

## Vale Ron Grainger - 12.8.1928 ~ 15.10.2019

Ron was one of the founding members of BVRG. In 1987 a major shopping centre proposal in the Blackburn shopping centre outraged local residents who formed BVRG to oppose it. Ron held several positions on BVRG committee over the years including a long stint as secretary. More recently he was an active committee member until resigning in 2016, when he and Kay moved to Bega, NSW to be closer to family. Kay moved into an aged care facility at Bega shortly after.

Ron had a passion for Blackburn and its special character and his achievements through BVRG have made a lasting contribution to the retention of the bushland character so valued by residents. He was the driving force behind BVRG for many years and kept developers and council planners accountable. He had a keen interest in history, and he maintained the history of BVRG activities year on year until he left Blackburn. He would typically be working on his computer at all hours of the night and early morning writing emails, researching planning laws and decisions and drafting submissions.

Ron was active in a number of other local groups including The Creeklands and Box Hill Rugby Club for which he wrote a book on its history - Going for the Line.



*BVRG First Committee 1988 - Frank Barnes, Ian Swann, Gordon Taylor (Chairman) Angela Taylor (Secretary), Ron Grainger, Maree Harrison, Malcolm Anderson, Gary Macleod, Malcolm Wright, Greig Brown (Treasurer).*

*The above photo is of BVRG Committee after receiving advice that the Planning Minister had refused the application for rezoning of a large area south of South Parade for a major retail complex. (which was never built). The proposed redevelopment was formally opposed by the BVRG on behalf of over 950 local supporters. Written objections were also lodged by 276 individual residents and local traders.*

*An extract from the first BVRG Newsletter.*

### THE BUILDING

Stock Constructions Pty. Ltd. is proposing a completely enclosed concrete edifice of two levels, covering an area nearly as large as the "K-Mart" buildings at Burwood East. The Main Street end of the complex will present a great wall 30 feet high. Between the complex and the back of the existing shops will be an alley. The main entrances will be from Blackburn Road and the underground carpark. Once inside you might be in Forest Hill, Box Hill or any other such place, where smiles are plastic and checkout queues longer than the patience of Job.

