



Malvern East Group

MEG Supports **PLANNING BACKLASH**

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MEG NEWSLETTER.....JULY/AUGUST 2019

From the Convenor's desk

Some mornings after struggling out of bed I see the headlines and am suddenly transported from Chanak St. into "looking glass land." I view with bewilderment the antics of those who govern us. Do the people we have elected to make decisions for us and for our land actually **do what they do?** I see the Mad Hatter pouring tea for an assortment of **very odd** characters and I hear the White Queen bellowing, "Off with his (or her) head." as she sees some outlandish decision made that has resulted in nothing but a few votes won in the next election. "**Green alert as city sheds leafy suburbs**" hits me in the eye as I ponder the votes of 5 Stonnington councillors who have authorised the destruction of those wonderful trees in Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park, even the trees that were planted in 1954 to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth ...and I dream in "**looking glass land**" that the real Queen Elizabeth has come to Oz and shouted, "Off with their heads."

FYI.... I heard on the grapevine that a CEO meeting informally with a residents' group leader said, "The trouble with community consultation is that residents keep on misinterpreting."

READ ON FOR OUR MISININTERPRETATIONS!

MEG Membership Subscriptions

If you have not yet renewed your MEG Membership you need to do that soon. We will be deleting non-members from our mailing list during the next few weeks. You may pay through our bank account or in your usual way. **Malvern East Group ...Account No. 127271591. BSB 633-000.** Please send a quick email if you have made a payment through the account.

Dick was off to London in July...no, NOT to see the Queen!

He went to London to meet Dame Judith Hackett who led the review of high-rise regulations after the Grenfell fire. Dame Judith was in Melbourne in February but didn't meet Mr. Wynne! (H.S. July 28) On this trip Mr. Wynne is "*going to share ideas and solutions for fixing this international problem.*" MEG is not sure what ideas **and** solutions he can offer Dame Judith. He doesn't seem to have too many of either to share with us but who are we mere mortals to question the need for an international trip at our expense for him AND his Chief of Staff to have a bit of a chat?

Have these politicians NEVER heard of 'video conferencing?'

Aug.9...**Dick's back in town** and the Age reported that "*The State Government has dismissed calls for a campaign encouraging Victorians to make a sea or tree change.*" Mr. Wynne said, "*It's not necessary.*" On Aug.9 it was reported that he had refused the application

from the owners of the Windsor Hotel to extend their permit...**BUT... there's been no report about any solutions to the cladding crisis.**

Cladding crisis...the crisis that won't go away...despite Dick's visit to London

The Age July 17....Clay Lucas & Adam Carey reported that the Federal Government will not be contributing to the cost of the removal of flammable cladding. The price of removal is estimated at \$600 million. State Government will increase building permit levies for some apartment buildings to raise some of the money. Phil Dwyer, president of Builders' Collective of Australia said, "*the State Government was effectively bailing out the construction industry which had behaved incredibly irresponsibly by using flammable cladding on so many buildings.*" Mr. Dwyer says that the builders and consultants should be paying. MEG says that developers who have made mega bucks from shoddy building practices should be the ones who are paying.

The Government formed the Victorian Cladding Taskforce and the co-chair of that said, "*rectification would be complex, expensive and time-consuming.*" The Taskforce has identified 500 buildings in the higher risk category. The other co-chair of this body said that '*wrongdoers*' in the building industry should pay.

BUT WAIT...in The Age on July 28 (11 days later) we read that "*the newly-established Cladding Safety Victoria* (a second body) has been contacted by 54 tenants and owners. CEO of the master Builders Association said that the proposed levy was "*causing major issues.*" She said the cost of construction would rise and that there will be fewer practitioners to issue permits and that "*building surveyors have just gone out of business as a result of professional indemnity insurance.*"

On July 18 Clay Lucas wrote that the trouble stems from the Kennett Government's privatisation of building surveyors and the "*annihilation of local government's role in overseeing Victorian building approvals....*" Mr. Kennett declined to comment.

(From the MEG Convenor....as a co-founder of SOS I would endorse this view. We opposed that privatisation and got nowhere. No State Government since the Kennett Government has ever sought to rectify what was an outrageously stupid and reckless act.)

A final word on this matter for the moment is that we noticed a tiny snippet in the H S on August 3 which announced the appointment of a CEO to head Cladding Safety Victoria. His salary? Who knows? \$600 million should cover it. He has strong connections with the Labor Party!

In H.S. July 21 Andrew Rule wrote, "*The whiff of corruption hangs over the relationships between "cowboys" in construction and those we trust to police the regulations.*"

Walking to school is better than training

H.S July 21. "*Most Australian teens are better off walking or riding to school each day than playing competitive sport in order to keep fit and slim.*" Shock result from a study by Victoria's Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition. IPAN's co-director said, "*Australian governments are investing hundreds of millions in sport as a way of reversing rates of physical inactivity, overweight and obesity yet the results show this is not the best way to get young people moving.*"

Perhaps the 5 Stonnington Councillors should read the IPAN report.

“Are we stuffing up Melbourne?” asks CEO of Victorian Planning Authority

Well, he ought to know! State Government employed Stuart Moseley to bring in changes that would make things easier for developers to have their own way....i.e. in stuffing up Melbourne.

In a LONG article on July 23 in The Age two of his comments stood out.

“Melburnians are living in houses with more bedrooms than they need ”AND .“we are boosting housing choice in targeted locations in established Melbourne.”

Well, how dare we? What a cheek we have to live in established suburbs? WITH trees?

In a letter to the editor on July 24 a writer reacted angrily calling Victoria *“the developers’ playground”* and declaring that *“developers rampage seemingly unchecked through our suburbs, destroying beautiful and irreplaceable buildings...”* Another letter-writer said,

“Norway could serve as a model for putting the “planning” back into town planning.”

and, finally *“Local outrage is clearly not enough to stop this vandalism.”*

How right they are and how wrong is Mr. Moseley and his employers.

Local News

Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park

In our last newsletter we reported that on May 6 five councillors decided the destruction of 16 significant trees and over 100 mature trees would proceed to make way for a stadium near Quentin St. (That site in the park is the closest to people’s homes!) A viable Bowls Clubhouse and greens are also to be destroyed...and rebuilt at your expense with 2 extra greens with artificial (carcinogenic) grass...and there are other works to be carried out on this beautiful park...our open space.

Since then a Council officer has been in contact with the President of the Bowls Club and informed him that the Steering Committee (comprised of Crs.Koce and Stefanopoulos) has directed that preliminary works will commence ASAP and that September 8 is the last date for the Bowls Club to use existing facilities. MEG is informed that it is up to the club to find alternative accommodation. A club member tells us that storage, event bookings, membership subscriptions and club sponsorship deals have been thrown into turmoil.

Council’s advertised and agreed upon scheduled timeline is quite contrary to this recent edict. **Word is that the Bowl Club and its members will not go quietly.**

Some of you may not know that there are covenants on the park that **“do not allow the owner (Council) to excavate carry away or remove or permit to be excavated carried away or removed any earth marl stone gravel or sand from the said lot or any part thereof.”**

Council has known about these covenants since October 2017 when lawyers employed by some residents informed the previous CEO of the situation.

On August 4 a letter went to the Minister for Local Government reporting a ‘breach of the Local Government Act’ in that though Council knew on 20/10/2017 about the covenants it issued a report stating, *“there are no legal implications at this stage.”*

Supreme Court and covenants on Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park

On July 22 there was a Directions Hearing at the Supreme Court re what Council calls an ‘administrative process’ *to interpret, or in the alternative, discharge or modify a series of restrictive covenants registered on the certificates of title comprising the Land (Covenants).*

We are informed by a council officer that on August 1....

“A Court prescribed notice informing of Council’s application to the Court was today placed at key pedestrian entry points to Percy Treuvaud Memorial Park. Properties deemed by the Court to be beneficiaries of covenants will be informed by registered post.”

A MEG Committee member has sent us a photo of a yellow notice beside Council’s notice. It advertised a meeting on August 11 at 4p.m. at the Bowls Club to discuss possible grounds for objection, issues regarding legal representation at the Supreme Court.

MEG has been advised that ALL beneficiaries may object to the covenants being “*discharged or modified*” and that the beneficiaries may be represented at the next Supreme Court hearing on September 18 by the one legal representative. Another hearing will be scheduled for the Supreme Court judge to inform the parties of her decision. Court hearings are open to the public.

You might remember that there was an FOI case at VCAT early this year regarding certain ‘secret’ documents residents sought to view and Council was represented by an expensive barrister...**at your expense**. For the Supreme Court hearings Council is again represented by another expensive barrister...**at your expense**.

No, we do not know how much Council has spent on legal fees regarding this entire matter. We do know that consultancy fees have reached a figure of \$2.5 million. We urge you to write to Council requesting that the figure for legal fees to date be made known.

A resident said,

“They could have built 2 courts at Orrong Romanis by now with the \$2.5million.”

On Aug.5 Council decided that it was prepared to pre-empt the Supreme Court decision about the covenants by having the Bowls and Tennis Clubs moved away from Percy’s Park by September 8. Four Councillors voted against this motion.

Meanwhile at Sydare Avenue

At Council Meeting June 24 it was reported that Council will be replacing the street trees that were destroyed as a result of Melbourne Water ‘main drain duplication project.’ Residents were consulted (gosh!) and their preferences for native species as replacement trees has been noted. Council’s preference was for the Chinese Elm. (MEG understands that *this is a weed in NSW and a noxious weed in Queensland.*)

Residents’ clear preference was for Red Flowering Gum interspersed with small Upright Chinese Elm and Prunus., with any future tree replacement being the Red Flowering Gum.

34 Armadale St.

This beautiful old home was destroyed by a developer despite huge efforts by surrounding residents to save it. Alas, heritage experts had deemed it not worthy of heritage protection. A 10 apartment application was refused by council’s Planning Dept. The applicant lodged an appeal to VCAT and on August 8 VCAT’s decision to ‘Refuse to Grant a Permit’ was published. What happens now??? We’ll keep you posted.

Cabrini Hospital...Gandel Wing

It seems that the ‘louvred lovely’ is offering the neighbourhood more than we thought it would. At Council Meeting August 5 it was reported that a man walking his dog one night gave a graphic account of what he viewed through the open louvres of the new wing. Neighbours in the abutting streets can be easily viewed by the patients and are somewhat distressed by this. The ‘powers that be’ at Cabrini have always boasted of their

consideration for the people in the residential area which it abuts. It seems not to be so!
Are we surprised?

Prahran News

The new park on the old Cato St. carpark is officially named **Prahran Park**. This was decided after an **expensive** exercise by Council to discover name preferences. It will be opened in an **expensive** ceremony costing \$180,000 in (Council Meeting July).. Your rates at work. While Chapel Street has a vacancy rate of 15.6 per cent (Bus. Age July 20) Council will have on the \$65 million 'Prahran Park' no less than 3 food & beverage shops. These will operate in opposition to the 'food & beverage' shops that are left in Chapel St.

Forrest Hill Precinct

In the H.S. July 13 Josh Fagan reported that *"construction of a 24 storey student accommodation building in Claremont St. had left resident in the apartments next door'gobsmacked.'* Apparently it's separated from a neighbouring balcony by **11.5cms**. No sun! No view! Just concrete in one's face! Fagan said Council had given its approval.

Cnr. Glenferrie & Dandenong Rds. 'Angel site.' Yet **ANOTHER** gateway to Stonnington State Government Planning Panel said that the preferred height limits on this site were 10 & 8 storeys. Undaunted by such nonsense the developer lodged an application which included a 17 storey building. They lodged an appeal at VCAT for FTD within 60 days and at the Compulsory Conference Council did not oppose the height and a Permit was granted. In Domain on July 31 it was described as *"Malvern Collective/Transforming Glenferrie's Southern Tip."* Two buildings will have 73 and 192 residences. There will be 10 retail spaces and 2 offices. The Angel Tavern will be restored AND *"Design of the two buildings was inspired by the Dandenong Ranges....."* Beggars belief!

Cnr Tooronga & Dandenong Rds. The 18 storey 'thing'

The commercial vacancy on the corner of this building is advertised

FOR LEASE. PRIME POSITION FOR 62,000 PASSING CARS DAILY

Please note.....they are all **passing**. No-one is stopping to do any business!

Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust

There have been two recent meetings to which MEG was invited. We had no representative at the first and two at the second. Glen Eira Residents' Assn. President was the only resident at the first and to say she felt somewhat disillusioned would be an understatement. Two groups were formed at the first meeting. One comprised the 'corporate' groups and the second the residents' groups and others such as Glen Eira Secondary College. GERA President thought this was a significant split. At the second meeting a MEG rep. reported that after the VPA gave a report on Caulfield Station Precinct, a Planning Consultant from Ethos Urban retained by CRRT reported on the **10 year** plan and the local secondary school produced ideas of how the students could use the land. The Corporate 'bodies' ...MRC, Glen Eira and Stonnington Councils, Monash University and other significant organisations met in the morning of August 8 to look at the *"Land Management Plan Gap analysis draft, be advised on the preliminary issues and opportunities and to review the engagement plan and activities."*

A few of the Planning Applications in and around Malvern East

- 2 Ranfurly Cr. Glen Iris...** Dem. of existing dwelling & constr. of new dwelling in H.O.
- 33 Edsall St.** Pt.dem., bldgs. & works to dwelling on a lot less than 500 sq.m. in NRZ and H.O and SBO.
- 5 Durward Rd.** Dual occ. Permit refused. Decision appealed. VCAT hearing...Dec. 11/'19.
- 851-853 Dandenong Rd.** 8 storeys. 44 apts. Mixed Use dev. Basement carpark. Retail tenancy, studio (office) & dwellings & roof top terrace. Reduction in car pkg req.
- 47 Chadstone Rd.** 3 storey dev. for 6 dwellings with basement car parking.
- 250-252 Wattletree Rd.** Dem. of existing dwellings. 4 storey dev. 20 dwellings, 2 storey basement with 44 car spaces. NOD to grant a Permit...Council Mtg. June 24.
- 5 Sydare Av.** Dual occ.
- 57-59 Kerferd St.** Pt. dem., bldgs. & works to a dwelling in H.O.
- 13 Hedgeley Av.** Development of 5 townhouses.
- 1 Beech St.** 2 lot sub-division.
- 3 Beech St...**2 lot subdivision.

Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust....FYI

Community Issues & Opportunities Workshop

Just a quick reminder that the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust will be holding a community workshop and invites you to come along and have your say about the future of the reserve.

We are currently developing a Land Management Plan which will guide the next ten years of activity on the site, and we are seeking your ideas about the issues and opportunities that exist for the future use and development of the land.

Date: Thursday, 22nd August 2019

Time: Drop in anytime between 4pm – 8pm.

Location: Peter Lawrence Room, Rupert Clark Grandstand, Caulfield Racecourse (Please enter via Gate 22, turn right and head towards the Grandstand.)

RSVP: Register to attend [here](#)

Light refreshments will be provided.

Community members are also invited to complete a short survey, if they cannot attend the workshop. If you would like to get started, please [click here](#).

For any enquiries, please contact info@crct.org.au.

N.B. From MEG If you can't email your RSVP and want to attend, just GO!