



News

March 2009 - Newsletter of Glen Eira Residents Association Inc.

IN BRIEF

- Council Elections -

Our Committee

President:	Don Dunstan
Vice Pres.	Christine French
Treasurer	Joy Steward
Secretary	Geoff Paterson
Committee	Cheryl Forge Jack Campbell Kevin Robins
Web Coordinator	Alex Scutt

Yes, it already feels like some time ago. But, really, the council elections were held only 'last year' (in November).

GERA ran our usual 'Get to meet the Candidates' meeting, on 9th November, just prior to the elections. Chaired by Dr. Bob Horton, the meeting gave many people the chance to see our future councillors in action. Members - and others - were able to discuss civic affairs and judge for themselves the individual merits of the candidates. A very successful meeting.

INVITATION TO MEMBERS

We invite any member who may be interested in attending a Committee meeting to come along. Please ring Don or Cheryl for details.

The new Councillors are settling in quickly. The rigours of council life, the demands on time and the ever-present need to consult residents is always a challenge to newly-elected councillors.

The November elections resulted in many new faces at the council table, four in fact, to work along with five re-elected councillors. At the 'Statutory' council meeting in December, all councillors were sworn in, and the new Mayor elected.

CONTACT:

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Cheryl Forge Ph. 9509 6290**

Firstly, congratulations to Cr. Helen Whiteside, the new Mayor of Glen Eira. We all wish Helen well for her Mayoral term, and look forward to a successful and, indeed, a wonderful 2009 for Glen Eira.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You may have already heard that the State Government is at it again, changing the Town Planning rules. The Racecourse looks like being 'called in' by the Planning Minister which means NO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION about the future of our supposed parkland, or recreation lands. Worse still, there are now more 'open slather' pro-developer rules in the proverbial pipeline. Sadly, the new rules will apply across the whole of Glen Eira.

We also wish to extend our congratulations and hopes for the future, to all the councillors of Glen Eira, and especially to the new councillors:

- **Cr. Jamie Hyams (Tucker Ward)**
- **Cr. Jim Magee (Tucker Ward)**
- **Cr. Frank Penhalluriack (Camden Ward)**
- **Cr. Neil Pilling (Rosstown Ward)**

So, on behalf of the Committee and Members of Glen Eira Residents Association Inc., I thank the Mayor and Councillors in anticipation of a bright new, consultative future for the city, a future we all can share in.

- Don Dunstan President

- NEWS IN DEPTH -

LAST YEAR we made several important submissions to Government Inquiries.

1. **In February**, Jack Campbell, Cheryl Forge, and Don Dunstan all made submissions to the Parliamentary Select Committee of Public Lands.
2. **In July**, a submission was made to the Eddington Inquiry, pressing for improvements (grade separation) along the two rail lines from Caulfield station. (As the basis for this submission, the GERA Level Crossing Survey was undertaken, This audited the urgent improvements needed, for both safety and environmental reasons.
3. **Also around July, a similar submission was made to the Melbourne's Future Liveability Inquiry.**

THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCLUSION that we put to **Eddington** and to the **Liveability Inquiry** was, "that in the light of the world crisis with Climate Change, the green-house pollution from the thousands of stationary motor cars, all waiting at level crossings with engines running, patiently awaiting the passing of often non-existent trains, all just spewing out green-house gases, is simply horrendous and economically stupid". When we added to that, the safety risks of motor vehicle and pedestrian accidents at level crossings, it is obvious that all the remaining level crossings must be replaced urgently. **Footnote:** We are still waiting to hear from the government. Please don't hold your breath.

NOW THIS YEAR, the Racecourse "Parkland" saga continues.

Sadly, the shambles goes on. As we all now know, the public land at present occupied as the racecourse, is supposed to be used for just three purposes, public park, public recreation, and a racecourse. There is no parkland provided whatsoever, and large areas are used for commercial caravan shows, and other non-racing ventures.

To add insult to injury, we now find that the Minister has just appointed a new Trustee for the Crown Land, a Trustee, who, presumably, will protect the public interest. But, we now find the new Trustee is yet another Racing Club member. Whence went the public interest?

To rub salt into the wound of public injury, the Minister Gavin Jennings has given his approval for the Racing Club to use a large triangular piece of land, for huge buildings of 15 and more storey's, as commercial property development. (The land is right near Caulfield Station and zoned, you guessed it, 'public parkland, public recreation, and racing' NOT high-rise commercial buildings).

Now, for the last item, a matter of GERA business:

ONE FINAL IMPORTANT NOTE: Membership renewals are now due for 2009. There are just so many important issues facing residents, both within Glen Eira, and Statewide. We need and look forward to your continuing support. Many thanks.