

YARRA GLEN & DISTRICT TOWNSHIP GROUP

Newsletter No 30

(Monday 3rd September 2007)

BIG CROWD AT MONTHLY YG & D TG MEETING

The amount of activity surrounding a number of issues has created a lot of interest amongst the local community and has resulted in good attendances at the August meetings of the **Yarra Glen & District Township Group** and the **Yarra Glen Chamber of Commerce**. Both meetings were attended by 13 people, well up on the 5-6 normal attendees and whilst 4 attendees were common to both meetings, it still indicates a lot of community interest in local issues.

GOLD! IN THEM THAR HILLS?

One of the issues raised at the township meeting was an advertisement placed in the Public Notices pages of last week's Lilydale Express. The notice, advising of an application for an Exploration Licence, was placed by a Western Australian Mining Company, **Beadall Resources Ltd**. The company wishes to carry out an exploration program which involves field mapping, rock chip and soil sampling, air core and reverse circulation drilling and aeromagnetic surveying in a 16 square kilometre area roughly bounded by Pinnacle Lane, Steels Creek Road, Gulf Road and Melba Highway. The company is hoping to find economic quantities of a number of minerals including gold.

Objections to the issue of the licence need to be lodged by **12th September 2007**.

LOSS OF LOCAL MEDICAL CLINIC

Whilst nothing official has been achieved, the sub committee formed jointly by the Township Group and the Chamber has been busy investigating possible sites for a new medical clinic to be established in Yarra Glen.

THIS WEEK'S PERMITS

A fairly quiet week this week on the permit scene with only permits for the construction of a garage in Amalia Close and a hayshed in Hunts lane, Steels Creek. There was also an application for a 80 seat Restaurant and associated car parking at **Balgownie Estate**, but it is believed that this relates to "tidying up" a former permit.

SOME SPORTING SUCCESS

Although **Yarra Glen Football Club**, **Yarra Glen Tennis Club** and one of the two teams from **Steels Creek Tennis Club** all lost their semi finals last weekend, they should be congratulated on completing successful years. The football club in particular had a good year and their Reserve team narrowly missed playing in the finals as well, finishing just outside the five on percentage. The remaining tennis team from Steels Creek went into the Grand Final and won!

SUGARLOAF INTERCONNECTOR PIPELINE

Many of the additional attendees at the Township Group meeting were landowners from Steels Creek who were concerned about the proposed Sugarloaf Interconnector Pipeline, which is one of the major water initiatives of the Victorian Government. The pipeline will take water from the Goulburn River and carry it over the divide to discharge into Sugarloaf Reservoir to supplement Melbourne's water supply. According to the Government this will be "new" or "saved" water produced by an upgrading of the Goulburn irrigation system to eliminate losses through seepage, evaporation and improvements in the delivery system. The water saved by this multi-million dollar upgrade will first be allocated proportionally; 1/3 to Melbourne; 1/3 to irrigators of the Goulburn; and finally 1/3 to the environment.

Several people at the meeting spoke strongly as a matter of principal, against the plan to bring water from the Goulburn/Murray catchments across the divide saying that even if it is "saved" water, it is water that belongs to the Goulburn and Murray systems and should be available to those catchments to assist in their maintenance.

If the pipeline is to be built it will create massive environmental disturbance during the construction phase. Melbourne Water is managing the work and is currently in the design stages. Members of the Township Group attended the information session held in Yarra Glen earlier this month. The proposal was that the pipeline would follow the alignment of the Melba Highway down from the Kinglake/Toolangi Road intersection as far as Hunts Lane in Dixons Creek and then along Hunts Lane and into the Steels Creek Valley and then south to Glenview Rd and up to Sugarloaf. The Township Group's preferred option is for the pipe to continue down the Melba Highway to where it crosses the Maroondah aqueduct. Then to use the aqueduct land, currently owned by Melbourne Water, to meet up with the current proposal at the southern end of Steels Creek Rd.

FROST FANS

The Group also discussed the applications received by the Shire for the installation of Frost Fans by a number of the vineyards. **Barry Sheffield**, who first raised the matter with the Township Group, was able to provide some details on the likely noise levels, outputs and other factors in relation to the installation of the fans, whilst the two vineyard operators present (**Jim Viggers and Bob Curtis**) were able to put forward the grape growers' viewpoint.

After an amount of discussion, it was felt that the community should be involved in future discussions but more knowledge needed to be gained to present to any meeting to be held. Further discussions with the Shire are to be undertaken by the Group.

PREVIOUS ISSUES

You are reminded that copies of the previous 29 editions of this newsletter are available at:

<http://www.yarraglen.com/townshipgroup/news.php>

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