



Malvern East Group

A Member of **PLANNING BACKLASH**

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Newsletter November 2006

From the Working Group

On Oct. 18/06 MEG held its first AGM with 30 people meeting at Northbrook House. We thank Steve Ebbett for taking the Minutes of the AGM and you can find a copy of these on our website at

<http://home.people.net.au/~bremscot/pressreleases/AGM20061019.pdf>

If you are not on the net and would like a copy, please ring Remy on 9569 3199 during business hours. During a discussion about whether we should continue as an informal group supporting our members who are opposing Planning Applications and providing planning information through frequent newsletters we received enthusiastic support.

We extend thanks to MEG members who have renewed their membership. If you have not done this we would appreciate hearing from you.

There were several offers re letterboxing areas introducing MEG to residents of Malvern East. Members felt that not enough had been done to advertise MEG and they were quite right. We are taking action on that. Others felt we should belong to a larger organisation and seemed to have overlooked the fact that we have splashed across our letterhead with every communication that we are a member of "Planning Backlash."

"Planning Backlash" is a loose coalition of 62 residents' groups drawn from across the metropolitan area and from some country areas. These groups are comprised of residents who are desperately unhappy about M2030 and the planning policies of the Bracks' Govt. seen through the actions of its part-time Planning Minister. MEG is represented on the Steering Committee of "Planning Backlash" which has organised meetings with the part-time Planning Minister (with no results), rallies which have been closely observed (and apparently

taped) by Govt. lackeys and has supplied groups such as ours with a wealth of information. We have not been successful in turning the Govt. away from the policies outlined in that deeply flawed document M2030 but we have been successful in having the Opposition promising to repeal M2030 and conduct a Community Consultation process which will, hopefully, result in a strategic plan for Melbourne and the regions that will meet with the approval of residents. Minor parties also see the flaws of the Govt.'s planning policies and will take part in such a process.

A Labor Party 'hopeful' told me last week that if we got rid of M2030 we would lose the Green Wedges. He seemed to be blissfully unaware that the Green Wedges can be protected under separate legislation without all the other baggage that comes with M2030.

"Planning Backlash" will hold a rally before the election on Nov.12 at 2.30 in Cookson St. Camberwell. We want all political parties to know that we are serious about what we see as a crisis in Planning. Please see the attached notice.

Monash/Caulfield

You are no doubt aware that the part-time Planning Minister has given approval for the \$220million re-development of Caulfield Plaza in which Monash exchanged its 10,500 sq.m. of land for a 10,000 sq.m. office building provided by Equiset (Grollo). Equiset gets the remaining land and has plans for 2 student apartment buildings of 10 and 13 storeys and a 7400sq.m retail area, 7700sq.m. of office and education space and a 635-bay car park. (*Fin. Review* Oct.19/06)

Tooronga Village

From the same article we read that he had also approved Stockland's proposal for the development of the Tooronga Village site.

He ignored his own panel's recommendation to cut the proposal back and gave Stockland exactly what it wanted despite vigorous opposition from residents and Boroondarra Council. The Financial Review called this "a little pre-election deck-clearing."

Stonington Mansion

In the heart of Stonnington, Deakin University has called for tenders for development of the site of this historic mansion and its grounds. This is a Victorian icon which was given to Deakin University by the Kennett Govt. during the 1990's. The Bracks' Government has the power to stop the sale, but will it?

Given its track record of giving public land to developers or giving approval for it to be developed (see Monash, Royal Park, Kew Cottages) it seems unlikely that it will stop public land being SOLD to developers. If you haven't already protested about this, start doing it now.

President of VCAT

We were entertained by the news of the head of VCAT, Justice Stuart Morris, being 'outed' as a potential developer. (*Age* Oct.28/06). In *The Age* the very next day it was reported that "Victoria's top planning judge has arrested plans to build a controversial retirement village in Ivanhoe." Do you think he was acting under orders? Will the whole thing be back on the table after the election?

Neighbourhood Character Study

This has been delayed for reasons unknown to us. It will now go to Council towards the end of November and go on exhibition for public comment early in 2007. Make sure you look at it and have your say.

Student Housing Policy

Amendment C61 has been prepared and is on exhibition. This Amendment proposes to introduce an Amendment to the Planning Scheme to better manage the provision and location of purpose-built student housing in Stonnington. You can view this at the Service Centres or at

<http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/planning/news/amendments/c61>

Information about making a submission re the policy is also available. Submissions close on Nov.20. Ring Philip Martin on 8290 3502 for further information.

The policy was watered down by the bureaucrats at DSE and Council had no choice but to exhibit the watered-down policy. So much for democracy. They tell us to develop Local Policies and then won't let us have what we have decided upon.

Let's Not Feel Guilty About Watering Our Gardens

From *The Age Weekender* (Oct.28/06)...The tranquility of gardens make them psychologically beneficial, while the trees they contain absorb noise, reduce glare and purify the air.

Planning Applications

708 Waverley Rd. 3 dwellings on a single lot. Two 2 storey and one single storey.

20 Paxton St. Two 2 storey dwellings on a single lot with a Special Building Overlay.

52-56 The Boulevard Use and development for a Childcare Centre and associated car parking dispensation.

11 The Rialto Partial demolition and 2 storey addition to a dwelling on a lot within a Heritage Overlay and on land subject to inundation.

45 Ardrrie Rd. First floor addition to existing dwelling on a lot in a Heritage Overlay.

3 Edna St. New 2 storey dwelling on a lot under 500sq.m

12 Nirvana 2 storey extension to a dwelling on a lot in a Heritage Overlay.

305 Wattletree Rd. Use of site for a restaurant for 170 people and associated car parking dispensation.

25 Nirvana Av. Partial demolition and 2 storey addition to a lot in a Heritage Overlay.

20 Webster St. Dual occupancy...new dwelling to rear of existing dwelling.

19 Abbotsford Av. 2 dwellings on a single lot. Additional 2 storey dwelling at rear.

12 Alma St. 2 lot subdivision.

126 Burke Rd. Use and development of land as a restaurant and associated car parking dispensation and construction of an awning.

VCAT Hearings

1871 Malvern Rd. Alterations and additions to dwelling on a lot under 500sq.m.

Permit refused. Appeal against Refusal. 16/10/06

1409-1413 High St Harold Holt Swimming Centre. Buildings and Works, Convenience restaurant and car parking dispensation. NOD issued. Appeal against Decision to Grant a Permit. Awaiting Date.

29 Davies St. New dwelling on a lot under 500sq.m. Permit Refused. Appeal against Refusal to Grant. 16/10/06

4-6 Clarence St. Dance School and associated and parking dispensation.. NOD issued. Appeal against decision to grant a permit. 4/12/06

16 Wilmot St. 2 double storey dwellings on a single lot. 13/12/06

Have you visited MEG's website?

<http://home.people.net.au/~meghome.php>