



BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP

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BULLETIN NO. 7

THE BVRG AND YOU

FEBRUARY 1991

The BVRG now has existed for nearly four years, since a number of concerned residents met in response to a proposal to build a major shopping complex in Blackburn - a development of such dimensions that it would permanently have transformed the character of the suburb, destroying much of its special nature.

The original proposal did not proceed because people like you so strongly opposed it, and personally encouraged the endeavours of the BVRG.

That first battle of the BVRG is over. But there is still a need for residents to remain alert to planning decisions affecting Blackburn. Residents at the public meeting on 3 October supported the BVRG's continuing role in making representations to Council on residents' behalf on major planning issues.

For the time being, the BVRG Committee intends to focus on the more interested and involved residents, such as yourself, through the medium of the Bulletin, through informal contacts, and through an annual meeting. When and if there is some dramatic departure from sound planning guidelines or restriction on the consultative process, we again would alert the wider community through general Newsletters and public meetings.

YOUR COMMITTEE

We record sincere thanks to former members of the BVRG Committee for their exhausting and sterling service over nearly four years - especially as they have volunteered to remain on "reserve", willing to be reactivated if special needs arise for monitoring developments.

The new Committee consists of:-

Malcolm Anderson (Treasurer)	877-4952
Frank Barnes	877-2634
Neil Barter	878-0783
Ron Grainger (Secretary)	877-3348
Colin Jacobson	894-2900
Ray Nichols (Chairman)	894-1269
Gordon Taylor	877-4074

UPDATE : SHOPPING AREA

The Minister has approved Amendment L9 (Nunawading Planning Scheme, Planning and Environment Act of 1987), the rezoning of the area behind the existing shops on South Parade to accommodate the more modest retail complex proposed by the developer, Fallon Winds.

Subsequently, as you probably have read in the Nunawading Gazette (13/2/91), Mr. Toni Foti has applied to the Supreme Court to wind up Fallon Winds. This action, together with the current economic downturn is likely to delay any progress towards a revitalized shopping area. However, the repeated assertion that a "small" group of residents was responsible for delays leading to the winding-up of Fallon Winds is very disappointing. The facts are: (1) the original proposal failed because an overwhelming majority of local residents opposed it as inappropriate; (2) the BVRG had no influence on the timetable governing the more appropriate subsequent proposal; (3) the BVRG actively and positively contributed to the working party which developed the subsequent proposal. Council must oversee any subsequent development and undertake agreed measures in conjunction with that development. The BVRG will watch further moves with keen interest.

STRUCTURE PLAN

The Council now is considering the draft Structure Plan. The aim of such a plan is to reduce piecemeal development. A Council sub-committee (Crs. John Smith, Joan Morgan, and Kevin Abbott, with Mayor Bruce Atkinson ex officio) has embarked on a series of meetings to consider the draft, and expects to report back to Council sometime this year. The sub-committee's meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month, at 6.00 pm; they are open to the public.

The major issue within the Plan is the proposal for a large "office precinct" (roughly half the size of Box Hill's present development) south of Whitehorse Road. There may be considerable implications for traffic and amenities; and there is considerable pressure for Council to move the proposal forward rapidly. Another, more recent proposal, is to close the existing Blackburn Library and relocate it - on the somewhat complicated grounds of saving revenue and the inadequate size of the existing Library. There are moves for community representatives, to study the Library situation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please let the BVRG know your views on the issues noted above, and on others - it will be too late to have an impact after a final Structure Plan is adopted.

Should you have special expertise, resources, or facilities to offer, please let us know.

Should you know of other involved residents who wish to be included on the BVRG Bulletin mailing list, please let us know.

We also would appreciate advice of any change of address.

We thank those of you who contributed to our funds at our public meeting. Any other contributions (\$10 family, \$5 pensioner) will be received gratefully by our Treasurer, Malcolm Anderson, 3 Railway Road, Blackburn; please attach your name and address.