



BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP

25 Main Street, Blackburn 3130

R. Grainger 877 3348
F. Barnes 877 2634

BULLETIN No 18

NOVEMBER 1995

+++++

INVITATION

+++++

END OF YEAR DINNER

The Committee of the BVRG cordially invites you
to join them at the
Jumbo Chinese Restaurant on

THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER

7.00 for 7.30

We have again reserved a section of the Restaurant and
a meal at a cost of \$20 a head. Alternative dishes may
be selected. The Jumbo has full and BYO liquor licences.

RSVP Friday 1 December

Neil Barter (AH) 9878 0783 or Angela Taylor (AH) 9877 4074

+++++

MEANWHILE....

The last Bulletin recorded our intention to hold an update meeting soon after mid year. We were unable to arrange that partly because of other commitments, but mainly because there was little of substance to report while Whitehorse Council was undergoing it's extensive reorganisation.

However, it's now obvious that the Administration, wishing to start with a clean slate, has deliberately opted for a short term corporate memory. By adopting this stance, in a situation where there are completely new planning

departments and staff could well impact adversely on Blackburn's special neighbourhood character.

The Dinner will provide an opportunity to expand on our concerns - and to report briefly on specific planning topics.

We look forward to sharing your company at this function - and that of any of your friends interested in preserving a special identity for Blackburn - please note the date now and contact us as soon as you are able to confirm attendance.

NUNAWADING COUNCIL REVISITED

The recent City Pride Award for Blackburn Station gardens must have been noted with mixed feelings by many, perhaps in sympathy with the Blackburn Tree Preservation Society, who believed they were treated with "mild contempt" by the former Council, which "only paid lip service to the community consultation process".

A further legacy of the last Council is the fast food chain advertisement fixed to the litter bin outside the Post Office. A decision taken against their own Officers advice.

A CITY OF LEARNING

If residents had a difficult job convincing the former Council that they cared about the local environment it's likely to be an even harder task now.

One result of Whitehorse Council's reorganisation is that all but a couple of former Nunawading Council Planning Officers have disappeared. As indicated earlier, this means that Commissioners and Staff without a real appreciation of Blackburn's heritage could well be inclined to discount it's importance when arriving at planning decisions. This appears to have already occurred in the approval of ten 'commercial units' on 26-30 Blackburn

Road and of the residential development in Glen Ebor Avenue.

Extensive changes in our 'City of Learning' mean that Council itself is on a long learning curve. As Blackburn residents we will once again have to insist on genuine community consultation and meaningful involvement in making decisions affecting our distinctive locality.

It was hoped that the Good Design Guide, which replaced Vic Code 2 on 28 August, would at least allow neighbours' views on Medium Density proposals to be given proper weight. We are not satisfied with Council's application of the Guide and we shall report further at the Dinner on this. Meanwhile, we urge you not to be reticent about recording objections you may have about proposals for nearby medium density developments.

As larger land use and development issues again emerge (eg. possible Office Zone building plans and Planning Scheme Variations) the BVRG will continue to represent your interests - but we can only do so effectively while we retain your active support and assistance.

TO THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND
THE DINNER - THE COMMITTEE
EXTENDS BEST WISHES FOR
CHRISTMAS AND 1996