

NEWS & NOTES

DECEMBER 1991

Published by the Wonga Park & District Residents' Association

Chairman: Philip Glenister 722 1539 Next Meeting:
Secretary: Michael Tapper 722 1793 Fri 13 December 1991
Treasurer: Barry Box 722 1423 at the Community Cottage

DEADLINE FOR NEWS & NOTES is the last Friday of the month.
There will be no News & Notes in January 1992. February
deadline will be Friday 31 January 1992.
The first meeting for 1992 to be held at the Community Cottage
on St Valentine's Day, Friday 14 February 1992.

Contributions for News & Notes are always welcomed and may be
left at Goodfellows Store in Launderers Avenue. Any individual or
company can sponsor an edition of News & Notes for only \$20.00.
This month's News & Notes is sponsored by:

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WONGA PARK ONE STOP SHOP

70 Jumping Creek Rd
722 1911

The shop has re-opened and Tony & Joseph
~~look forward to seeing you~~

6.30am-9.00pm Monday to Saturday & 8.00am-9.00pm Sundays

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SEC

After discussions at the November meeting of the Association, we
wrote to the SEC to explain the recent increase in power outages
and the incidences of instantaneous off and on 'flickers' of
power. The SEC has advised that due to tree lopping work over
the past few months, the auto-reclose facility (which cuts power
for 3 seconds and then restores it) has been suppressed. This
means that if a tree branch hits wires or a car hits a pole the
power will be cut off and not automatically restored after 3
seconds. From a couple of weeks ago, however, this auto-reclose
facility is now being restored on completion of tree pruning
work each day. This should solve the problem of lengthy outages
in the evening and early morning which we had been experiencing.

As well as the problems related to tree pruning works, there is
an ongoing problem in the area due to the combination of the
abundance of trees in the area and the wet and windy weather
over the past few months. Vandalism with objects thrown over
power lines is also a problem.

As residents would have no doubt noticed, the SEC is currently
pruning trees beneath power lines very severely to minimise
difficulties with trees for at least the next three years. It
is very hard for the SEC to prune in this way as well as appear
environmentally concerned but I am assured that every effort is
made to achieve a balance.

The Operations and Service Manager from the Ringwood SEC has
been invited to attend the next meeting of the Wonga Park and
District Residents' Association at 8pm 13 December 1991 and has
indicated that he would be prepared to follow up any specific
complaints and is interested if those residents suffering from
'flicking' of supply could take note of the times that these
occur (if at all) between now and the meeting.

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

For those residents that have never attended one of our meetings and wonder what we talk about, in this edition of News & Notes I have included an outline of the General Business discussed at our last meeting. Although there was only an attendance of 6 at that meeting, you will see that we managed to cover a lot of topics that are of interest to everyone and we are able to provide a medium by which the concerns of residents can be represented by a unified body.

To put the Association into perspective, I have also enclosed extracts from the first edition of News & Notes following the formation of the Residents' Association some 26 years ago and a copy of the edition from December 1965, along with a list of the office bearers who have contributed to the Association in those 26 years. If you have never attended one of our meetings and you are concerned about the way things are in Wonga Park or the future of the area, you may wish to come to our next meeting (at which a representative from the SEC at Ringwood will be available). Family membership in the Association is only \$5.00 per year (which is used to help publish News & Notes).

In recent years News & Notes has suffered from a lack of contributions and we desperately need more input from individuals, groups, clubs and associations in the area to make this a worthwhile, informative and useful community newsletter. Over the years there have been regular contributions from many clubs and groups, but not recently.

A limited number of copies of the booklet 'Wonga Park - Past and Present' are still available from Goodfellows or may be purchased at our monthly meetings for just \$5.00.

On behalf of the Residents' Association I will take this opportunity to wish all residents a happy and safe holiday period, a merry and rewarding Christmas, and a happy New Year.

Mike Tapper, Secretary.

WONGA PARK AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Meeting held on Friday 8 November 1991

*The submission in relation to commercial use at the store on the Cnr Jumping Ck & Dudley Rds has been submitted, and is conditional on a reduction in floorspace at Beagley's store.
*Cr Fieldew suggested to Warrick Truepenny that he follow up his request of some months ago for Council to consider purchasing land in Wattletree Rd (for use as public open space) with a petition. *Concern was raised that no Councillor had performed an on site inspection when an application was received for removal of some 15 trees at a property in Toppings Rd recently.
*Cr Fieldew undertook to follow up on the delay in Council staff removing dumped rubbish (Whittens Reserve was mentioned).
*Walker's Poultry Farm has applied for subdivision (rejected).
*A resident has complained about cars parking on the road reserve/turn around/drop off area Cnr Jumping Creek Rd & Yarra Rd & Cr Fieldew was asked to advise re the cleaning of the bus shelter on this corner. *Cr Fieldew also to investigate the requirement for Wongaroo to provide staff car parking spaces other than using the car park at the Community Cottage. *Cr Fieldew also asked to arrange examination of the uneven and dangerous road surface in sections of Paynes Rd. *It was moved that we write to the SECV requesting an explanation for the recent power supply outages *It was also moved that an item be placed in News & Notes to the effect that options for the re-naming of Homestead Rd, between the end of Brushy Park Rd & the start of Reserve Rd, be discussed. Meeting Closed 9.30pm

SHIRE NEWS

The L87 planning amendment, which was the subject of a letter the Shire sent to all residents a few months ago, has been approved by Council and will now be put forward for Ministerial signature. The L87 amendment relates to the residential ODP for the central area of Wonga Park and sets the minimum residential subdivision allowed. It is interesting that no objections were received against the proposed ODP, only 3 letters of support (one from the Residents' Association) and 3 submissions.

The submission for future extensions to the Wonga Park Village Shops attracted some objections and Council is currently deciding whether the application will proceed to a panel hearing.

After some delay, the owner of the store on the Cnr Jumping Creek & Dudley Rd has now lodged a submission for expansion of commercial use involving the adjacent vacant blocks in Jumping Creek Rd. The relevant planning amendment is currently on exhibition at the Shire offices and any objections may be lodged until 31 January 1992. As with the Wonga Park Village, the Shire will then determine whether the amendment should be subject to a panel hearing.

RAINFALL

The rainfall for November was 33.50mm (1.34 inches) bringing the total for 11 months to 799.50mm (31.98 inches). October and November are the two wettest months and this year in these two months we had had only 72.50mm (2.90 inches). All indications are that we are in for a long dry summer.

WPADRA OFFICE BEARERS SINCE 1965

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1969-71 Mr J Upton
1971-72 Mr H Box
1972-75 Mr W Robinson
1975-76 Mr H Box
1976-79 Mr P Robinson
1979-80 Mr R Brindle
1980-81 Mr M Blunn
1981-82 Mr J Upton
1982-83 Mr M Blunn
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1985-87 Mr B Box
1987-90 Mrs L Hickling
1990- Mr P Glenister

Secretary/Treasurer

1965-66 Mr E Payne
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1968-69 Mr H Box

Secretary

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1978-79 Mr T Place
1979-81 Mr J Pitt
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1985-86 Mr H Brauer
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1965-67 Mr D Tinkler
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1970-77 Mr A Aird
1977-78 Mrs D Robinson
1978-79 Mrs J Aird
1979-82 Ms D Goodwin
1982-84 Toni Hume
1984-85 Mr A Aird
1985-90 Mrs K Taushke
1990- Mr M Tapper

WONGA PARK COMMUNITY COTTAGE Old Yarra Road, 3115



Christmas tables and presents will be highly decorated this year with the help of some of our classes held in term 4. Topiary Trees and Tole Painting were the biggest hits.

Christmas celebrations will be held at the Cottage Christmas Luncheon on Monday 16th December from 11.30am to 1pm. This is for everyone please come and bring a plate of food to share. Balloons for the children.

Term 1 1992 program is being put together right now if you have some bright ideas . We have a typing tutor for next year, which will be great. Would you like to earn a bit of extra money by teaching one of your skills? We are especially looking for a Woodwork tutor, no qualifications necessary.

We purchased another spinning wheel this term so anyone wishing to have a go next year is welcome.

Look out for our program to be postal dropped on 20th January Enrolment Day will be on Tuesday 4th February. Have a wonderful Christmas from all of us at the Cottage. Further enquiries on 7221944.

CRUYDON DRY WONGA PARK DRIER

This was the headline suggested by one speaker for use in our local newspapers.

It referred of course to the demolishing of that land mark on the corner of the Main Street and Howlish Road in Cruydon. At about the time it was also a very real summary of conditions in Wonga Park.

Residents must be heartily sick of the constant pilgrimages to stand pipe in Yarra Road or Homestead Road to fill their two hundred gallon tank mounted on the back of a borrowed truck or their forty gallon ox-drum on the back of a borrowed truck. That the M.M.B.W. can answer requests for water extension with such equitocation and evasion is something of a reflection upon each of us.

For how long can we accept this 'tell nothing' 'do nothing' attitude while wait our turn in the queue at the stand pipe.

THE NON-EXISTENT 'PLAN' FOR WONGA PARK

Questions raised at the inaugural meeting must have caused some disquiet in the minds of some. Their is some obvious confusion on what constitutes a 'PLAN'.

IS THERE A PLAN for the development of Wonga Park, or is it just a matter of each fresh application being treated on its merits ? This question could draw some interesting answers

YOUR W.P.D.R.A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following members were elected by the inaugural meeting to serve the association in its important first year of operation.

- Mr. Don Finkler President
- Mr. John Upton Vice President
- Mr. Ted Payne Secretary
- Committee:
- Mrs. Beagley, Mrs. Swift, Mr. Alan Knee,
- Mr. Gordon Styles, Mr. Max Swift,
- Mr. Harry Box and Mr. Laurie Myers.

The Committee has prepared a Constitution and a plan of approach. This will be presented to the FIRST GENERAL MEETING NEXT TUESDAY NIGHT 18TH MAY at the WONGA PARK HALL

THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE W.P.D.R.A.

To get some forty residents out to a public meeting is the achievement of the organisers of the meeting to form the W.P.D.R.A. More importantly perhaps it indicates a climate of developing interest in the district of Wonga Park.

It is certain that this district will see some startling changes over the next few years. The fact is inescapable. That the changes which overtake us should follow a CARPENTALLY FORMULATED PLAN is desirable, if not vital, to the interests of every citizen of the area.

Subjects covered briefly by speakers before a vote was taken on formation of a society were 'Water for Wonga Park', 'Shire Riding Boundaries', 'Rating Formulas' and 'Land Development'.

Sufficient evidence was put forward to indicate that an association of residents could bring about some much needed in each of these episodes in the interests of the local people.

Considerable discussion followed the election of a Committee and Executive. Many ideas were presented by speakers suggesting ways in which the aims of the Association could be advanced in practice.

MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS

One of the first tasks of the public meeting was to fix an amount this year's membership. Strong moves were made for £1. and for 5/-, but the final figure agreed upon was 10/-.

This means that any resident of the area wishing to enjoy the privileges of membership of the Association by paying the fee of TEN SHILLINGS.

The tasks facing the W.P.D.R.A. are formidable and the meeting considered this amount could be necessary to carry on the campaigns which will be initiated in the interests of the Wonga Park District.

Most of us belong to one local organization or another depending on our own personal interests. It is good to see the various interest groups being established in any community, but these do not necessarily bond the community into a working unit, nor can they claim to give fully representative views on the many issues facing a society.

The Wonga Park District Residents Association has been formed to work in the interests of the area at present included in the West Riding of the Shire of Lillydale. It is surely in the interests of residents that an attempt be made to weld this area into a composite whole giving an opportunity for the people to speak with one voice on matters of importance.

Although this is a part of the Lillydale Shire few of us in fact have more than an indirect contact with Lillydale as a centre. This may be the reason that in the past so much has been left to the elected representatives on Council and little apparent interest shown in civic affairs. That the councillors have fulfilled their office with distinction is obvious to all who travel our roads, but the time is more than opportune for our representatives to be supported by a well informed society of West Riding residents.

The setting up of the W.P.D.R.A. will produce a forum enabling all members to express their views. For our association to be effective it must be critical, BUT let us be on our guard lest our criticism become destructive rather than constructive, and let us at all times be prepared to listen to opposing views. In this way much can be achieved by an organisation such as the Wonga Park District Residents Association.

WONGA PARK AND ITS TRANSPORT PROBLEMS

We are told that there was a better bus service to these parts some twenty years ago. This may be so, but surely it is a fact that our inadequate service is holding back desirable development today. Residents complain and potential residents are lost they tell us.

The question has occupied the W.P.D.R.A. for some time. The main problems seem to be these:

- The lack of a bus at a suitable time to serve school children who attend the Croydon schools, and for people to attend business in the nearby towns.
- Unsatisfactory arrangements for shopping in Croydon.

As the year rapidly draws to its close it is perhaps a good time to review our activities since the inception of the W.P.D.R.A. Our organisation was formed in April this year and some forty residents of the Lillydale Shire West Riding met to discuss a number of matters of vital interest to the people of Wonga Park. Four major topics were covered in discussions prior to the formal moving that some new organisation be formed to protect the interests of people living in this area.

- * WATER FOR WONGA PARK.
- * POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF SHIRE RIDING BOUNDARIES
- * THREATENED CHANGES IN RATING FORMULAE
- * ORDERED DEVELOPMENT AND LAND SUBDIVISION IN WONGA PARK

In each of the above fields there have been vital developments and the W.P.D.R.A. has taken an active role.

During the year the many who have attended the monthly meetings have become the richer in knowledge of our local affairs.

After years of half hearted approaches to the M.M.B.W. WATER FOR WONGA PARK seems a definite probability, but there will be much negotiation before it becomes a reality.

The W.P.D.R.A. is watching with care developments in the matter of changes in RIDING BOUNDARIES as proposed by Council. The W.P.D.R.A. leads the shire in support of the present Net Annual Value formula for rating purposes against attempts to force a change to Site Rating.

We have seen the council policy of the subdivision of less than one acre - change to a more rational one in regard to land development.