

YARRA GLEN & DISTRICT TOWNSHIP GROUP

Newsletter No 5

A HOT GRAPE GRAZING WEEKEND

The extremely hot weather on last weekend appeared to not deter too many of the hearty souls who descend on the valley for the annual grape grazing festival. Judging by the number of buses on our roads, the numbers may have reached the 25,000 visitors estimated on the ABC's 774 local radio.

THE MELBA FESTIVAL

Talking about festivals, the Melba Festival (to be held on the weekend 23-25 March) has had two extremely successful launches. The first was held in the Exhibition Buildings in Carlton (100 years after Dame Nellie Melba first performed there) and was attended by many distinguished guests including the former Governor General, Sir Zelman Cowen and his wife Lady Cowen, the present Governor of Victoria, The Director of the Melbourne Museum, The Mayor of the Shire of Yarra Ranges, State MP Ben Hardman, and Councillor Jeanette McCrae.

The "local" launch of the Festival was held at Stones Restaurant in St Hubert's Road and again the Mayor and Councillor McCrae were in attendance. At both venues a taste of the quality of the entertainment was provided with the Hamer Quartet (Exhibition Buildings) and Beth Williams (Stones) performing.

The festival will be located at four main venues: Tarrawarra Museum of Art, Yarra Grange, Domain Chandon and Stones of the Yarra Valley and bookings can be made at www.3mbsboxoffice.com.

TOWNSHIP GROUP NEWS

Local Member of Parliament Ben Hardman presented the Township Group with a grant for \$4,000 to enable the group to engage with the local community to build on the "Values and Visions" established in the survey undertaken to give all stakeholders the opportunity to have input into the future of the whole 3775 district. The committee is working hard to prepare an annual report to the community at the time of the AGM and elections scheduled for March.

LIONS CLUB FOR THE TOWN?

No feedback has been received on the success (or otherwise) of the meeting held in the Uniting Church on Monday to consider the re-establishment of a Lions Club in Yarra Glen. More information will be provided in our next newsletter.

THIS WEEK'S PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The only application that related to the Yarra Glen district this week was an application to build a farm building in Steels Creek Road, Steel's Creek.

YARRA GLEN SUPERMARKET PANEL HEARING

The Panel hearing regarding the proposed new supermarket for Yarra Glen is being held over the next four days at the **Yarra Valley Racing Centre**. It is open to the general public and if you are interested, the expert witness statements are available on http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=2779&h=1.

It is anticipated that the hearing will be finished by 1 March 2007.

SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS FROM THE GOVT:

The latest statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics makes for interesting reading:

- At the 30th June 2006, the population of the Shire of Yarra Ranges was 142,701.
- This makes it one of the biggest shires in the state: bigger even than the Mornington Peninsula (141,777)
- Two of the suburban cities around the same size are Whitehorse (145,137) and Knox (150,444)
- The median age of the population in Yarra Ranges was 36.4
- This is slightly less than the median age for all of Victoria of 36.8

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