

YARRA GLEN & DISTRICT TOWNSHIP GROUP

Newsletter No 6

THANK YOU (AGAIN)

Once again, thank you to the many readers who have responded positively to our last two newsletters. Your comments are very encouraging and it would appear that the decision to include a regular update on any permits that have been applied for has been well received by many readers. Please note that it is our aim to make this newsletter as inclusive and democratic as possible so if you have some public information that you believe should be shared by other stakeholders in our 3775 district, please email the editor who will endeavor to include the information in the next edition. That's exactly what the following contributors have done.....

THE MELBA FESTIVAL

Mike Woollands provided me with details of the activities planned for Yarra Glen during the Melba Festival to be held on the weekend of the **23rd/24th/25th March**. These include the Balloon Nightglow on the Friday night at Gulf Station, the Yesteryear breakfast and community day on the McKenzie Reserve on Saturday and the Melba Plate at the Racecourse on Sunday.

The Melba Festival Raffle will be drawn on the Sunday after the Melba Plate.

Raffle prizes include a \$5,500 hand-made acoustic guitar (courtesy of Chris Wynne of Montsalvat), \$1,770 exclusive balloon flight over the Yarra Valley and a \$650 indulgence package at a Yarra Valley spa retreat. Tickets for the Raffle can be obtained from Mike & Marjorie Woollands of Amethyst Lodge by calling 5965 2559 or e-mailing melbafestival@yahoo.com.au

For the full programme of music events and booking log on to www.3mbsboxoffice.com or phone **1300 884 654**.

ART SHOW

Christine Mullens reminded me about the forthcoming annual art show. More details next week.

OPEN GARDEN DAY

Prue Van De Linde informed me that on Saturday 10, Sunday 11 & Monday 12 March, 2007 a spectacular garden opens in the Yarra Valley through Australia's Open Garden Scheme:

Alowyn at 1210 Melba Hwy, Yarra Glen, is a large and impressive garden designed and planted on a grand scale by John Van de Linde.

Covering four acres, the young garden is divided into four separate and distinct areas. A large intricate and formal box-edged parterre of 17th century design contrasts beautifully with the natural style of a forest of about 500 silver birches.

There is also a recently-established edible garden with avenues of different kinds of semi-mature trees: quince, citrus, eating and cider apples, as well as olives that are being espaliered. The fourth of these different sections of the whole garden is comprised of six smaller more intimate spaces or rooms. Here visitors will see imaginative drought- and frost-tolerant plant combinations including sedums, salvias, penstemons and ornamental grasses.

At the heart of the garden is a huge and shady wisteria arbour of 100 metres in length which serves to both link and create a visual separation between the different and contrasting areas.

This is a truly inspired and inspirational garden of strong axial design and generous proportions planted on a grand scale and a real treat for garden lovers.

Teas will be available throughout the long weekend and plants will be on sale.

(Opening as part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme, a non-profit organisation promoting the knowledge and pleasure of gardens and gardening. Each year the Scheme opens the finest and most exciting private gardens across Australia to the garden loving public.)

Alwyn will be open between 10am & 4.30pm on Saturday 10, Sunday 11 & Monday 12 March at an entry fee of \$7.50. Children are admitted free.

MARKET AT YARRAWOOD

The next market at Yarrawood is to be held on 11th March from 9.00am.

ACTIVITY AT THE “HILTON” SITE

Although I believe the Hilton Hotel is no longer involved in the project, there is plenty of activity at the site of the proposed Conference and Accommodation Centre along the Healesville-Yarra Glen Road. A large number of machines have been working pushing and scrapping soil.

ROAD ACTIVITY ALSO

A lot of work has been happening on our roads as well: particularly the Melba Highway which has seen resurfacing up around Armstrong Grove and more safety work out at Dixons Creek.

THIS WEEK’S PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The realignment of a boundary in Tarrawarra and the construction of yet another outbuilding in Steels Creek Road, Steels Creek were the only two applications that applied to our

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