

YARRA GLEN & DISTRICT TOWNSHIP GROUP

Newsletter No 4

DEPARTURES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

The past few weeks have seen the departure of three members who have made a significant contribution during their long involvement in the community: **John and Jean Lowe** have been amongst the most active members of the Steels Creek community and they will be sorely missed now that they have moved to Lilydale. **Phil Kehoe**, the postmaster in Yarra Glen has sold his business and is currently residing in Healesville. We wish him well in the future and welcome the new couple who now will be able to put their own stamp on this important local business (pun intended!)

VALE MRS LUSCOMBE

Many of the long time residents will remember when the News agency was located in the group of shops just up from the Commonwealth Bank that now houses (amongst others) the florist shop and “bottom” milk bar. In those days the news agency was run by Reg and Pat Luscombe. Sadly, Pat Luscombe passed away recently.

TOWNSHIP GROUP NEWS

The Yarra Glen & District Township Group has come of age with the announcement from the Government that a \$4,000 grant has been awarded to the Group to enable them to carry out their activities. Until now the Group has been operating without any funds at all, relying entirely on the generosity of the committee. Local member Ben Hardman and Councillor Jeanette McCrae (who has been a strong supporter of the group) will be on hand to present the cheque to the committee on Monday 19th February 2007.

LIONS CLUB FOR THE TOWN?

On the same evening, there is a meeting in the Uniting Church for any locals interested in being part of the Lions Club proposed for Yarra Glen. The town has been without any service clubs since the Lions Club disbanded some time ago, so this presents an opportunity for community minded individuals to be involved in local activities.

CHINESE RESTAURANT NOW WELL ESTABLISHED

As predicted in our last newsletter, the new Chinese Restaurant in the main street has attracted a lot of patronage. In the last “Values & Visions” Survey carried out, a number of respondents nominated a Chinese Restaurant as the most needed new shop in town.

THIS WEEK’S PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was interesting to note that amongst this week’s planning applications lodged, there were two for Unit 207/1309 Melba Highway, Yarra Glen. These (by two different applicants) were for an 80 seat Restaurant plus associated car parking and “Use and development of hotel (32 units and associated function centre), associated minor tree removal and reduction in car parking spaces”. As I believe this is the current location of Balgownie, it would appear that

this may represent some tidying up of their current permits and not new construction. More details will be provided in later newsletters after some enquiries have been made of council.

A farm building in Steels Creek and a new dwelling in Pinoak Drive were the only other applications relating to the 3775 district.

HAVE I GOT THE RIGHT TOWN?...

It was amusing to read the feature on Yarra Glen in one of the recent weekly Real Estate magazines that are available from Real Estate offices throughout the eastern suburbs. According to the magazine, we have a population of 3,000, two good supermarkets and only one bank (Bendigo). I haven't been down to the Commonwealth Bank recently; did someone turn that into a supermarket when I wasn't looking?

The magazine also reported that the median house price in Yarra Glen has risen from \$270,00 in 2005 to \$325,000 in 2006 – an increase of 20.4% compared with the change between 2004 and 2005 when it fell by 13.6%

YARRA GLEN BYPASS

Many of you will be aware of the recent publicity suggesting that a significant amount of funds will be made available for road construction under phase 2 of the Auslink program as a lead up to the next Federal election. After the disappointment of the funding fiasco associated with the original Auslink funding, it would be nice to think that our politicians could all work together to secure the much needed funding to enable the long awaited by-pass of Yarra Glen to take place. Every member of the community who believes that a by-pass is essential to ensure the future well-being of Yarra Glen should make their views known to political candidates of all parties as often and as loudly as they can.

NEWS FROM YARRA GLEN RSL

Ed Bartosh, the Secretary of the Yarra Glen RSL reported that the sub-branch is working to purchase and preserve a WW1 honour board discovered in one of the local antique shops by **Eric Tetlow**. It is thought that the board was originally on display in the Associated Stock and Station Agents boardroom at the Flemington Sale Yards and the sub-branch have applied for a grant to purchase and preserve the blackwood honour board.

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