



Malvern East Group

MEG Supports **PLANNING BACKLASH**

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MEG NEWSLETTER.....MAY/JUNE 2019

From the Convenor's Desk

There are so many instances of our expiring democracy to tell you about that I'm not quite sure where to start. Should I start with the demands of the Property Council? Probably not because I am sure MEG members are fully aware of the nature of their particular demands. Should I recount State Government's latest efforts to remedy the "cladding crisis?" Perhaps not. It's just TOO disheartening. State and Local Government antics? See details of both in general and local news.

A tried and true introduction to our newsletter at this time of the year is a reminder that MEG Membership subscriptions are due.

MEG Membership

Subscriptions are due on July 1. Donations are always welcome. If you joined in May or June of 2019 your membership will remain current until June 30/2020. Please find attached a Membership Form and if you wish to subscribe directly to our bank account at Bendigo Bank the details are....

Account Name.....Malvern East Group **BSB ...**633-000 **Account No. ...**127 271591.

Please send a quick email to MEG indicating that you have paid.

Corkman Cowboys...and heritage issues

The Age May 30...Clay Lucas reported that these 'cowboys' had "*cut a deal*" with State Government. They have to clear the site and "*temporarily turn it into a park by the end of November.*" They've reached a settlement with Minister Wynne and MCC. "*They now have 3 years to redevelop the site with a tower of up to 12 levels.*"

Mr. Wynne had said they had to rebuild the hotel...didn't he? Well, yes, he did and there was to be a VCAT hearing on June 3 about that. It's called CAPITULATION! After all the owners are DEVELOPERS and Minister Wynne is always eager to engage with developers. According to Clay Lucas Wynne "*was forced to back down because the planning system cannot be used to punish rogue developers and owners.*" MEG does not see WHY this is so but Mr. Wynne is not given to punishing **them.....only us!**

On June 1 Lucas wrote that "soon after the Corkman was demolished, Mr. Wynne told parliament the government would act to send a message that you "**cannot snub your nose at heritage in this state.**" But, Mr. Wynne, **you can and you do!!!**

On June 3 our intrepid Planning Minister leapt to his own defence in a letter to The Age and said that "*we have an outcome that gives the community a park and their say in the final planning application.,*" Gosh!! Would that we had the Planning Minister on OUR side!

Property Council....Removal of red tape a priority...that's their demand

The Age June 8. The executive director of the Property Council wants reforms to the planning system in Victoria **and** *"lower taxes and levies on the development industry."* Indeed the executive director thinks that this and the removal of red tape should be **priorities** for State Government. Talks about this have already started with Minister Wynne. Mr. Wynne said *"that consumer opposition to high-density development was a problem faced by the property industry across the city."*

It doesn't seem to us that our opposition has had much effect when we look around Stonnington.

With Wynne seeking to insulate the development industry against a downturn we can look forward to more 'dual occs.,' more 3 & 4 storey lumps of the same sort of **stuff** that litters our suburbs and is turning them into treeless dust bowls. MEG reports only a 'smidgeon' of the dual occs and multi-storey developments that are going on in East Ward let alone what's happening to neighbourhoods right across the municipality.

The war on trees

Governments at all levels are waging war on the only things that absorb pollution...i.e. our trees. In the Sunday Age on June 1 we read that Federal Government M.P. Warren Entsch has backed a plan to bulldoze **2000 hectares** of pristine forest near the Great Barrier Reef.

Can you **believe it? 2000 hectares!**

Our own State Government plans to destroy 26,000 trees to build the north-east link. They have destroyed so many trees to put in skyrail, Metro tunnel, a by-pass near Ararat and moreand in Stonnington, Council plans to destroy a large number of trees to build an indoor stadium. The actual number seems to vary from meeting to meeting....77 to 150. Both State and Local Governments say they will plant 2 in place of each destroyed tree. That is 2 saplings per mature tree. 2 saplings for each significant tree **NOT 'like for like'** as a North Ward Councillor has demanded for the palm tree that was destroyed at the South Yarra siding. The same North Ward Councillor is not proposing 'like for like' in Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park. How long it will take for these saplings to start doing what mature trees do is anyone's guess...and governments at all levels couldn't care less.

After 300 years of life a river red gum faces the axe

On May 7 Clay Lucas & Timma Jacks reported that this tree *"the height of a seven-story building and pre-dating white settlement"* will be destroyed by the Andrews Government! State Government in its abysmal ignorance considers that North East Link is more beneficial to the community than this magnificent tree. A writer to The Age on May 4 declared the destruction of trees and open space for this road constitutes *"an act of vandalism."*

Push for green roofs across the city...an ironic response to tree destruction!

The Age May 28...The Government office at Treasury Place is to have a green roof. Green roofs are a "great way to help the environment," says Minister d'Ambrosia. (So help us!) Does she not know about TREES? *"Ms d'Ambrosia said it was expected there would be some reduction in air-conditioning costs while improving the health and well-being of those living and working in the city."* That's what trees do so if all these governments stopped chopping down trees the health and well-being of all of us would be much better!

That's hardly an **original** thought!

The cladding issue

Age ..May 29. *"The government will tackle the state's flammable cladding crisis...but only where it is the owner of the building."* Clay Lucas reported that \$160 million will be spent over the next 4 years on 95 government-owned buildings which have the flammable cladding. \$5 million has been already been spent repairing 22 that were considered the most dangerous. (Ever feel like working for State Government in a government-owned building?) Lucas reported that there will be NO MONEY to help owners of apartment buildings which have flammable cladding. Remember that we told you in our last newsletter that there are 41 such buildings in Stonnington alone. Scary stuff!
"The Victorian government has not detailed how it will ensure these private buildings are fixed." Lucas asserts that *"Mr. Wynne has taken over control of authority for 327 buildings around Melbourne.....but he kept secret the exact location of these buildings."* We are plagued by government secrecy in this State. So-called 'privileged information' is not for the people! Clearly we cannot be trusted with it! We just might know what's actually happening and might even **vote them out**....whoever they are...and at whatever level!

CBA wants a register of buildings with flammable cladding

In The Age on April 23 we read that the CBA has backed the creation of this register. Section 32 statements are meant to inform purchasers about potential issues (hazards?) but that's not working with regard to cladding. A register is the answer. Westpac agrees. Do the big banks not know that **State Government does not want such a register!** They want to keep it a secret....and hang the consequences for the occupiers and potential buyers!

Housing for the homeless

Sun. Age May 26...*"Housing Minister Richard Wynne said rooming house residents 'deserved to feel safe and secure.' The government was working with homelessness services to make this a priority."*

Three years ago State Government brought in new rules for rooming house operators and nothing much has changed! Outreach support from the 'Council to Homeless Persons' helps some but there's not enough workers. CEO of that organisation says that 3000 properties of social housing is required every year for the next decade.

MEG has no idea **what** Housing Minister Richard Wynn is doing about this present-day tragedy. Very little, if anything it would seem!

There should be a collective "hanging of heads in shame."

Middle suburbs threatened

The Age May 14...One of the authors of PLAN MELBOURNE Professor John Stanley said *"one of the report's major recommendations if Melbourne were to maintain its liveability was to redirect population growth to the middle suburbs instead of the urban fringe."* He says that successive State Governments have failed to do that.

**Resident opposition has stopped a lot of it in its tracks but it's been a constant battle
It's going to get worse. Stonnington is a target!**

To see what Plan Melbourne wants in middle suburbs take a look around the area on the north side of Caulfield Racecourse....cheek by jowl hideous, grey, treeless high-rise **stuff!** The V.P.A. calls the area "Caulfield Station Precinct " and it is truly appalling!

It is what PLAN MELBOURNE advocates for residential areas within cooee of public transport and public transport includes even the “ghost buses” that run now and again.

It's called the 'tyranny of the urban consolidation bullies!'

LOCAL NEWS

Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park

Council Meeting ... May 6. A MEG Committee Member attending a Council Meeting for the first time in years described this as **“a 3-ring circus.”** A circus indeed albeit a carefully orchestrated circus attended by a large number of “no stadium in a park” proponents and, it seemed, a larger number of “a stadium in a park” netballers from the Prahan area...mostly children...including a 3yr old cuddling her soft toy while she occupied a place on her father's knees throughout the circus performance.

(Not sure how she wanted the vote to go!)

Cr. Klisaris moved that the Masterplan for Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park be approved and Cr. Koce seconded the motion. They were the only speakers for the motion and both spoke passionately, though not always entirely accurately. The other 3 councillors of the “fabulous five” did not support their vote with words...no need for them to bother...it was a foregone conclusion. Crs. Atwell and Davis spoke equally passionately against the motion as did Crs. Griffin and Hindle. The 5-4 decision was greeted by shrieking delight from the children encouraged by a North Ward councillor turning to them and energetically pumping his fists in the air as a sign of victory...not exactly what one would call an edifying sight.

All decided without an Environmental Impact Assessment within ‘cooee.’

And now a lengthy procedure begins

Due to a little-known clause in the Planning Scheme Council is now required to prepare a Planning Application to seek permission to destroy the trees in the park as a first step. A consultant has already been employed to do this. (*No, we don't know what that will cost the ratepayers.*) Assuming that Council will follow procedure and advertise the application it will be interesting to count the number of objections. We hear that another planning application may have to be prepared by Council before they can proceed with this project. Supporters of Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park have vowed to explore all available legal avenues to stop the expenditure of \$45.6 million and to save the park.

Talking of trees....replacement trees

No doubt you've all heard at some time that significant trees can be destroyed and that Council requires that there be a 'replacement' tree. A North Ward councillor has said repeatedly that the trees in Percy's Park will be replaced on a 2 for 1 basis. These will be saplings and will take many years to reach a stage of doing what trees do best....provide shade, absorb pollution, help to counter the heat-island effect. (The same councillor wanted a **“like for like”** replacement when State Government destroyed a palm tree at the Sth Yarra siding.) No such demands for the trees at Percy' Park.

Council never demands **“like for like”** for replacement trees even when it gives permission for a significant tree to be destroyed by a developer or homeowner. That's the policy. There is never a demand for such a tree to be replaced by a **potentially significant one**. So if you see some poor little sapling where once there was a canopy tree...weep a little!

New CEO namedand Acting CEO resigns

Jacqui Weatherill is Stonnington's new CEO and she joins us on July 22. She talks of integrity being vital in her new role so we hope to see a lot of that in the coming months.

Meanwhile the man who has been acting in the role of CEO since the resignation of Warren Roberts has also resigned. (Is it something we said?)

MEG thinks it's the "stadium in a park" that's doing them in. Your opinion?

'Changing Places' at Chadstone Shopping Centre

(NO! Don't get your hopes up. CSC is not changing its location from Malvern East.)

It's actually doing something good...just for a change!

"Cr. Glenn Atwell knows first-hand the importance of providing better and more accessible disabled changing facilities in the community." Glen's young daughter Ivy has a rare and life-limiting genetic condition. Glen and his wife need *"fully accessible public toilets with change tables and hoists for people with severe or profound disability."* Council has plans to install these facilities in the re-developments at Prahran Town Hall and Cato Square and Vicinity has finally agreed to do so at Chadstone. The facility is due to open in July. Vicinity has had "changing places" at The Glen for a long time but has delayed such an installation at Chadstone.

MEG has no idea why CSC would lag behind The Glen.

Cabrini

We hear on the grapevine that the 'powers that be' at Cabrini are not ecstatic about the glowing white signage on the western side of the 'louvred lovely' in Isabella St. GANDEL WING shines in stark contrast to the shy, retiring, non-shiny red Cabrini sign...overwhelming it one could say! The 'louvred lovely' was officially opened in June and MEG has been told that the wards (single wards) are the ultimate in luxury. (Meeting the unmet needs of the rich?) The bollards at the pedestrian entrances to the building will be lit soon and Isabella St. will shine like a mini Times Square. Cabrini does have a tendency to overlook the fact that it is in the centre of a totally residential area.

We noted a snippet in the Herald Sun on May 12 where it was reported that before the election Liberal candidate for Higgins Katie Allen (now M.P.) and Health Minister Greg Hunt announced a \$6million gift to Cabrini. The Labor candidate raised "conflict-of interest" concerns as Katie Allen had been until recently a non-executive director at Cabrini.

\$6 million for Cabrini and then there's our struggling public hospitals! Ah well, governments must have priorities! Winning Higgins was one of them.

Caulfield Racecourse Reserve

There was a meeting between the Trust (so-called) and community representatives on May 13. Attendance was low. It was difficult to find the access gate on Station St. 2 members of the MEG Committee attended. No members of the Stonnington staff were there though a staff member had reminded us of the meeting. The Trust Chairman had lots of promises and plans for the future development of the Reserve but was not forthcoming about the MRC plans for **their** development which was announced the following Wednesday. Perhaps he hadn't been told! Perhaps he had been silenced! Who knows!

(Herald Sun..May 22) Meanwhile the MRC was preparing its press release about their **\$300million transformation** of the racing facilities...**redesigning the racing and event**

experience for visitors to the course. The grandstand is to be re-designed, a second racing track will be built. There will be a new spectator entrance, horse stalls and parade rings. Oh yes, training will stop in **2023** so that 18 hectares of OUR LAND in the infield can be redeveloped for public use. The MRC says that this will bring greater certainty to the local community. From what part of outer space do these people come?

You've got it! In 5 years time the 'Trust' will be able to begin to bring plans for community use of the community's own land to fruition.

MEG was gobsmacked. The President of Glen Eira Residents' Association was gobsmacked!

This land is in Glen Eira and it is owned by the people of Victoria not by the MRC.

Breaking News....The Age June 18

*On June 17 Labor MLC for Southern Metropolitan Region Philip Daldakis abruptly resigned from Parliament and on June 18 we noticed a tiny snippet in The Age reporting that pre-selection hopefuls "include Mary Delahuntly, former MP Jennifer Huppert **and Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust Chairman Sam Almaliki.**"*

He's a member of the Labor Party! Is that how jobs on the Trust were allocated?

A few of the Planning Applications in and around Malvern East

80-90 Waverley Rd. Change of use of part of premises to "indoor recreation facility."

(Comment from Rachel on Planning Alerts..."So long as that's not a euphemism for r 'illegal brothel' that seem to be all over Malvern East.)

911 Dandenong Rd. Removal of covenant.

117 Darling Rd. Multi-storey dev. Refused by Council. Decision appealed. Compulsory Conf. June 28. 2 day merits hearing Aug.15.

1341 Dandenong Rd. Signage for hotel on north-west cnr. (No Gandel name proposed!)

183 Wattletree Rd. Bollard lights at pedestrian entrance of Gandel Wing in Isabella St.

26 Turner St. Double storey extension & alterations to dwelling in H.O..

7 Kingston St. Double storey extension & alterations to dwelling in H.O.

32A & 32 Chadstone Rd. Removal of sewerage & drainage reserves status & vesting the parcel with Council.

781-807 Dandenong Rd....Secondary Amendment. Amend Permit to include the use of the land for serviced apts. (Advertised on the internet as **Sebel Hotel**).

12 Bellevue Av. Dual Occ. In GRZ.

27 Osborne Av. Glen Iris...Bldgs. & works to existing unit block & one additional dwelling.

24 Hughes St. New dwelling in NCO. Info req.

45 Webster St. Multi-dwelling in GRZ. Info. Re.

5 Durward Rd. Dual occ. In NRZ. Permit refused.

56 Midlothian St. Dual occ. In GRZ. Info req.

45 Fisher St. Dual occ. In GRZ, Info req.

7A Isabella St. Dev. of 3 storey medical clinic. Info. req. To be submitted by July 12.

26 Alma St. Renewal of limited licence.

2 Embling Rd. Malvern Dual occ.