

YARRA GLEN & DISTRICT TOWNSHIP GROUP

Newsletter No 1

WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the Yarra Glen & District Township Group newsletter. This newsletter is being produced to inform the stakeholders of the Yarra Glen district of the activities of the Township Group and – hopefully – to give all interested readers the opportunity to have input into any discussions on the future of the district.

WHO IS THE TOWNSHIP GROUP?

The Yarra Glen & District Township Group was formed earlier this year as a result of a recommendation in the report produced by the Interim Township Group chaired by **Malcolm Calder**. An extremely comprehensive survey undertaken by this group highlighted the need for a representative body of committed individuals to provide a united voice on the future of Yarra Glen and its surrounding district of Dixons Creek, Steels Creek, Christmas Hills and Yering.

HOW WERE THEY CHOSEN?

Elections for the nine positions on the committee were to be held earlier this year but – as the number of nominations received equaled the number of vacancies – no elections were necessary. Each year, either four or five members of the committee will be elected. Those members who choose to stand again for another term are free to do so.

WHO ARE THEY?

Those who originally nominated for the committee represented a wide cross section of the community and included life time residents, new residents, those with commercial interests, people with rural properties and people involved in the arts, government and racing industry. Individual profiles on all members will be included in later editions of this newsletter.

NOW THERE ARE TWO LESS MEMBERS..

In the first few months of meetings the committee received letters of resignation from two of their members, Chris Lamacraft and Robert Fallon. Both members had their reasons for resigning, but the committee was disappointed to lose two members who had both contributed to early formative actions of the group. The group has resolved to not replace these members at the present time but to fill them when elections are held in March 2007.

WHAT HAS THE COMMITTEE BEEN DOING?

The committee has been involved in discussions with Shire Representatives, local residents and community groups on a wide range of topics that have come to our notice in the time we have been in operation. These include the proposed supermarket development, the Recreation Masterplan, the Local Heavy Vehicle Deviation (bypass), the Lilydale-Healesville Rail Corridor Development Options Study, further investigation of a Swimming Pool proposal, the proposed development of the Yarra Valley Racing Centre as well as a plethora of local more specific issues such as planning and building applications, planning and

building permits, toilet signage and location, street lighting, tree plantings and youth and social issues. Currently, one of our members, **Dorothy Barber** is heading a sub committee to look at community involvement in Stephanie Alexandra's Kitchen Garden Scheme.

DÉJÀ VU?

Many of the readers of this newsletter may recognize a similar style and phrase to a former newsletter, circulation of which ceased earlier this year after some disquiet was expressed over the personal views expressed in it – particularly as they related to the proposed supermarket development. Yes, I admit this publication has the same editor as the now defunct “Yarra Glen Grapevine” but it is now being written on behalf of the Yarra Glen & District Township Group and therefore will not include any editorial content that represents purely the views of the editor. In fact, it is hoped that the newsletter will be contributed to by all stakeholders in the district who have information to share with other members of the community. The editor welcomes responses from any interested parties and is looking forward to again receiving newsworthy information from the regular contributors to the former publication.

HOW CAN I HELP?

You can contribute in many simple ways that will only take a small amount of time:

1. Read this newsletter and pass it on to others that may be interested.
2. Take the time to contact the editor (email address below) with email addresses of anyone who may be interested in receiving these newsletters.
3. Make a note of the email address below and use it pass on any information, concerns or issues that you consider will be on interest to other members of the community.

Should you wish to not receive further emails from the Yarra Glen and District Township Group, please send an email to the editor and we will delete your name from the list.

TWO ITEMS HOT OFF THE PRESS

1. A news release forwarded to me on Sunday declares that the Bracks Government will support the Yarra Glen Bypass to the tune of \$9 million.
2. Council will be presented with a summary of the Supermarket proposal on the 21st November 2006. The proposal is then to be presented at the Councils public meeting on the 28th November 2006.

Stephen Shortis, editor

stephenshortis@bigpond.com.au