



BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP

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WHAT NEXT !

Despite the absence of any major new development proposals the February General Meeting recognised that this situation could change overnight. It was therefore agreed that the BVRG must continue to represent the interests of residents on local planning issues and the new Committee (see below) be prepared to alert you to any proposals concerning Blackburn.

In order to maintain this role and to remain a viable organisation adequate funding is essential. Your continued support by means of your 1994 contribution would be warmly welcomed. (\$10 family, \$5 concession).

Please send your cheque now, together with your name and address, to the Hon. Treasurer at 23 Main Street, Blackburn 3130 or, if more convenient, give it to one of the other Committee members.

BVRG COMMITTEE (As at June 1994)

Malcolm Anderson (H)877 4952
Neil Barter [Chairman]
(H)878 0783, Ron Grainger
[Asst. Secretary] (H)877 3348
Colin Jacobson
[Hon. Treasurer] (H)894 2900,
Aileen Kelly (H)878 8162,
Angela Taylor [Secretary]
(H)877 4074.

GARDENIA STREET EXTREMES

(1) SALE OF FORMER SPECIAL SCHOOL SITE

Many residents will be interested to know that the successful tenderer for this site is local developer, Trevor Hoyle, who has reverted to the original subdivision of six blocks and at the time of writing advertised some for sale.

We hope that whatever housing development is proposed for this significant treed site and parkside habitat for Rosellas, Rainbow Lorikeets and possums acknowledges its special character. We would encourage local residents to remain alert to proposed applications to help ensure sensitive development and maximum tree retention.

(2) TRASH AND TREASURE

In the last Bulletin we reported our support in principle for the alternative location of the Market on South Parade Gardens, provided Gardenia Street remained open. After protracted discussion at Council and a further submission by the BVRG the Chamber withdrew their first application and a permit for the alternative site was granted.

CITY OF NUNAWADING LAND USE STRATEGY

Your Committee has been interested in the Draft now available for public comment. It encourages adoption of guidelines for future development following establishment of land use priorities. In some respects these are similar to those already nominated for central Blackburn but there are wider ramifications which need to be considered.

For example, we applaud Council's stated aim of making the local strip shopping centres more competitive but suggest this would be more easily achieved if it did not at the same time commit itself to supporting the continual expansion of Forest Hills Shopping Centre.

Residents may see a copy of the Draft Land Use Statement at the Library or obtain one from Council's Strategic Planning Department (Katrina Terjung 262 6352).

Written submissions are due by 16 June.

THE QUALITY OF LIFE

"What about the environment?..." "Well I assure you we'll make sure it's part of the environment. I mean, it's bound to be, once it's there, isn't it?"
(From 'Yes Minister' by Lynn & Jay:BBC)

It seems that the laudable aim of streamlining the planning system can only be accomplished at the expense of third parties (usually residents). In a process initiated by the previous State government and now enthusiastically embraced by their successors, the interests of uniform development are taking precedence over local needs.

This approach is epitomised by the recently proposed McDonald's Amendments which seek to allow 'as of right' establishment of Take Away Restaurants in residential areas.

We have requested Council, who have expressed concerns about the likely impact of changes on third party rights, to consult ratepayers before recommending that any classes of development be exempted from requirements for notification or provisions for objection or appeal.

However, as they point out, State Government ultimately has the capacity to introduce its planning reforms and that these will most likely diminish local control over housing and urban development matters.

If you feel such changes are likely to have a detrimental impact on your locality you should put your views to the Minister for Planning, Hon. Rob Maclellan, and your local members, at Parliament House, Melbourne, 3002.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

I would like to take this opportunity to record thanks to two recently retired members, Frank Barnes and Gordon Taylor. Frank and Gordon had been members of the BVRG Committee since it's inception in 1987, Gordon being the first Chairman.

Both worked tirelessly to ensure your interests remained paramount during a time when proposals for major shopping centre development and, more recently, an Office Zone, were being actively pursued.

Their guidance and expertise over this period ensured that the views of Blackburn resident's were taken seriously by Council.

And (although he remains on the Committee) I regret to announce the retirement of Ron Grainger as Secretary. As you will all be aware, Ron has given sterling service to the BVRG as Secretary since 1990. Without Ron's constant and efficient efforts as Secretary the BVRG would not have achieved the successes it has.

Neil Barter: Chairman

BLACKBURN SHOPPING CENTRE

Plans for landscape and streetscape changes in the local shopping centre have been completed by Council and the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society.

The first stage, now underway, includes garden improvements and changes to car, bus and taxi parking in South Parade. This will be combined with kerbing realignment both sides of the line as well as new and upgraded pedestrian crossings.

BLACKBURN'S LANES

The BVRG has suggested to Council that these be considered by the Heritage Committee as a significant element of Blackburn's history.