



## BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP INC.

Protecting the distinctive features of Blackburn since 1987

# BULLETIN

[www.bvrg.org](http://www.bvrg.org)

**Bulletin 96**

**September 2019**

### 2019/20 Subscriptions Due.

We enclose notice for 2019/20 subscription. The annual \$5 fee is retained. We are grateful for additional donations. Life membership is available at a one-time payment of \$100

### 2019 AGM.

BVRG invites members to the 2019 AGM to be held at the Blackburn Lake Visitors Centre, Central Road, Blackburn, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7:30 PM.

Nominations for Office bearers can be made on the attached form.

### End of year Function.

**Diary Note:** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 4:30 - 7:30pm - BVRG end of year members and friends BBQ at The Blackburn Lake visitors Centre. See enclosed flyer.

Members will be aware of the ongoing relentless development pressure on Blackburn, Whitehorse and wider Melbourne. Although it has been some time since our last bulletin BVRG has been active in engaging with Whitehorse Council and State Government on planning policy that impacts Blackburn.

BVRG has continued to support members and residents in relation to key development proposals that compromise amenity or erodes vegetation protection by lodging objections, attending planning forums and VCAT hearings. Some of which are covered in this bulletin.

We have also been active in the re-constitution of the Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group Inc. (CROWAG), an umbrella organisation that brings together like minded groups from across the City of Whitehorse.

The strength of BVRG is in its strong community membership and we invite you to renew. We also encourage members to become involved on the committee and attend our AGM. On a social note, the end of year function is always well attended and an opportunity to meet with the committee and other members.

## **Not quite there yet! - Vegetation protection across Whitehorse - SLO9**

In December 2018, the Victorian Minister for Planning, the Hon Richard Wynne MP applied a 6-month extension (until 30 June 2019) for Whitehorse council's temporary citywide tree controls (via Significant Landscape Overlay No. 9). During the intervening period Council prepared and presented a case to the Minister for making the SLO9 tree controls permanent. After many individuals and organisations including BVRG wrote to the minister and MP's seeking implementation of SLO9.

The Minister in a last-minute decision on 27th June approved an extension of the interim SLO9 provisions to June 2020 and Amendment C223 for permanent controls was advertised. BVRG lodged a submission generally agreeing with the amendment with some suggested changes. 307 submissions were lodged, 38% against, 26% in favour and 22% supported with suggested changes. At its September 16th meeting Whitehorse Council voted to have a modified C223 Amendment heard by a Planning Panel. The modifications addressed some concerns raised by BVRG. The following dates have been set:

- Directions hearing – week beginning Monday 21 October 2019
- Panel hearing – week beginning Monday 25 November 2019

Landscape overlays in Blackburn provide protection from the worst development examples. The wider community should also have the benefits that landscape overlays provide. That is why BVRG has supported this amendment and will make a submission to the planning Panel. **We encourage BVRG members and residents to also lodge submissions in support of vegetation protection.**

## **North East Link Project.**

The North East Link project (NEL) connecting the Metropolitan Ring Road to the Eastern Freeway has just concluded the independent Panel hearings on the environmental effects of the project.

BVRG lodged a written submission and made a presentation to the panel. Principal concerns being:

- Increase to the already congested north/south traffic flow on Middleborough, Blackburn and Springvale Roads that will lead to rat running and congestion through residential streets,
- Loss of vegetation and public open space where an increasing population needs more space, and the need for like for like offsets in Whitehorse,
- Inadequate provision of integrated public transport and active transport (walking and cycling) into the project design.

The panel heard evidence over 9 weeks and has 30 business days till the end of October 2019 to submit a report to the Minister for Planning.

## Review of Strategic Direction - Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre

BVRG members will recall that City of Whitehorse proposed a planning amendment titled the Box Hill Master Plan - C175 Planning Amendment.

BVRG's and others made submissions to the Planning Panel hearing set up to review the C175 Amendment. BVRG raised inadequate setbacks, excessive site coverage, pedestrian amenity, inadequate sustainability provisions and the need for better active transport connectivity – walking, cycling and accessibility.

The panel handed down a critical report in October 2017 that was eventually abandoned by Council.

The Review of the strategic direction of the Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre is a consultant led attempt to develop a more acceptable vision and strategic plan for Box Hill and has engaged stakeholders as part of the process. BVRG has maintained an interest in the process providing support for the CROWAG representative on the stakeholder reference group and responding to an online survey.

We were concerned that a redeveloped bus/train interchange was not part of Council's consideration for the C175 amendment and are equally concerned that for the latest review the same 'elephant in the room' has not been addressed.

## Street Trees - Update on 2019/20 Budget.

The 2019/20 City of Whitehorse Budget shows that Council allocation to street tree replacement has remained much the same for the past 5 years. The amount allocated for 2019/20 is \$330,00.

Some streets in Blackburn have had some replacement street trees planted in 2019. However there remains many Whitehorse street trees in decline and with gaps where street trees have been removed and not replaced. Replacement and replanting of street trees are not keeping up with the loss.

To order a replacement street tree call Council on Ph9262633

<b>Whitehorse Street Tree budget</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>
<b>Funds available (\$ million)</b>	165	173	183	193	201	205
<b>ParksWide total allocation (\$ million)</b>	8.243	8.859	10.33	10.47	10.67	11.04
<b>Street Tree allocation (\$ million)</b>	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.33
<b>% of available \$ allocated to street trees</b>	0.182%	0.173%	0.164%	0.155%	0.149%	0.160%

## **Update - Shared Path Blackburn to Laburnum.**

BVRG is aware that VicRoads has prepared plans for the uncompleted section of the Ringwood to Box Hill cycle trail between Blackburn Station and Middleborough Road. We understand that the new plans will be made available for public comment in October but remain similar to those proposed in August 2017.

Proposed is a new 3m paved section running adjacent to the footpath on the western side of Main Street from South Parade to Laburnum Street with the loss of street trees, cyclists will then mix with traffic along Laburnum Street which will be marked with sharrows on the roadway and through Laburnum Park on a new section of 3m concrete paving additional to the existing path to Middleborough Road. Synchronised pedestrian lights on Laburnum Street are proposed on the north and south sides of the rail overpass.

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## **Local Planning Issues.**

### **VCAT Hearings**

Since our last Bulletin BVRG has made submissions and provided support to affected residents for 3 planning applications that have been heard by VCAT with another 3 hearings coming up:

**203 Canterbury Road, Blackburn** - Construction of 4 double storey dwellings, removal of vegetation and inadequate provision for canopy trees in SLO2. A 3-day hearing commencing 27 March. VCAT found in favour of the applicant.

**150 Central Road Nunawading** – construction of 2 dwellings within an SLO2. Applicant went to VCAT as no council decision within 60 days. VCAT rejected the application however applicant submitted new plans that Council approved with conditions that the applicant did not accept, and it went back to VCAT for half day hearing on 16 April 2019. VCAT found in favour of the applicant.

**10 Eustace Street, Blackburn** - A permit application was lodged with Council which involved the erection of a massive shed and the removal of at least 8 trees. BVRG submitted an objection to Council but before a decision was taken by Council, the matter was referred by the applicant to VCAT. A hearing was scheduled for April 24, 2018 but was aborted by the applicant over the inability to present amended plans for this hearing. Subsequently the applicant submitted amended plans to the council and these new plans were rejected by the Council. A VicSmart application for removal of a tree and construction of a front fence and carport was also lodged with Council. BVRG made a submission to VCAT on May 10 but the hearing could not be completed on this date and BVRG returned to VCAT on May 31 for the hearing to be finalised. VCAT in its decision rejected the proposal. This property is zoned NRZ and is covered by SLO2.

**124-126 Blackburn Road Blackburn** – A permit application involving the erection of 5 large high-end town houses with basement car parking and the removal of 39 of 44 trees was lodged with Council. BVRG submitted an objection with Council and Council subsequently refused the application under delegation. The applicant asked for a review of the Council decision by VCAT. A compulsory

conference was held on August 19. No resolution was reached and a 3- day VCAT hearing will be held from October 9-11. The applicant has submitted amended plans that increases setbacks and retains an additional 4 trees however the scale of the development is still unacceptable. This property is zoned NRZ and is covered by SLO2; it is a large site measuring almost 3300 square metres in area.

**1-3 Naughton Grove Blackburn** – application to Subdivide into 2 lots this SLO2 site with proposed building envelope and tree removal. The application will be heard by VCAT on 18th December 2019.

**18 Glen Ebor Avenue Blackburn** – application for 4X2 storey units, without adequate space to meet the tall tree and landscape requirements of SLO2. The application will be heard by VCAT on 20th December with 1 day allocated for the hearing.

### **Other Planning Applications**

BVRG has raised concerns about other proposals including two 3-unit developments in Laburnum Street at No 43 and 77, 214 Canterbury Road and a medical centre proposed at 201 Canterbury Road. The applicant has engaged with residents, the Tree Society and BVRG to seek an outcome that addresses community concerns. This approach is rare but when it is followed leads to better outcomes and good will for all involved.

Recent Council decisions have seen applications approved, with conditions, that in some way address community concerns. These include the place of worship at 243-247 Canterbury Road, Blackburn and a proposed 4 storey apartment development at 2 Sergeant Street (however at time of print the applicant has decided to go to refer the matter to VCAT)

## **Do you have a planning issue in your area?**

Get nearby residents active, lodge objections and encourage neighbours to join BVRG to ensure that the community retains its voice.

### **Committee Members**

President	Mike Taafe	Ph 0409 800 422	16 Eustace Street, Blackburn
Vice President	David Morrison	Ph 9894 2531	49 Glen Ebor Ave, Blackburn
Secretary	David Morrison	Ph 9894 2531	49 Glen Ebor Ave, Blackburn
Treasurer	Peng Lee	Ph 9878 4350	5 Patterson Street, Blackburn
Committee	Anne Payne	Ph 9878 1152	81 Central Road, Blackburn
	Brad Hogan	Ph 0419 131 224	3 Lillian Street, Nunawading
	Lyn Smith	Ph 8812 2282	2 Parkside Street, Blackburn
	Peter Dickson	Ph 9877 2532	37 Fuchsia Street, Blackburn



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Email: [bvrg@ymail.com](mailto:bvrg@ymail.com)

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Phone: 9894 2531

# Committee Nomination Form.

For Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

Nominator and nominee must be BVRG members.

I.....  
(Print full name)

Of.....  
(Print address and postcode)

Nominate.....  
(Print full name)

For the position of:

- |                  |                          |       |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| President        | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| Vice President   | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| Treasurer        | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| Secretary        | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| Committee Member | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |

Signature of Nominator..... Date ...../...../.....

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I.....  
(Print full name)

Of.....  
(Print address and postcode)

Accept the nomination.

Signature of Nominee..... Date ...../...../.....