



# Malvern East Group

MEG Supports *PLANNING BACKLASH*

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## MEG Newsletter....May/June 2023

### From the Convenor's Desk

It's taken me a long time to start this newsletter mainly because I had an accident and ended up with a compression fracture of a vertebra. Pain tends to delete just about everything from one's usually over-active mind but here I am ready to enlighten you with my observations over the last 7 or 8 weeks. (Anyone know a good osteopath in the area?

I want to warn you of my own personal campaign...i.e. apart from planning issues. This campaign is about roaming cats. We have been plagued by up to 5 cats which have killed the birds, defecated in our garden, killed native animals....not the possums, of course. I read in The Age on June 10 that in Melbourne there are 1,027,045 cats and that 729,202 of them are roaming....and we've got 5 of them. Casey Council has a 24 hour cat curfew. Other councils have time restrictions for 'roaming cats.' Stonnington has no curfew nor does it have a local law which requires cat owners to keep their pets on their own property. There are restrictions on roaming dogs.

A writer to The Age on June 10 wrote, "*Today it is almost unthinkable to allow dogs to roam at will. We need a similar change of mindset with cats.*"

It has come to my attention that I'm not the only person Stonnington who believes that cat owners should keep their cats at home just the same as dog owners must.

### **IBAC report to back loss of council power: Sunday Age May 14**

Senior state and local government figures who have been consulted say it will include a "*a long list of recommendations for planning and governance reform, including removing local councillors from statutory planning approvals.*"

MEG wonders if anyone from the local government of Stonnington was consulted! If not, why not? MEG also wonders if anyone from any local council was consulted.

Royce Millar and Josh Gordon tell us in their report that Premier Daniel Andrews "*met alone (Thursday (May 11<sup>th</sup> May) in his Treasury Place office with leaders of key lobby group the Property Council.*" Are we surprised that he met with the Property Council? The findings of the report by the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commissioners's Operation Sandon final report is set to be tabled....WITHIN WEEKS!!!

No! The article does not say HOW MANY weeks....just weeks!

### **Heritage conundrum.....damned if they do and damned if they don't!**

*"Heritage arguments have raged for decades in Melbourne. Sixty years ago, the Bolte government's "slum reclamation" project demolished hundreds of tiny terrace houses in Carlton, Fitzroy and Collingwood..(and Sth Yarra & Prahran)...to build massive blocks of high-rise Housing Commission apartments."* The Age...July 1

On June 14 Ian Royall reported in the H.S. on a Heritage issue at a meeting of **Stonnington Council** "*that a complaint had been lodged with the local government watchdog after two Greens councillors voted in favor of exempting a developer from heritage rules after intense lobbying.*"

The owner of an Armadale property at 13-15 Avalon Rd. wanted his property taken out of a proposed heritage overlay.

In the H.S. of June 25 Ian Royall reported further on this matter and revealed that *"independent councillor Nicki Batagol this month proposed to exclude David Joachim's Armadale property from the council's review."* Her amendment was voted down with the Mayor using her casting vote. *"The inspectorate has previously issued a formal warning to Ms Batagol and another councillor Kate Hely, (who was absent from this meeting) for failing to submit declarations of their personal interests."*

*Ms Batagol later told a council meeting, "I have nothing to hide and I've always been open and transparent."*

All of the properties listed in the Stonnington Heritage Review have gone to a Government Planning Panel for review.

**Maribynong Council** At Council Meeting of June 20 Maribynong Council abandoned Amendment 172 which sought to have eight heritage precincts in West Footscray and parts of Footscray and Maidstone. Community opposition was too great with the YIMBYS hailing a victory.

*In The Age July 2 Urban Historian James Leah referred to "the destruction of this unique era of our history, architecture and social fabric."*

**Hobsons Bay Council** has an Amendment which places a large number of homes in the Spotswood area in a Heritage Overlay. A government Planning Panel will decide.

**YIMBYS** Yimbys sent MEG an email advertising a workshop on July 2. This event promised to teach all those who want development in their backyards how to write a submission to parliamentarians in the hope that such a submission would have the effect of densifying our suburbs. We have not received a follow-up email regarding the success or otherwise of this workshop but we have no doubt that it had the blessing of the Premier who had been busy chatting with the Property Council.

It seems that there are all sorts of people all over the place who want 'open slather development.'

#### **Caulfield pokies plan hits a hurdle The Age July 4**

*"Melbourne Racing Club, which leases the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve, wants to relocate the Glasshouse...a bistro, gaming room and function space...to a new two-store venue 200 metres away in the north-eastern car park area.*

*The existing building would be mostly demolished but the Art Deco Tea Room, built in the 1930s, would be restored as a location for community events and meeting point for events crowds."*

*(See LOCAL NEWS) for information about the application to Heritage Victoria.)*

*"But some locals say the new venue will adversely affect residents living in Queens Avenue and Derby Crescent."*

105 poker machines would be moved to the new venue and would operate from 8 a.m to 4 a.m. Locals say that it would be inappropriate to have these machines opposite Caulfield Station and close to Monash Caulfield. Others say that poker machines are not appropriate use of Crown Land.

*"The Caulfield Racecourse Reserve was established in the mid 1800s as Crown land to be used for horse racing and public recreation as well as a park."*

*"But in 2014 the auditor-general found preference had been given to horse racing and insufficient attention given to the reserve for recreational use and as a public park."*

On July 4 the Facebook Page of "Friends of Caulfield Racecourse Reserve" we saw the following comment...*"Glasshouse makes \$40 million in profits and the MRC pays \$370,000 in rent and wants this reduced by \$100,000. They make this money on public land for private profit. The proper rent would be \$4-5 million. If they paid this the Trust would have more to cater for community needs. The MRC treats the 54 hectares as if it were theirs."*

MEG hopes that Heritage Victoria and Glen Eira Council between them

manage to put a stop to the planning application from the Melbourne Racing Club and that someone manages to charge the MRC an appropriate rent for its use of our land.

### **Victorian Building Authority The Age May 13**

*"Premier Daniel Andrews says his government is determined to improve Victoria's trouble-plagued construction watchdog."*

*"A WorkSafe investigation after Karkut's death found pressure on building and plumbing inspectors to meet targets set by the Andrews government made the authority an unsafe workplace."*

Apparently "virtual audits" were being used to assess the work on building sites instead of inspectors actually visiting construction sites. This means that the authority is not meeting its legal obligations. One consumer said, *"The lack of protection is horrifying."*

## **LOCAL NEWS**

### **Meet Your Councillors.**

At a Council Meeting in May all councillors approved of the format adopted last year when 30 people attended a South Ward 'gathering', 40 in North Ward and 50 in East Ward. It seems that councillors liked these smaller meetings more than the residents who reported to us.

The first one this year was for East Ward people and **eleven** people appeared to 'meet councillors' one of whom was 20 minutes late. More staff than residents were present and the food was 'excellent.' It seems that all **eleven** people enjoyed themselves, received some information from staff, enjoyed the food, could hear what was said and **"a jolly good night was had by all."**

We saw no advertising of the event anywhere. No mention of it in the Winter Edition of the Stonnington News and MEG has not heard a report about it at a Council Meeting!

Too ashamed of the abysmal result???

Perhaps the report was so short we simply missed it.

**BRING BACK WARD MEETINGS AND LETTER-BOX RESIDENTS!**

### **Naming of the mass of concrete at Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park**

Stonnington Council wants a name for what they've done to our park and they suggest that it be called "Stonnington Sports Centre." Some residents believe that the name of Percy Treyvaud should not be lost amongst the hard surfaces and concrete and believe that the name of the donor of the park should be remembered forever.

"Percy Treyvaud Sports Centre" is MEG's preferred name.

### **Stonnington has a new CEO**

Councillors have appointed Dale Dickson as our CEO. Dale is a former resident of Prahran and has had experience with the councils of Mt. Isa, Gold Coast and Whitsunday. We hear that he used to play football for Melbourne, when he lived in Victoria. Someone could check that out for us.

### **Horace Petty Estate...Sth Yarra**

A report in The Age on June 17 outlined the *"despair as drugs and violence grip housing complex."* MP for Prahran Sam Hibbins asked the Housing Minister Colin Brooks for urgent action in February. Nothing was done and a murder occurred on the estate just 3 months later.

One tenant said, *"You feel powerless because there's no one to protect you."*

This is a State Government issue and NOTHING IS DONE! The government knows about the violence, the drug-taking, the despair, the squatters, the squalor and NOTHING IS DONE! State Government does not rush into things!

## **Public Notices ...The Age May 10**

### **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DISCONTINUE ROAD AND SELL LAND**

Stonnington Council proposes to discontinue part of the road known as Coonil Crescent, Malvern.....and to sell the land.....to the adjoining owner for market value.

( Guess who the adjoining owner is!)

Local residents affected by all actions involving Cabrini Hospital were letter-boxed with this information. It is MEG's understanding that the wording was slightly different from that of the Public Notice.

A letter from the Department of Transport & Planning was sent to residents on June 23 informing affected residents of the proposed redevelopment and expansion of Cabrini hospital and stating that submissions may be emailed to the Department by July 24.

## **Glen Eira Council....Public Notices....The Age May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Under the Heritage Act Glen Eira Council had to advertise that a permit is requested for a new 2 storey "Glasshouse" building at the north-east end of the racecourse. The application includes **tree removal** and relocation of one tree, demolition of fencing to Normanby Rd, introduction of a new lawn area and reconfiguration of existing carpark.

## **Stonnington Council ...Facebook ....May 10<sup>th</sup>**

*"Cricket, tennis and basketball will be front and centre at Basil Oval later this year when we unveil new cricket practice wickets and a multi-court with tennis hit-up wall and basketball ring. From May1 we'll be replacing the old cricket practice nets with four new **synthetic turf** wickets. We'll also be adding more sports to the mix by building a stand with a tennis hit-up wall and basketball ring next to the new practice nets."*

For those of you who have never heard of it, Basil Oval is in Malvern East and in the near future it will be adding to global warming with yet **more** synthetic turf.

## **Question lodged for Council Meeting of March 6/2023**

*"Why is there no disabled access to the Stonnington History Centre at Northbrook House?"*

### **Response from the Mayor**

...Northbrook House is an historic building constructed in the late 1880s.  
...As with many historic buildings, disability access needs to be retrofitted. There is  
...currently no permanent DDA compliant disability access to the building.  
...The centre does have a portable ramp that is used to facilitate access for people in wheelchairs until a permanent solution is implemented.  
...Council is working through designs for DDA disability access for the building.

As you can see the question was not answered.

MEG has since ascertained that no-one seems to have heard of any efforts by Council to have **DDA compliant disability access for the building**. There is not even a handrail on the steps down from the level of Malvern Library, nor is there a handrail on the steps up to the front door of Northbrook House.

**N.B.** Disability Discrimination Act has mandatory requirements.

## **Letter from MEG Member The Age June 3**

*"How private schools can solve their payroll tax problems. They should open up their wonderful facilities such as gyms, pools, performing arts centres, etc. and charge the public to use them. When? After hours, weekends and school holidays."*

Great idea! Suspect it will go down like a lead balloon with the private schools.

## **Snippet about some residents who live near the makeover of Glenhuntly Station**

It seems that the noise of the works near the work being done at this venue was just too much for some residents so State Government offered them accommodation at the Sebel Hotel situated in that 18 storey thing on the corner of Tooronga & Dandenong Rds. One family found it was too small so a house somewhere near the Harold Holt Pool was made available to them. MEG wonders if such accommodation costs were factored into the total costs of level crossing removals.

### **Some of the Planning Applications in and around Malvern East**

- 31 Manning Rd.** External demolition and alterations, bldg & works to dwelling in H.O.
- 21 Wheatland Rd.** Pt. dem.& extension to a dwelling on a lot less than 500 sq.m. in N.R.Z. and H.O.
- 12 Coppin St.** Pt. dem. Bldg. & works in H.O.
- 43 Tennyson St.** Bldg. & wks in SBO.
- 2 Turner St.** Dem. Construction of 2 dwellings on a lot in NRZ & H.O.
- 11 Gabriel Av.** Construction of 2 dwellings on a lot in NRZ.
- 10 Glenbrook Av.** Dem & bldg. & wks to construct a single dwelling on a lot.
- 27 Coppin St.** Construction of 2 storey ext. with basement to existing dwelling dwelling in H.O.
- 52 McKinley Av. Malvern** Dem. Of part of existing house at rear & bldg of 2 storey addition with basement.
- 7/9 Hamilton Rd. Malvern** Pt. dem. & construction to existing dwelling in H.O.
- 25 Finch St.** Pt. dem., renovations & single storey addns to existing dwelling in H.O.
- 396 Waverley Rd.** Dem. Of garage. Ext. containing garage & gym.
- 52 Abbotsford Rd.** Condition 5..Tree Protection Deed.
- 6 Chandlers Rd. Malvern** Pt. dem. bldg & wks to a dwellig on a lot less than 500sq.m. in NRZ & HO.
- 17 Argyll St.** Constr. Of one additional dwelling.
- 13 Ivanhoe Gr.** Two double storey attached dwellings.
- 54 Wheatland Rd. Malvern** Alterations & addns to existing dwellings.
- 26 Gordon Gr. Malvern** Pt. dem. & external alterations to dwelling in H.O.
- 93 Chadstone Rd.** Constr. Of bldgs & wks, additions & alterations to existig first floor dwelling.
- 22 Cressy St. Malvern** Alterations & additions to single dwelling on a lot less than 300sq.m.