

YARRA GLEN & DISTRICT TOWNSHIP GROUP

Newsletter No 16

(Monday 21st May 2007)

IT WAS THOSE #\$\$@! SEMINARS!

Ok, I admit it. Last week's newsletter never saw the light of day. It sat half completed whilst I was in Perth for a week at seminars and then lay idle whilst I prepared for my long weekend of running seminars in Yarra Glen. Sorry about that. As a result, this is newsletter #16, but it now carries the date of 21st May 2007.

NEW SUPERMARKET

By now you will all have caught up with the news that the Panel appointed to review the application for the new supermarket and specialty shops has decided in favor of the project. Their executive summary, in part, stated:

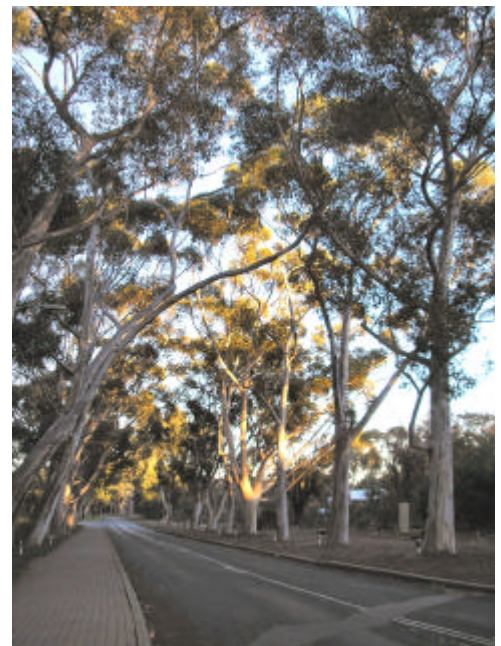
The Panel concludes that the proposal will result in a net benefit to the community of Yarra Glen. The approval of the amendment and the granting of a permit will provide a much needed development for the diverse and growing community of Yarra Glen and improve the amenity and built form of that part of the rural township. Therefore, for the reasons outlined in this report, the Panel recommends that Amendment C45 be adopted and that Planning Permit YR2006/983 be issued in accordance with the permit and amended conditions as outlined in Appendix 2 of this report.

Their report and recommendations are now forwarded to the Shire where the councilors make the final decision on the recommendations. A full copy of the panel's report is available at: http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Files/C45_Panel_Report.pdf.

BELL STREET TREE PLANTING

Further to the report in our last newsletter, (I can't say last week's!), I took the opportunity to visit Kings Park and stroll along Lovekin Drive. Named after Arthur Lovekin, the second president of the Kings Park Board and editor of the 'Daily News', this avenue of around 1300 sugar gums was planted to commemorate the

men and women who died during the first and second world wars. As some of these trees have now been planted for a period of 75 years, they provide a snapshot of what the non commercial portion of Bell Street will look like nearer the end of this century – *if no major changes occur.*



PERMITS ISSUED THIS WEEK

Due to missing one week's edition and having a "catch up", we have two weeks of permit applications to advise on:

Week 1: New dwelling, shed and associated tree removal (Hargreaves road, Steels Creek)

Re-subdivision of two existing lots (Steels Creek Road, Steels Creek)

Week 2: Use and development of a winery (Melba Hwy, Dixons Creek)

Construction of shed/farm building (Old Toolangi Road, Dixons Creek)

Liquor License (Melba Hwy, Yarra Glen)

Construction shed/carport (Melba Hwy Dixons Creek)

DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?

I wonder how many of you managed to catch the current affairs program on the ABC late last week? The program included a segment on the lovely rural town of Bright where the community has been split down the middle by a proposal to build a Coles Supermarket in town! The usual arguments were put forward by both sides of the debate, but the most ironic feature for me was that one of the current supermarket owners was Rob DeSauty, the former part owner of Robert & John's Supermarket in Healesville which was eventually made an offer that could not be refused and caused Rob to seek the serenity of the smaller rural town environment in Bright! Rob was a great source of information in the early days of our own debate regarding the supermarket proposal for Yarra Glen and it is sad to see him once again of the receiving end of a possible major business dislocation.

"THE JOLLY THING'S" GUEST EDITOR

I note with interest that this month's The Jolly Thing (Steels Creek's informative monthly newsletter will have a guest editor: **The Yarra Glen & District Township Group's** own David Allan. All articles should be submitted to him.

Now I think that's a great idea. Next year's financial planning conference is in Brisbane and it will be difficult to do this newsletter from there.....

Stephen Shortis, editor
stephenshortis@bigpond.com.au