



Malvern East Group

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Newsletter July 2005

Inaugural Meeting June 26th 2005

Dr. Bob Birrell of Monash University and Mary Drost of Camberwell station fame gave generously of their time to speak to us about the threat **Melbourne 2030** poses to the things we value in our neighborhood. High and medium density housing destroys the character of established suburbs such as ours and we need to take action to protect it from what Bob calls opportunistic infill.

Mary told us that the Minister for Planning was 'surprised' to hear her criticize **M2030** and that she was the first person to do so! She leapt upon the opportunity presented by his 'amazement' and asked him to meet with representatives of 49 groups across Melbourne who also oppose this flawed document... He agreed to do so! Mary is in the lengthy process of arranging this meeting. We will let you know when and where.

Margot Carroll from Prahran East (who helped to pull this meeting together) told us of the 'cobbled together' nature of **M2030** and the desperate rush to get it out just before the last election. She urged us to form our own residents' group to work together to influence politicians of all parties regarding planning issues.

This week we will issue a press release to the Leader and a letter will be sent to the Mayor and Councilors of Stonnington City Council announcing the birth of **MEG**.

Aims of MEG

We aim to:

- lodge submissions regarding planning issues to Government and Council as needed.
- take part in Community Consultation organized by State or Local Government.
- monitor planning applications in Malvern East.
- assist residents with **process** in dealing with inappropriate developments at Council and VCAT levels.

Promotion of MEG

Now it's up to you:

- to join up if you haven't already done so
- to talk about MEG
- to persuade others to join
- to offer your help

Working Group

We have a small Working Group. We would be delighted if, for example, someone would offer to join the Working Group to write and format the newsletter. Perhaps someone has had experience in dealing with the press and would be willing to take on the role of issuing press releases and being our spokesperson.

Membership Form

We have attached a Membership Form. Please send subscriptions to:

MEG
14 Chanak St
Malvern East VIC 3145

If you send a cheque, rather than dropping the envelope with cash in the letterbox, there will be a delay in cashing the cheque. Bear with us. We need time to set things up.

Residents Can Take Action

Johan Scheffer is the Labor Party member for Monash Province. This is a marginal seat and, hopefully, he will do what his constituents want. Please write to him and tell him you do not like what is happening in your area under the present planning process. **M2030** is unacceptable and **ResCode** is too imprecise.

Hon. Johan Scheffer
398 High St
Prahran VIC 3181
Ph. 9529 8334
Email johan.scheffer@parliament.vic.gov.au

Also write to Minister Rob Hulls and tell him the same thing.

Hon. Rob Hulls
Level 17/8 Nicholson St
East Melbourne VIC 3002
Email rob.hulls@parliament.vic.gov.au

Robert Doyle may show an interest in planning if we can make it an election issue.

Hon. Robert Doyle
271 Glenferrie Rd.
Malvern VIC 3144
Email robert.doyle@parliament.vic.gov.au

Finally, **Good Luck** to the residents who are fighting developments in Maroora St. Mcgregor St. and Burke Rd.

You may contact **MEG** on
9572 3205 (Ph/Fax)
Email meg@chezsamuel.com

On the Internet

Ockham's Razor

<http://www.abc.net.au/m/science/ockham/stories/s1034626.htm>

SOS (NSW) Newsletter

http://www.sos.org.au/new_newsletters/Mar_2005_blight.htm