



## **BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP**

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### **BULLETIN No 40**

**October 2001**

#### **BVRG DINNER**

#### **FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER**



Join us for the last event of our year. Reserving a venue for our sole use has proved popular in the past and we have done so again this year. There will be plenty of time for socialising with no long speeches. Our guest speaker will be Terry Laidler, former broadcaster and local resident and well known commentator. While his talk will be brief there will be plenty of opportunity for informal follow up later.

*The Jacaranda Tree* at 2/28 Blackburn Road is the venue, it has Liquor and BYO licences. The time is 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. There will be a choice of dishes at a standard charge of \$28. As places are limited we again can only accept bookings in order of receipt - so please ring early to avoid disappointment.

*RSVP Sunday 11 November: David Morrison (AH) 9894 2531, Ian Swann 9877 7084, Meg Probyn 9878 7919*

#### **AGM: THURSDAY 1 NOVEMBER 7.30 PM**

This meeting will again be held at the *Victorian Field Naturalists Hall*, 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn, commencing promptly at 7.30 p.m. It will help us to avoid talking too much 'shop' at the dinner and give you a chance to raise any local planning issues or matters relating to the Group. Our reports will be brief as we propose to hold a regular committee meeting directly following the AGM. Members interested in serving on the committee or assisting the Group will be particularly welcome.

#### **REDEVELOPMENT OF THE OLD CALTEX SITE**

A revised plan has been submitted which addresses some of the concerns expressed at a recent forum. The proposed variations slightly reduce the amount of parking dispensation sought but would still pose problems for users and traders. We have conveyed that view to council whose own role, both as part owner of the subject land and the authority with prime responsible for safe and equitable public access, is critical.

#### **THE PLANNING SCHEME - A BETTER VIEW**

In the last Bulletin we foreshadowed internet access to the current version of the Whitehorse Planning Scheme. That access is now available direct from the Department of Infrastructure site ([www.doi.vic.gov.au](http://www.doi.vic.gov.au)) then selecting Planning/Planning Schemes and nominating Whitehorse or through a link with council's site ([www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au)) then Services/Planning/Planning Scheme. The display includes maps and a list of the amendments made to the Scheme since its introduction in August 1999

## STUDY OF SPECIAL CHARACTER AREAS IN BLACKBURN

While council has delayed further work on certain character studies 'until the implications of ResCode are understood' this will not delay the study of those areas of Blackburn now under consideration by a Steering Committee. Their first task will be to oversee an assessment of the character of those areas surrounding the existing Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) in Blackburn, as identified in the Municipal Strategic Statement. Any ResCode implications should be well known by the time that exercise is completed.

Some members might have seen the comment in the latest Newsletter of the *Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society* which could be taken to imply that the extension of the SLO is the only consideration of the Steering Committee. While we would hope that additional SLO areas are one eventual outcome of their work it must not be forgotten that the purpose of the Study is to investigate and identify any areas included in the Study where any of the various urban character planning controls might be appropriate.

## REVIEW OF PLANNING SCHEME

One of the pillars of the new format schemes was that they be reviewed every three years and necessary amendments sought. The Whitehorse Scheme has now been in place over three years and while council is receiving quarterly reports of work being undertaken to implement the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) these contain no specific proposals for amendments of the Whitehorse Scheme. However, the Character Studies mentioned above are just a few of the ongoing projects which now have declared end dates built in to the Corporate Plan.

## A GUIDELINE BROCHURE and HERITAGE FEATURES

The long awaited brochure with guidelines for building and development in special landscape areas is now available from council centres or by ringing 9262 6333. While, as always, there is room for improvement, this is light years ahead of the sort of information which has been available to residents over the last decade. Its full title is *Guidelines for Areas of Special Significance* - which might well apply anywhere in Blackburn or to any other areas in Whitehorse which residents, architects, designers or planners regard as having special landscape qualities which should be protected or enhanced.

While details are still being worked out on the extent of any distribution we have asked our faithful distributors to leave a copy in your box when they hand deliver this *Bulletin* as it does contain useful information for anyone interested in the preservation of the canopy trees and lower level vegetation which are a special feature of so many parts of Blackburn. And having imposed that task on our distributors we added another. We thought the recently produced *Blackburn Heritage Walk* brochure would be of interest to many of you and so have included a copy. It is of course part of the jointly funded project marking the centenary of Federation in Australia.

**THANK YOU** - to those who responded to our subscription notice - and in anticipation to those who will instead respond to an enclosed reminder. We also welcome new members and extend a special thank you to those who have made a donation.

NEIGHBOURS INTERESTED ?

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