

YARRA GLEN & DISTRICT TOWNSHIP GROUP

*Newsletter No 20
(Tuesday 26th June 2007)*

NEW COMMITTEE ELECTED

The **Yarra Glen & District Township Group's** AGM was held at **Yarra Valley Racing Centre** on Sunday and although there was only a small crowd in attendance, a committee of the highest caliber was voted in. With only two foundation members (**Stephen Shortis** and **Melinda Koth**) continuing their involvement in the group, a lot of new blood was required.

Malcolm Calder, the Chairman of the interim township group responsible for the production of the Values and Visions report, chaired the meeting and volunteered to be part of the group. He was joined by **Veronica Holland** (a well known and active local of long standing) who is not unfamiliar with representing the district, having served in the past as a councilor. Another former councilor and Shire President of the former Shire of Healesville, **Jim Viggers** also volunteered for membership of the group as did **Noel Nicholson**. **Mike Bainbridge** who is heavily involved in youth activities in Yarra Glen will be able to provide a fresh approach and a new perspective. Mike is also involved in the Baptist Church.

In total, 7 members were voted on to the group. Moves are afoot to recruit 2 more members to build the total number of participants back up to 9 – the number of original members. Initial discussions have been extremely encouraging and hopefully next week's newsletter will include more details on these.

With a number of proven representatives who have already shown their passion for healthy debate regarding the district, a wide range of views from commercial to arts to tourism, an injection of totally new blood to represent the younger members of our district and – most importantly – people able to commit time to the role of the group, the future is looking a lot brighter for the group.

Dorothy Barber spoke to the report that she had prepared for the meeting and highlighted the advances that the group had made during the year and the difficulties that it had encountered.

Cr Jeanette McRae spoke of the “teething pains” that other township groups had encountered in the early years of their existence and offered her encouragement and support to the group.

The contributions made by retiring members **Dorothy Barber** and **Brett Shanbrook** were highlighted from the floor. **David Allen**, who also retired at the AGM was not able to be present, but earlier retirees **Chris Lamacraft** and **Yve Hart** were in attendance. The tragic circumstances that led to the resignation of **Leanne Jonson** were explained to the meeting.

After the meeting, it was pleasing to see small groups of members discussing the way forward and how to build on the number of small successes achieved by the group during its first year of operation.

THE SHORTEST LUNCH

From talking to a number of the small wineries that participated in the activities of the weekend, it appears that the number of visitors on the Saturday were well below the numbers expected and certainly a lot less than last year. Sunday was much busier.

Stephen Shortis, editor
stephenshortis@bigpond.com.au