into consideration:

1. The Nathan family is very proud of its Jewish heritage. While Jews continue to be a minority in the general population, the amount they have contributed to the development of Auckland is huge. In our case, the Nathan family's generosity was given with the best intention for the citizens of Auckland, with little acknowledgement sought in return. Though the expectation was low the family name as a brand and the values reflected in that brand – from family and religious standpoints – it remains important that the legacy not be diluted in any way that could detract from these principles.
2. Our family's contribution was essential in the development of the Auckland Art Gallery, the Wintergarden project in the Domain, the Auckland Observatory, War Memorial Museum, Auckland Medical School, Symphonia Hall, the Society for the Deaf, the Auckland Racing Club, the development of the Great South Road, and of course the Auckland Jewish Community. Our ancestor David Nathan arrived in Kororereka in 1840 and started the first

Jewish Congregation in Auckland, and his marriage to Rosetta Davis represented the first Jewish marriage in New Zealand.

We believe there are important principles at stake here that relate to this substantial gift to Auckland and potential future legacies that others may consider gifting to the city. On this basis we are requesting the board to reconsider its actions in a way that the Nathan name will not be diluted in any way.

3. We urge the board to consider that the David Nathan Park and The Nathan Homestead are **the only** places in Auckland that still proudly carry our name. Our feeling is that once the name is diluted, over time the name will be lost, and with it, also the contribution that this prominent Jewish family made to the development of our city.

We note that other Homesteads in the Auckland area have retained their original family names, so a precedent already exists in such places as Alberton, Highwick and others.

4. The Nathan's ancestor was recently inducted into the NZ Business Hall of Fame. You can read the story of the development of the family business in the book 'As Old As Auckland' by Lawrence Nathan. What started as a simple trading post operating out of a tent on the beach eventually became a thriving business that employed 17,000 people and was key in the development of Auckland city.

The Nathan's generously contributed to the development of the young city of Auckland in general (as outlined above) and Manurewa in particular. Members of our family still proudly live in Manurewa.

In the mid-1970s the Nathan family decided to make their farm (on the eastern side of the motorway) available as a Botanical Garden in preference to subdividing it. This was done mainly to honour the memory of their father David Nathan who had been a keen gardener. They could have made considerably more money if they had subdivided it.

Accordingly, we are asking for your support and consideration on this matter which is very sensitive to us. We request no added names in any language be linked to this Gift, but we support the bilingual signage in all other respects.

THE NATHAN FAMILY

David Nathan, Daniel Nathan, Jeremy Nathan, Joe Nathan, Julz Nathan, Laura Nathan, Lawrence Nathan, Nick Nathan, Robin Nathan, Rupert Nathan, Simone Nathan, Isaac Baruch, Wendy Baruch, Judy Gluckman, Yasmine Newland, Deborah Tovlev, Pascal Tovlev