

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 Lilldale. 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 Lilldale Shire few of us in fact have more than an indirect contact with Lilldale 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 organization was formed in April this year and some forty residents of the Lilldale 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 organization 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 FORMULA.
- \* 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.