



# Malvern East Group

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## Newsletter March 2006

### From the Working Group

A member of the MEG Working Group attended a meeting of residents opposing the proposed dual occupancy at 16 Wilmot St. Several residents joined MEG that night because of the assistance we have given them. That was heartening. Residents are employing a Planner to represent them at the VCAT hearing.

We had notification from the Collingwood Action Group that Minister Hulls had approved, with minor amendments, the Banco application (a mini Chadstone!) in Smith St. 9 storeys has been scaled down to 8, 7 and 5. The Structure Plan prepared by Yarra Council after consultation with the community said that 5 storeys would be acceptable. Minister Hulls failed to approve the Structure Plan. Residents are planning further action. There will be a street rally at 1.00p.m. on March 4 in Smith St. near the Patersons building.

I attended a Coalition of Groups Working Group Meeting on Feb. 28. A number of suggestions were made regarding our next move re the whole planning "mess". There will be a meeting of group leaders and interested members on April 2 to discuss further action. We will let you know the venue and time when we know venues what are available.

Two members of your small Working Group will be away during part of March and April so our next newsletter will be a bit late.

### MEG Meeting

Make a note in your diary! We are organizing a meeting on Thursday May 25 at 7.30p.m.

Details in our next newsletter.

### Structure Plans

Structure Planning is the process of developing long-term planning framework to ensure integrated development of activity centres.

There will be community consultation regarding Structure Plans for the Waverley Rd. Malvern East Neighborhood Activity Centre. We have heard that Interim Height Controls have been granted for this area. For further information ring Sean O'Keeffe in Strategic Planning.

Chadstone Expansion. From the DSE January email... "The City of Stonnington has received \$50,000 in funding through Local Government Assistance Fund to undertake strategic structure planning work with a focus on how the shopping centre will be integrated with surrounding residential and community needs."

Community consultation is required for the development of Structure Plans.

### Chadstone

From the same DSE email... "Minister for Planning Rob Hulls has approved an expansion of the Chadstone Shopping Centre, paving the way for a \$200million dollar investment and the creation of more than 3,500 jobs. Mr Hulls said the Chadstone proposal was an example of what can be achieved under Melbourne 2030..."

Do we really want to achieve (have foisted upon us!) a Chadstone that is nearly twice the size of the existing shopping centre?

### Zagame Application

Zagame Corporation has appealed against the decision of Glen Eira Council to Refuse to Grant a Permit for this application consisting of 22 storeys plus basement. The grounds for appeal are that the proposal complies, is totally suitable for the

site, is well-designed....is generally wonderful!

In an accompanying letter the firm representing Zagame Corporation states that they are in discussion with the Glen Eira Council re design issues and are engaging further design expertise and are preparing amended plans to lodge with VCAT... even though they have already lodged perfect plans! They anticipate that VCAT will instruct that these plans are to be advertised. (The original application was not advertised!)

If justice prevailed in the planning system the applicant would be told to go back to the drawing board and start again. The system is certainly skewed in favor of developers.

A Directions Hearing has been scheduled at VCAT on March 3/06.

### **Planning Applications**

The following applications are in addition to those listed in our January newsletter.

*1282 Dandenong Rd.* Removal of easement.

*54-56 Serrell St.* Bldgs and works in association with Section 2 and an increase in numbers.

*790-792 Warrigal Rd.* As the applicant has appealed to VCAT for 'Failure to Determine within 60 Days,' Council had to formulate its position for the hearing. At Council Meeting Feb.20/06 Councillors endorsed a Planning Department Recommendation to Refuse to Grant a Permit.

*3-9 Wilton Vale Crescent.* Alterations and additions to existing Medical Centre in Association with the hospital and car parking dispensation. Consultative Mtg. M.T.H. 6.00p.m. Feb. 22/06.

*Chadstone Shopping Centre.* High Wall Major Promotion Sign.  
17 Abbotsford Av. 2 double storey dwellings on a single lot.

*809-823 Dandenong Rd.* (Dan Murphy's Liquor) Use and dev. Of land for purpose of a shop with associated car parking dispensation and access.

There are also 12 applications for additions and alterations to dwellings within Heritage Overlays.

### *VCAT Appeals*

*62 Sycamore St.* Council's decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit was set aside. Permit issued.

*16 Wilmot St.* Against Refusal to Grant a Permit. April 27/06.

*790-792 Warrigal Rd.* Against Failure to Determine. Mar. 20/06

*24 Tollington Av.* Against Refusal to Grant a Permit. Mar 24/06

*1995-1997-2005 Malvern Rd.* Against Decision to Grant a Permit. April 9/06.

### **Stonnington News**

We received a copy of February Stonnington News. Hughes St. residents did not. Did you? Ratepayers are paying to have this publication delivered to every household in Stonnington. Ring Liz Sleeman in Communications if it is not delivered to you.

### **Petition**

In a recent copy of the Stonnington Leader there was an article about a petition to rid Melbourne of level crossings. David Bramwell, whose daughter was killed in November 2004 at the Bentleigh level crossings, is organizing this campaign.

If you have access to the Internet go to <http://gopetition.com/online/7136.html>  
This petition starts with "Stop Look Listen". Register your name at the bottom. After 3 weeks of running the petition David has over 4000 names. He spent all day on Feb. 15 at St.Albans station where 3 people were killed last year. Needless to say, many more names to add to the growing list on that day.

### **The Age...January 29**

Innovation Professor of Architecture ,Leon van Schaik, "finds the debates surrounding Melbourne 2030 annoyingly repetitive". "High density living does not have to be low-quality living," he says, citing Berlin, a city of roughly the same population as Melbourne yet covering a fifth of the area and consisting largely of five-storey developments. He goes on to say that "it's

not high-density living that causes problems."

Apparently it's people who do not want high-density living who are the cause of the government's and developers' problems! May we continue to be so!

### **Stonnington Leader February 21**

Geoff Harris, former planning director of MMBW wants a Royal Commission into the State Government's treatment of open space. He said, "Government's attack on open space flew in the face of CSIRO studies warning of increased pollution." Ted Baillieu, Opposition Spokesperson for Planning, said that the lungs of the city are being removed.

Geoff Harris and Ted Baillieu appear to be referring to public open space. We are aware that the lungs of our suburbs are being removed as development is permitted, at the very least, to halve private open space, not leaving sufficient room on sites for the planting of the canopy trees which absorb pollution.

We say... Yes, give us a Royal Commission into the destructive effects of development on our environment.

### **MECWA**

I know that some of you are interested in the progress of the application for a huge development on the old MECWA site in Elizabeth/Warner St.s in Malvern. At the end of February, a Refusal to Grant a Permit was issued by the Planning Department under delegation. No doubt the applicant will lodge yet another appeal with VCAT.

### **Area Co-ordinators**

We're looking for volunteers...**PLEASE** don't stop reading! Some of our members do not

have email and we have been delivering some newsletters by hand to save postage. With such a small Membership Fee we don't have a huge amount of money and we are frugal by nature! We need people to do a few newsletter deliveries.

We also need people to deliver letters to about 5 or 6 houses around each new planning application. In the letter we will introduce residents to MEG and offer our assistance and support in opposing inappropriate development. In this way we hope to increase our membership and, at the same time, fulfill our objectives. You can see the letter on our web site at: <http://home.people.net.au/~bremscot/help/Do%20You%20Need%20Support.pdf>

This is not a huge commitment so please ring 9572 3205 after Easter and leave your name, address and phone number.

### **Website**

Have you visited the MEG website yet? <http://home.people.net.au/~bremscot/meghome.php>

***MORE MEMBERS – BIGGER VOICE!**  
A larger group will allow us to be a more effective voice for Malvern East residents in dealing with planning issues. There is strength in numbers. The cost of Membership is \$5. To join, contact Ann on 9572 3205, or Rémy on 9569 3199 (BH), or send an e-mail to [meg@chezsamuel.com](mailto:meg@chezsamuel.com)*

***FEEL FREE TO COPY AND DISTRIBUTE THIS NEWSLETTER AMONG FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.***