



# Malvern East Group

MEG Supports **PLANNING BACKLASH**

C/- 14 Chanak Street,  
Malvern East Vic 3145  
Phone/Fax 9572 3205  
Email [meg@chezsamuel.com](mailto:meg@chezsamuel.com)  
Web <http://www.chezsamuel.com>

## MEG NEWSLETTER.....MAY/JUNE 2020

### VALE....NORM WARWAY

Norm and his wife Joan were among the early members of MEG when we established the group 15 years ago. Joan died some years ago. Norm was devastated. He never got over losing her. To add to this enormous sadness he developed lung cancer and battled on for a number of years. During all of this he continued to be an extraordinarily generous member of MEG. We have lost one of nature's gentlemen.

### From the Convenor's Desk

It seems that not even *coronavirus* can bring developers to a halt. I had hoped for a 'breather' but it was not to be. We have decided to continue with the work of MEG and to do so we always need people to join with us. We have attached a Membership Form and ask you to support us....AND....ask your neighbour to support us too. If you wish to pay directly into our Bank Account the details are....

**BSB** 633-000      **Account No.** 127 271 591      **Account Name...**MALVERN EAST GROUP

If you make a bank payment please send me the details so we keep you on our Mailing List.

### "Urban Destruction Institute"

### (Urban Design Institute)

On April 17 we received from Clifford Hayes' office an update on UDI activities. According to the MLC for Sustainable Australia Party the Institute is behaving as if there were no pandemic and pursuing its timeless program urging Government to "*speed up local and state planning decisions and called for **the appointment of a special new committee ... (another one!)...to streamline approvals.***" The usual stuff is on the agenda of the UDI....fast tracking, cutting red tape, destroy heritage buildings, lower planning standards....backyards, front yards, trees and bushes to be put to death.

We thank Clifford for this Media Release and we express our usual despair at the maniacal ravings of the UDI which gave first prize in 2019 to those soulless high rise buildings on the MRC land between Normanby Rd and Station St.

### 360m wobbly phallic symbol to save Victoria's economy

The UDI should know that State Govt. has already saved the Victorian economy by fast-tracking approval for Australia's tallest building "*more than 360m above Melbourne's CBD at Southbank.*" (The Age.. April 24.) Mr. Wynne has a "*newly-formed task force*" that can fast-track any old thing that the Government wants fast-tracked. Three other major projects in the CBD were given approval on April 23.....and then on June 6 in the H.S. John Masanauskas reported that "*Tough rules **limiting** the scale of inner city towers are hurting Victoria's*

*economic recovery, claim the State Opposition and the Property Council.* The Opposition's spokesman claimed that *"the rules stopped major development in central Melbourne."* That was the claim a mere 2 months after approval was given for a 360m 'wobbly' tower! Bewildering, to say the least!

### **Land grab for North East Link**

(The Age ..April 17) Previously we told you that the Councils of Boroondara, Banyule and Manningham were taking Minister Wynne to the Supreme Court *"arguing the project's environmental effects statement was comprehensively inadequate."*

(MEG reminds you that 26,000 trees are to go to make way for a road.)

State Government's first response to this was to use *"special powers under the Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009 to override Banyule Council, putting the Borlase Reserve in Yallambie into state hands.* (Have they no shame?)

Much has been said about this \$16 billion "spaghetti junction." Comments from letters to the Editor on May 30 sum it up .....*"it's too big!" A 14 to 20-lane Eastern Freeway as part of the link at a cost 'guesstimate' of \$16 billion is too big and unnecessary."*

Another wrote with the heading **'Give us sustainable accessible public transport' .....**

*"Whilst we hurdle towards a recession, \$16 billion is set to be wasted on a toll road that will cut through communities, destroy parklands and lock Melbourne into a future of car dependency."*

Another writer said, *"Mega-roads induce traffic and the damage to the environment and the amenity of Watsonia and Bulleen will be massive. There are many ways to spend \$16 billion that employ people and have real, permanent benefits to the community."*

### **"Call for social housing blitz to stave off homeless hell" ...The Age May 14**

*"A coalition of housing groups is urging State Government to create 60,000 additional social housing units over the next decade to prevent a fresh wave of homelessness after the pandemic."* They want Victoria to be brought into line with other states. We have the lowest proportion of social housing in Australia! *"Housing Minister Richard Wynne said the government had invested nearly \$15 million to **protect** people experiencing homelessness during **the pandemic.**"* (See next Item for what he's 'gunna' do after the pandemic!)

### **\$500m social housing to boost Victorian economy....The Age May 18**

The Age May 18 *"The Andrews government will undertake the biggest spend on social housing as part of a \$500 million package to build 168 units and upgrade 23,000 more to bolster Victoria's struggling economy."* Workers have to start on this program immediately! Recently MEG drove down **Bangs St. in Prahran** where block after block of public housing units have been empty for YEARS...not sure HOW MANY YEARS...at least 2. Tenants were turfed out and high wire fencing is stretched across the eastern side of Bang St. We suggest that State Government start refurbishment now on block after block of existing **empty** public housing across Melbourne. On June 13 a headline in The Age read, **"State pledges \$10 million for homeless."** Why has it taken a pandemic for this Government to attempt to resolve the homelessness issue in this State? Heads should roll!

### **"Planning Matters" ...June 11 Online Briefings**

This is published by DELWP...Dept. of Environment, Land, Water & Planning.

*"Fri. 19 June: Density Well Done New findings from Infrastructure Victoria show*

*Melburnians are willing to embrace greater urban density if the area has good access to public transport, quality urban design and green open space. In this lunchtime session, Kath Phelan, Principal Planner at Infrastructure Victoria will explain the methodology of the survey, key findings and what it means for planning practice and how policy needs to evolve."*

**MEG's not going to bother listening to this twaddle! If Mr. Wynne's DWELP would, for once, recognise that there's a whole STATE to be populated instead of just one city it might be worth listening to them....just once!**

### **"Past Dense" ...The Sunday Age..May 3**

*"Debating is raging world-wide over the role of urban density in the present crisis....."*

Peter Seamer, a former CEO of the VPA (Victorian Planning Authority) says that *"for years we've been making our cities denser....and that this has left us more vulnerable than we need be."* He thinks that there will be a swing back to suburban living with backyards."

Professor Giles-Corti, Director of the Healthy Liveable Cities Group at RMIT says, *"It's alarming to me that we are talking about more high-rise as a solution to digging ourselves out of this crisis."* (MEG says that it's alarming to us too!) Sadly she also says that low-density living is not sustainable. We wonder if she's heard about our largely empty Australian States! Probably not. Academics rarely acknowledge anything except cities. When Peter Seamer was CEO of the VPA we think he was doing what the VPA is doing now....i.e. promoting density. Can anyone verify that?

## **LOCAL NEWS**

### **Council elections**

Council elections will be held on October 24/2020 and there will be postal voting only. Stonnington will retain multi-councillor wards and return to single councillor wards in 2024.

(Don't ask us why....we don't know!)

Ward boundaries were altered slightly during the recent VEC perusal of population figures. Candidates will not be permitted to conduct door-knocking campaigns. According to a report in The Age on May 16 the Labor Party is seeking *"to reclaim the community level of government."* The Greens have already published SOME of their candidates and in Stonnington there's one in each Ward...so far!

(By the time you read this you will know that the Minister for Local Government has resigned with his reputation in ashes.)

### **Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park...Steering Committee Meeting...March 2/2020**

We have the Minutes of this meeting and here are the main points of discussion...

- (a) There are updated plans (No, we haven't seen them)
- (b) Logistics of car park being worked on. (Still??)
- (b) Temporary change rooms will be required during construction period.
- (c) Management plan to include an environmental plan that addresses noise, dust.
- (d) Relocation of lights ...(NO, residents have not been consulted about lighting in the park. Residents around Orrong Romanis Reserve **were** consulted before it was "lit.")
- (e) Supreme Court hearing to take 3-4 days ...(new date...November 30)...decision expected within 6-8 weeks...perhaps around the end of January.)

(f) ***(This Item referred to Council's legal firm & possible action so we're omitting it.)***

Concern was expressed re Council's reputation. (Gosh!)

(g) Project to be undertaken via a 'Design & Contract Model' which will include 50% documentation. (What about the unknown 50%?)

(h) Total cost.....\$44.65 million.

There was mention of a **small** bus being able to access the 'stadium' and **big** buses parking on Chadstone Rd. There was no mention of the **destruction** which will take place in the park prior to the **construction** of this 'thing.' There were no details of the legal costs that the ratepayers of Stonnington are being forced to pay.

### **77 Manning Rd.**

This is an application for sub-division ...not something that would usually rouse MEG's interest because the sub-division of a lot is usually done **after** a Permit has been granted for yet another 'dual occ.'... or more. This site is on the corner of Manning Rd. & Tennyson St. It is 1100sq.m. The site has one interesting old house and a magnificent oak tree. The application is to sub-divide into 2 lots....one of 601.7 sq.m and the other of 510.1sq.m. Residents can object to the sub-division...(and there are really no grounds for such an objection)...but NOT to the single houses to be built on either site. A Planning Permit is not required for a single house on a lot of 500 sq.m. or more. The owner requires only a Building Permit and plans for that cannot be viewed by anyone except a Building Surveyor employed by the developer and Council's Building Department.

Residents are hamstrung...yet once again!

### **Council Meeting ...April 27**

Amendment C285 is awaiting Mr. Wynne's signature for Neighbourhood Character Overlays in Malvern East...Cairnes Crescent, Bruce St. and Camira Terrace.

At the same meeting it was reported that Council had taken a further survey of a number of streets after residents had complained about parking restrictions imposed on October 28. The streets were the roads Rebecca, Gauntlet, Durward, Rob Roy, Quenton, Prior and Abbotsford Av., Armstrong Crt. and Chadstone Rd. (where they are proposing to park the big buses for stadium users!). Councillors believe that a balance has now been struck.

### **Also at that meeting...non-government schools & planning applications**

We told you previously that Minister Wynne had declared that applications for expansion from existing non-government schools and for new non-government schools would be fast-tracked and there would be no objections from long-suffering residents allowed. Council staff prepared a submission re these proposed changes to planning provisions stating opposition to the Minister's proposal and this was unanimously endorsed by Councillors.

### **Stonnington to get 2 'pocket parks'**

The Age May 24...This is part of State Government's 'greening project.' "*The first new off-leash dog park will be in South Yarra.*" Prahran will get a pocket park in Mount St.

Ms. D'Ambrosia said, "*As our suburbs continue to grow, we're making sure people have easy access to much needed open green space to exercise, relax or just enjoy the outdoors.*"

**Ironic, isn't it?** Here we have a government hell-bent on destroying thousands of trees and hectares of green open space to build a 20 lane road and at the same time they have a

Suburban Parks Program ...while ignoring the Environment Impact Study for the North East Link.

Meanwhile in Stonnington 5 of our councillors are hell-bent on destroying 77 significant trees and the eco system of one of our existing parks **without any** Environmental Impact Study. We suppose that in not having such a study saves them the bother of ignoring it.

No wonder we spend a large part of our lives in a state of utter bewilderment!

#### **Item in Council's Budget Papers.**

FYI...May 31 it was reported on the Stonnington Ratepayers Facebook page that an item in the budget was \$106, 000 for refurbishment of the Mayor's office. We heard on the grapevine that an email from the CEO to Stonnington Ratepayers that the 'name' of the item was an 'administrative error' and it was really a series of items...

1. Mayoral office refurbishment...	\$24,343	
2. Print room conversion to open space	\$15,865	
3. Councillor study room conversion to print room	\$16,328	
4. Governance Manager relocation	\$18,328	
5. Governance staff minor works (desks/electrical)	\$5,912	
6. Councillor meeting lounge	\$21,999	TOTAL \$102,831

#### **Some good news!**

In one of the last 'free' editions of The Leader we read that there had been **an event** at the \$70 million Prahran Square. A wedding, no less! A wedding with two guests during the pandemic in that soulless concrete aberration! One has to wonder!

At Council Meeting June 15 it was decided to move Prahran Library to the \$70 million dollar "open space" Square while the \$32 million refurbishment of the Town Hall is carried out. This will **activate** the Square! ( BANG goes that "open space" ...for a while.)

#### **A 'Woolies' for Glen iris?**

Financial Review...June 3 *"Woolworth's has teamed up with Melbourne developer 'Time & Place' to acquire half a hectare of land in the city's south-east suburbs for a residential and retail development."* A 'Woolies' at **173 Burke Rd.?** There is no Planning Application for this. The grapevine tells us that there have been no preliminary discussions about it with our Planning Dept. It's reported that the site sold for around \$30 million and Woolworths state development manager is looking forward *"to engaging with local community later this year, ahead of lodging a development application."* Can't wait!

#### **Urban Forest**

MEG received a report from regular users of this precious asset in Malvern East. These residents said that there is an air of neglect in the 'forest' and pointed out a number of issues that bothered them. Among these were the algae in the ponds, "no ducks," an invasive weed that is smothering some of the trees, dead trees, etc. We forwarded this information to Council staff and received a report stating that a member of staff inspected the "forest" and noted the presence of 2 ducks (?), the algae in the ponds is 'good', the 'weed' is a native variety and is part of the eco system, the dead trees and branches are also part of the eco system. In general, it's all GOOD! MEG thanked a staff member for the report and said that out here in East Ward residents are quite used to "being wrong."

**A few of the Planning Applications in and around Malvern East.**

- 1631 Malvern Rd.** Constr. of multi-dwelling dev in GRZ & alteration of road access.
- Rotherwood Dr.** Dual occ. in SBO.
- 48 Claremont St. Malvern** Pt. Dem. & constr. of bldg. & works in H.O.
- 116-128 Glenferrie Rd. Malvern** Constr. of mixed use building in Commercial 1 Zone and reduction in car parking req.
- 42 Clarence St.** Constr. of garage in NCO.
- 639 Waverley Rd.** To remove or vary a covenant to allow constr. of a 3 storey development.
- 3 Ardrie Rd.** New front fence increased to 1.8m in NCO.
- 336 Glenferrie Rd. (Stonington mansion)** Exp. of existing basement. Dem. of existing garage & constr. of new basement garage with kitchen above.
- 5 Lysterville Av. Malvern** Dem. of existing dwelling, removal of palm & constr. of dual occ.
- 55 Nirvana Av.** Dem. of existing dwelling & constr. of new dwelling in H.O. & SBO.
- 24 Hughes St.** Dem. of existing dwelling & constr. of 2 storey dwelling in NCO. Council Mtg. June 1/2020. Recommendation to Grant Permit. Permit approved. Objectors have 28 days to lodge an appeal.
- 93 Argyll St.** Dual occ. in NRZ, Council Mtg. June 1/2020. Recommendation to Grant a Permit. Recommendation endorsed by Councillors.
- 38 Anderson St.** Three 3 storey townhouses. Permit Refused by Pl. Dept. Appeal lodged. Merits hearing...March 1/2021.
- 87 Finch St.** Alterations and additions to existing building in H.O.
- 1536-1542 Malvern Rd. Glen Iris** Constr. of an independent living dev.(retirement village) in RGZ and alterations to a road zone.

**MEG APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Family Name: _____	Given Names: _____
Address: _____	
Suburb: _____	Post Code: _____
Phone (Home): _____	Phone (Business): _____
FAX: _____	Email: _____

**I wish to become a member of MALVERN EAST GROUP (MEG).**

**Signature of Applicant.....Date.....**

**Membership contribution \$5.00 per person**                      **Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
**This membership is for the year ending 30 June.**