



## BULLETIN NO 19

MARCH 1996



### GLEN EBOR ROAD—YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

We hope the Blackburn community, through the local press, letter drops and public meeting are becoming aware of the issues at stake around the development of the three double storey units in Glen Ebor Road. Three families, who have felt so strongly about this **unwelcome precedent and invasion of housing that is so un-characteristic of our leafy environs**, have taken the case to the **Administrative Appeals Tribunal (ATT)** at enormous cost and effort, hiring a barrister and a town planner to present their case. The hearing has had half a day and is now having an extra day to complete it on the 20<sup>th</sup> March. They are doing a great job and deserve our support in any way possible and it is most important to demonstrate the weight of community concern. **Please help by -**

1. **MAKING A DONATION**
  2. **ATTENDING THE AAT HEARING ON MARCH 20th AT 10am, 7th FLOOR, 55 KING ST. MELBOURNE 3000**
  3. **WRITING A LETTER TO THE COMMISSIONERS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OR SENDING A FAX TO THE ATT, ON 9628 9789.**
- (RING DAVID MORRISON ON 9894 2531 FOR DETAILS)

#### A MATTER OF CHOICE

Most residents have chosen to live in an area that is characterised by the dominance of single homes with some dual occupancy which enables the support of tall trees spreading their canopy over the area, giving it a cool shaded look and very importantly supporting its bird life to which we owe the reputation of being the "bell bird" area and a well sought after area in which to live. The councils lack of concern and its idea of changing the character is a blatant deprivation of choice to those living and enjoying the area. It is disappointing when the greenlight is given to the development of very large houses or large number of units that borrow the tall tree look from their neighbours. But where does it stop? You only have to look around your own street to get an idea of what sites could be adversely developed, changing its whole character and charm.

#### A BIG THANK YOU

Not only have the residents of Glen Ebor Road been busy, but also members of the BVRG. We have undertaken a survey of residents in the Glen Ebor area, to gauge the level of concern for the development. We had a very good response and Ron Grainger did a superb job in interpreting the findings which were used on the first day of the tribunal hearing as it demonstrated that Blackburn's amenity is of high priority to all residents, including new arrivals to the area. This was a real team

effort by the committee, Gary Macleod , Barbara Ross, David Dedman, Barry McLellan and Keith Dow.

Since then there has been the public meeting at the Field Naturalists Hall about Glen Ebor Road and it was good to see 50 residents turn up to hear a talks on the background to the Special Residential Zone, the importance of pressing for continued recognition of it and what is happening at the appeal. Thanks to Ray and Christine Swann, Colin Jacobson and the many Walsham Road residents who delivered the flyers.

Also, we have donated \$100 to the Glen Ebor Fund to help with their heavy costs.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

From our survey a number of people have expressed interest in the work of the BVRG. This is an ideal chance for us to increase our membership, driving home the need to maintain strong community support. **Aileen Kelly** has prepared a letter to be sent to potential members, so lets not restrict it to the Glen Ebor area by giving her a call on **9878 8162** if you know of people who would be interested in being kept informed on issues affecting Blackburn.

### **KEEPING UP WITH THE CHANGES**

Last year we were concerned that planning decisions by Whitehorse Council reflected a lack of appreciation of the special character of Blackburn due to the unfamiliarity with the area - not least because of the almost total changover of planning staff..

While unfamiliarity might well be a factor, the commissioners are also following a deliberate if unannounced policy of favouring development at the expense of residential amenity.

To help residents become informed about these staff changes and get across to Council officers our concerns issuing from policy changes, the BVRG arranged a meeting with planning officers, giving us the opportunity of meeting the large numbers of new staff. Whilst airing our concerns, we did however, get the impression that they were working in a vacuum, oblivious of all the community input over the years and that they had a marvellous vision for Blackburn which they were going to evolve. This totally ignores the work of the Statutory Department, which is the one that makes the final recommendation as to the approval or rejection of a development.

Unfortunately the Statutory Planner was not prepared to meet us. We have now approached the Commissioners inorder to discuss some of the above issues.

### **BLACKBURN ROAD COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

This has been another very good example of where residents have become uncomfortably ware of the consequences of Council's failure to insist on development guidelines resulting in an insufficient set back for screening trees and shrubs. Bev Dixon has written to Council seeking some redress. But as yet, although Landscape Plans for the buffer zone are a condition of the permit, they have not been produced by council. We await the outcome.

### **NEXT EDITION**

A lot is happening and this year is critical in terms of Blackburn's amenity. We will be conducting a survey of our membership to ascertain where our members can give us a hand.

In the meantime, we hope to keep you well informed and hope to see you at the AAT hearing.

Neil Barter  
(Chairman - Ph. 9878 0783)