

YARRA GLEN & DISTRICT TOWNSHIP GROUP

Newsletter No 15

(Monday 7th May 2007)

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

It was really pleasing to receive so many emails requesting that we continue to “home deliver” our weekly newsletter from the Yarra Glen & District Township Group. Many of you took the opportunity to say how much you appreciate the newsletter and our efforts to produce it each week. It was interesting to note the reply patterns of the emails received. It showed that many people are able to read and respond to the newsletter within a very short time of receiving it. Others replied that evening, whilst still others replied at different times later in the week.

A SUCCESSFUL BREW

Amanda Williams has emailed me to advise me of the success our local brewer has had in recent times: **Hargreaves Hill** did really well in an international beer competition last week where they received medals in silver and bronze for porter and pale ale.

The medals represent a standard rather than a placing, so a silver is sometimes the top medal awarded so – considering many of the “big boys” competed – this was a great achievement for the local drop.

VALE JIM PLOWMAN

Many of you will remember Jim Plowman, who was a member of parliament, representing the Evelyn electorate for many years. Jim was a real local identity and served the Liberal Party with distinction. Jim died this week, and we offer his family our sympathy.

SLIGHT POPULATION GROWTH

Although I am able to confirm a slight population growth for the Shire of Yarra Ranges when you compare the 2006 figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics with the 2005 figures, I am not able to detail whether this increase took part in our district or not. Logic suggests that there are now more people living in Yarra Glen than ever before, but the figures show the population of the whole shire grew by only 33 in the year so – if this growth was evenly spread around the shire – our growth would not have been much at all. The fact is that the shire’s population actually decreased in 2004 and 2005 and – as a result – had only grown by 401 over 5 years at the end of 2006 is food for thought for all those in the shire with an eye to the future.

BELL STREET TREE PLANTING

Jane Sinnamon, from the **Shire of Yarra Ranges**, has reported that the proposed planting of trees in Bell Street is on track. Jane reported to the **Yarra Glen Chamber of Commerce** that

“the planting of an avenue of Yarra Gums from Kameel Dr along Chardonnay Views Estate frontage on the North side of the highway, and then back to the corner of Armstrong Gr on the Southern side would go ahead soon.”

“This was thought to visually unite the newer areas of the town with the main area, and balance the native plantings along the Yarra at the other end of town (like book ends). This would also then reinforce the logic of more European styled planting precinct within the core commercial area business area along Bell St.”

“This was the second highest prioritised project for the Interim Township Group and was achievable within the budget that we were considering. The Shire then commissioned Fletcher’s Nursery to propagate from local Yarra Gum stock 150 seedlings and grow them on to a height that was more likely to survive in an avenue formation along the roadside.”

“These plants are now approximately a meter over the pot in height, and we are expecting to get them in the ground once the rain has established this growing season.”

100 YEARS YOUNG

A significant event takes place later this month when a true local identity, Emma Doreen Victoria Ayres (nee Hubbard) has her 100th birthday. This grand old lady was born on 24th May 1907 (seven years before World War I) and spent her early childhood in Steel’s Creek where the family lived on Steel’s Creek Road and ran a mixed farm and orchard in Pinnacle Lane. Mrs Ayres would walk to the farm and spend the day either scything wheat and forming it into sheaves or picking fruit.

She married a local and spent her life in and around the Yarra Glen District where the family was actively involved in local affairs. A party is to be held in her honour at the Yarra Glen Hall on Saturday, 26th May between 11.00am and 2.00pm. Congratulations to this sprightly lady on this remarkable achievement.

Stephen Shortis, editor

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