



BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP INC.

Protecting the distinctive features of Blackburn since 1987

BULLETIN

Bulletin No. 74

September 2011

Blackburn Village Residents' Group Inc (BVRG)

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 13th October 2011 at 7.30pm

**Blackburn Lake Information Centre
Central Road, Blackburn**

Members and friends welcome.

A nomination form for Committee Members and Office Bearers is enclosed.
We encourage you to support BVRG by joining the Committee. We generally meet
bi-monthly and full support and guidance is given to all new-comers.

Items for consideration at the meeting must be submitted to the Secretary by email
(bvrq@ymail.com) or 55 Main Street, Blackburn 3130 no later than 27 September 2011.

BVRG Christmas Dinner

**Friday 9th December 2011
7pm for 7.30pm**

**Clarion Hotel
Corner Springvale and
Canterbury Roads, Forest Hill**

**\$46 per person plus drinks at bar prices
(No BYO)**

RSVP Wednesday 30th November 2011

**Email bvrq@ymail.com
or phone Allison on 0413 188 049**

Is your 2011-2012 Membership Renewal now due?

If your 2011-2012 membership is still outstanding, we have enclosed a membership renewal form for your use. We value your continuing support and would appreciate your prompt return of the completed form together with your subscription for the current year.

VCAT trial new Practice Note

VCAT has adopted a new Practice Note PNPE9 which commenced operation on Monday 11th July and will be on trial for six months before review. Comments are welcomed at any time.

This practice is a step in the right direction as it requires that a request to amend a permit application or plans must be filed with the Tribunal and served 30 days prior to a hearing. One of the considerations emphasised in the Note is that the tribunal will be less likely to substitute plans which materially increase the scale and/or intensity of a proposed development.

This may well reduce the frequency with which developers lodge ambit claims with councils but, as Save Our Suburbs (SOS) points out it would make more sense if they were required to 'stick with their initial plans. We suspect in that case there'd be a 99% chance they'd make the effort to lodge compliant plans at the outset.

Review of Planning System

The Minister for Planning established an Advisory Committee to review the planning system in Victoria and invited comments by 31 August. Your Committee has made a submission emphasising that most of the weaknesses of the system relate to planning permit applications, particularly where these relate to multi-unit development on sites having no local planning policies on scale and density and the apparent lack of concern about the effect these projects might have on infrastructure, in particular on traffic and parking.

Blackburn Library - Concept Design being considered

On 8th July Council referred option two of the above Report to the 2012/2013 budget process for funding. BVRG advised that while we were ready to support any improvement to the library which met resident needs, we were somewhat concerned that a report on the future of this facility which has so involved the local community in the past – not least to protect it against closure – had been prepared with so little opportunity for that same community to comment.

In subsequent discussions between Council officers and BVRG representatives we were assured that no redevelopment would be contemplated without first providing for adequate public scrutiny of the proposed plans.

The UDF and Industrial Strategy email June

No sooner had we mentioned in the last Bulletin that we still awaited the review of the 2009 Draft Industrial Strategy, given its important bearing on the Megamile West and Blackburn UDF, than Council decided to seek the Minister's approval for Amendment C135 which would endorse the draft Whitehorse Industrial Strategy February 2011 as a reference document and make associated changes to the Whitehorse Planning Scheme.

The Draft Strategy, which features Blackburn/MegaMile as a precinct, may be viewed on Council's website (Attachment 1 to agenda of the 27th June Council meeting). At the time of going to print, approval to exhibit the Amendment is awaited.

Disused Petrol Station

We note that the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce has again featured the lack of positive action to clear and redevelop the site of the former Caltex Service Station. This is not the first time the Chamber has sought some effective response from State and Local governments in requiring the owners to clear the contaminated area. Similarly, over the last fourteen years, the BVRG has made various representations to Council, to Members of Parliament and to Departmental officers who all seem unable to satisfactorily resolve the issue and who quickly point out that it is someone else's fault. The BVRG has also twice been involved in extensive discussions on proposals for re-development of the site – all a complete waste of time until the land is satisfactorily decontaminated. It is an appalling admission of failure by our elected representatives at both levels of government.

Amendment C133

Council has taken a further step towards promoting consistency in the requirements for set backs and heights and in encouraging developments more responsive to the general objectives for Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) areas. On 15 August they agreed to request the Minister to appoint an Independent Panel to consider the amendment and the twenty-six submissions received. All those who have made a submission will be advised in due course.

In Brief

Proposed redevelopment of 394 – 398 Middleborough Road

The hearing has been scheduled for 5th October 2011 but at the time of writing an adjournment is sought. For those wishing to keep informed, Marcus Balon (phone 0408 956 539) is the Box Hill High School Council representative.

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC)
Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation - Final Report

The VEAC website (www.veac.vic.gov.au) contains the report compiled by the Council which was based on an investigation of Crown and Public Authority land in twenty-nine municipalities in metropolitan Melbourne. BVRG made a submission to VEAC stressing the importance of not only retaining open space but also extending it in areas of increasingly populated Melbourne.

New Members

New Members are always welcomed and we ask that you pass on the enclosed New Membership Application form to your neighbours. If you require more copies or would like us to send to anyone specifically, please contact our Secretary by email at bvrg@ymail.com or leave a note at 55 Main Street, Blackburn.

Communications – bvrg@ymail.com

Blackburn Village Residents' Group (BVRG) has a NEW email address and we would appreciate you updating your address book effective immediately.

Our new address is - bvrg@ymail.com

Please do not send any emails to the old address as this is not functioning and we do not receive these emails.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email (bvrg@ymail.com) or phone us anytime.

Committee Members

President	David Morrison	Phone 9894 2531	49 Glen Ebor Avenue, Blackburn
Vice President	Ian Swann	Phone 9877 7084	15 Linum Street, Blackburn
Secretary	Allison Summers	Phone 0413 188 049	13 Orion Street, Vermont
Treasurer	Peng Lee	Phone 9878 4350	5 Patterson Street, Blackburn
Committee	Ron Grainger	Phone 9877 3348	25 Main Street, Blackburn
	Aaron Baker	Phone 9877 1773	16 Ronley Street, Blackburn
	Mike Taafe	Phone 9894 4530	16 Eustace Street, Blackburn
	Ray Summers	Phone 9878 6965	55 Main Street, Blackburn

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