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WONGA PARK - NEWS & NOTES

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All are welcome to the next meeting of the Association at 8 p.m.
Friday, 9 September, 1994 at the Community Cottage, Wonga Park.

Municipal Amalgamations in the Outer-East

In July the Association made a submission to the Local Government Board stating that the removal of the township of Wonga Park from the Shire of Lillydale or amalgamating it with either of the cities of Doncaster/Templestowe, Croydon or Ringwood would be detrimental to the planning and conservation of Wonga Park.

A summary of the main points are:

1. The interests of Wonga Park will be best served by remaining as part of the Shire of Lillydale or any future Shire of the Upper Yarra Valley including Lillydale,
2. Little community of interest exists between Wonga Park and municipalities other than the Shire of Lillydale and the Upper Yarra Valley,
3. A merger with the City of Doncaster/Templestowe or the City of Croydon would no longer allow the rural aspects of Wonga Park to be protected by the Regional Planning Strategy, instead it would fall under the Metropolitan Planning Scheme,
4. Wonga Park would not receive any increase in services from these city municipalities above what is currently supplied by the Shire of Lillydale,
5. Wonga Park should not be sacrificed to simply add numbers to make another municipality viable.

The Doncaster Proposal - The City of the Middle Yarra.

The City of Doncaster/Templestowe has recently proposed this new municipality to include the existing City of Doncaster/Templestowe, the suburbs of Eaglemont, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, East Ivanhoe, Rosanna and Viewbank to the west; the suburbs of Lower Plenty, Warrandyte North and Eltham South to the north; Wonga Park to the east; and the Eastern Freeway to be the southern boundary. Certainly a bold proposal.

The new City would contain 153,000 residents and the proposal argues that it would be financially viable and better able to manage the Middle Yarra Valley than having the opposite banks of the Yarra in different municipalities. Rate savings in Wonga Park were estimated in the order of 6.9%.

The City of Doncaster/Templestowe sought views from the residents of Wonga Park via an advertisement in the Lilydale Post, which unfortunately does not circulate in Wonga Park.

Council News

The roadside reserve on the eastern section of Jumping Creek Road has been degraded by SEC clearing over the last few years. Now the Shire of Lilydale has joined the fray and they recently granted themselves a permit to remove a substantial number of trees from the northern side of the road for drainage works. There was no apparent consultation with the community. Other alternatives existed such as placing the drain under the roadway and perhaps some of the trees could have been saved.

Council has approved a 2 lot subdivision in Hoopers Road, the construction of an 111 square metre shed in Reserve Road and has allocated \$5,500 for a storeroom extension to the Wonga Park Hall.