



BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP

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END OF YEAR EVENTS

While not quite the end of our fifteenth year we have scheduled the AGM and Dinner so as to hopefully avoid some of the other seasonal functions in which you might be involved.

The **AGM** is the time for us to report to you on the years activities and for election of office bearers for the ensuing year. While this is an important meeting within our annual calendar it is not one likely to draw large crowds. Accordingly we have scheduled it for one half hour between two other committee activities and we ask members to arrive promptly at **7.00 p.m.** at the *Victorian Field Naturalists Hall, 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn on Thursday 7 November* so that business can conclude by 7.30p.m.

BVRG DINNER



FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER

We hope you can join us at this informal event to round off the BVRG year and take the opportunity to meet with other members in a relaxed atmosphere. Your friends and neighbours are welcome.

A guest speaker will provide the appropriate element of informed debate but the address and question time will be of the customary short duration - with provision for follow up on a one to one basis.

We have returned to the *Jumbo Restaurant* at 20 Blackburn Road where a separate area has been reserved for our use. Time **7.15** for **7.30 p.m.** There will be a standard charge of \$30 (which includes corkage).

(Following a recent trend the restaurant's fully licensed status means you have to purchase beer to consume there but the B.Y.O. bit means you can bring your own wine).

RSVP Sunday 10 November: Meg Probyn (9878 7919) or David Morrison (AH 9894 2531)

BLACKBURN LAKE SURROUNDS STUDY

As anticipated in the last issue of the *Bulletin* recommendations on this Study were approved by Council on 14 October and all owners and occupiers of land within proposed overlay areas as well as those attending the community meeting will now be advised and consulted. Following the consultation period a report on Study areas proposed for a Neighbourhood Character Overlay will be combined with that on the city wide Neighbourhood Character Study, scheduled for March 2003.

SIGNIFICANT TREE STUDY

After an extensive survey of trees on private property this major project has now reached the stage where there will be consultation with owners and occupiers of the land on which 1,540 Significant Trees (out of 3,000 nominated) are located.

REDEVELOPMENT OF FORMER CALTEX SITE

While the request for a VCAT Hearing on the previous proposal has now been withdrawn any redevelopment must await the outcome of the environmental audit, apparently still in progress.

NEW PLANNING STRATEGIES FOR MELBOURNE

The latest successor to those grand strategies for Melbourne announced by the former Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works comes in the form of the State Government's *Melbourne 2030*. To a greater or lesser extent metropolitan planning strategies affect all of us and it is in our interest to look at the proposed directions and comment on them where appropriate. Certainly there are some good ideas worth further consideration. Provision for your input is explained in documents available from Information Victoria (phone 1300 366 356) and the Department of Infrastructure - Planning, and as well as on the Department's website; www.doi.vic.gov.au

The Draft documents project one means of coping with population growth by concentration of higher density housing around what are called activity centres, more often than not close to public transport interchanges. Although Blackburn is not included in the Draft as an activity centre this concept is reflected in the Whitehorse Housing Study, where Blackburn does get a mention, as reported in the August *Bulletin*. Apparently supported in principle by both major parties the idea appears at first glance to be a practical solution, based largely on the assumption that people who live in higher density dwellings in such centres are more likely to use public transport than the private car. Unfortunately that doesn't always apply - as the BVRG demonstrated by comparing relevant census statistics for the Blackburn area in our submission on the 1997 Whitehorse Planning Scheme. To encourage such a major change in lifestyle requires a major injection of funds, not least on improved and well integrated public transport facilities, an area in which governments are often found wanting.

SUBSCRIPTION

Our thanks to all those who have responded promptly with payment of subscriptions and in some cases added a donation. For those who might have overlooked payment we enclose a reminder with the request for payment by 30 November..

NEIGHBOURS INTERESTED

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