

Annual General Meeting
Thursday 29 October
7- 9pm
Old Shire Offices, 60 Beverley Rd, Heidelberg

Attendance : Approx. 130 people
Steering Committee Members :

1. **Welcome, Purpose of Meeting and Overview** : Marion Ware

2. **President's Report** : Marion Ware

An excerpt from the President's Report is available from our website at

<http://www.friendsofbanyule.org/media/4966/fob%20activities%20&%20achievements%202008-2009.pdf>

3. **Treasurer's Report** : Geoff Baker

4. **Annual Committee Election conducted by Returning Officer** : John d'Aloia

Written nominations for Executive Committee were received & tabled for the following Executive Committee positions :

President : Marion Ware

Vice-President : Noel Martin

Secretary : Sharon Marks

Treasurer : Geoff Baker

Committee : Sally Leslie

Committee : Dennis O'Connell

No further nominations being received, the above members were elected to the Executive Committee

5. **Keynote Address** : Greg Barber MLC

Following is a summary of the main discussion points of the address :

There are some great things to protect in our area which is quite unique in that we have the Yarra River. Much to do to change the situation re traffic congestion.

Some facts

- 40% of people who live in Banyule also work in Banyule

- 1/10th of these use Public Transport

- We could safely say that 1/3 of cars in morning peak are in fact Banyule residents going to work and taking kids to school

On Carbon Emmissions

We need to get to ZERO carbon emissions! We will have a new world climate/new environment order, whatever we decide on carbon emissions now and that future is not something that we can look forward to.

On Greg's trip to Iceland

They have great thermal resources and moving towards zero emissions using hydrogen economy and thermal resources. They are very highly developed in Education, Arts and Culture. They are a great model for the rest of the world.

Discussion on buses for Banyule

Imagine ...

- selling our 2nd car and saving \$200 per week on total cost of ownership !

- 1/3 less traffic during peak. These numbers are before we even look at people working in other parts - neighbouring suburbs and city

'Our' campaign

Not a simple 'hands off our valley', it needs to incorporate regional, nations and global issues.

Major Transport Project Facilities Bill

- 13 different environment legislations going back to 1970's, 80's and 90's - all hard fought for campaigns.

This Bill seeks to override all provisions in previous legislation

Simple and blatant attempt to wash away and leave citizens' groups in the dark. Ministers will no longer be accountable.

We need to understand freight, trains, buses, how our community works. Need a planning style map - where people want to go. Not the approach that has been already taken by govt. that is like a checker-board guess approach to what should connect to what.

Go for the jugular - at all elections. Let them know you are able to mobilise lots and lots of people on this issue.

6. Q & A from Friends of Banyule Audience

Q. Trucks down Rosanna Road

A. Freight is very complicated. A target is necessary to get freight onto rail

Q. How was the East-West Tunnel battle fought

A.

- Journalists were brought to a children's playground in Kensington
- 2 to 3 year grass roots campaign
- many residents had "No" signs in their front yards
- let your elected representatives know
- mobilise lots and lots of people on this issue
- eventually, the people won this battle and we can too

Q. What can we do - we are worried about the Wetlands, pollution, noise of potential freeway etc

A.

- There are stats available about truck exhaust brakes at 3am in the morning
- present arguments and business cases
- get our message out to as many people as possible and focus on the marginal seat/potential seat holders

Q. Where exactly is the tunnel going to be. Some discussion on soil, rivers, enough water within a wetlands environment to avoid damage to a road tunnel etc.

A. S.E.I.T.A.'s representative wouldn't say where. Their comments included that it would depend on soil composition, geologists reports etc. still to be determined. Friends of Banyule's map indicates the suggested route tabled in the GHD Report.

- one issue is that the Govt. has already indicated a budget of \$6 billion. The State's total budget for all capital works is \$5 billion... so in the middle of an electoral cycle, we need to keep presenting more and more impracticalities until the govt. abandons the project

Q. Is it going to be a Toll Road

A. It would seem the only likely outcome given that the Govt would need to partner in order to fund the project.

- By the way, EastLink is down 40% on expected usage. There has been little or no traffic growth over the past 5 years in Melbourne.

Q. What about pollution and Tunnels

A. Pollution is worse with short tunnel lengths

Q. Rosanna Road, Heidelberg – what alternatives do we have now ? Will the tunnel resolve the issues on Rosanna Road ?

A. Freeway usage stats show that most are used for short distances, so we can expect further increases in traffic on Rosanna Road due to bottlenecks at entrance, exits etc.

Q. Who is responsible for building this proposed North-East Link

A. The State Government. But it needs Federal Government assistance

Q. If you had \$10bn over the next 10 years, what would you spend the money on ?

A.

- schools and hospitals
- Public Transport over a freeway or tunnel

Q. If we do build a connecting road, how is the traffic going to move into the city anyway ?

A. Rosanna Road is in a deadlock position now. It will be many more years before any proposed

freeway/tunnel is built and we need solutions for this traffic issue now. Those solutions can be found in improving public transport immediately

Q. What are the alternatives to Government's proposal ?

A. By member of public at the meeting :

- The govt. becomes extinct
- T-intersection would most likely be a major death hazard if traffic comes to a standstill if there is a tunnel. Do we know of any other tunnels with a 'T' entrance (likely at Bulleen end)
- bike to work
- take bike lanes away from Lower Heidelberg Rd to increase lanes/lane widths
- put a reversing lane down the middle
- put freeway through Eltham as they need a 'fire break'

Q. What are your observations for a successful campaign

A.

- Need the youth in our areas to be involved – otherwise we as a community will be the lesser of 2 evils to rally to the govt's proposal
- target marginal seats
- other side of the river – contact Veneto Club and wealthy schools

Q. Is the Govt buying up land in Bulleen Road & Veneto Club

A. Inconclusive... but Veneto Club has a new Stadium

Q. What is the Mayor of Banyule, Tom Melican's position on the freeway

A. Friends of Banyule needs to seek the official position from Tom and also all our politicians at Federal, State and Local levels

7. Thank you to Greg Barber MLC : Marion Ware

8. Call to Action : Julianne Bell (Protectors of Public Lands (Vic) Inc (PPL). : Julianne Bell Kensington campaign was a success because of the community's involvement and media attention. Rallies were held with "No Road Tunnels" signage. Many proforma letters were sent to politicians. We must put the Heritage Listing for Warringal Parklands, Banyule Wetlands & Bolin Bolin Billabong issue back on the agenda for Banyule Council. Ask Govt to be accountable for the costs in their budgets. Area of huge concern is the Urban Growth Boundary legislation. Please assist PPL with this by writing letters to Government and there is a Petition to sign on PPL's website at : www.protectorsofpubliclandsvic.com

9. Closing of Official AGM : Dennis O'Connell

Thank you to our President, Marion and everyone who has helped us this year as well as everyone for attending tonight.

The key issues to take away from the meeting & keep in mind for future action:

- It is action at the local level by ordinary people in communities that makes democracies and societies work. We urge you to participate, have a say and make a difference
- We need to act in unison, as a community and as people genuinely concerned about the environment at the local level as well as globally, to effect change
- We can make a difference, if we combine our efforts and pool our talents rather than waiting for government or somebody else to do something
- We need to lobby our politicians at the state, local and federal level, we need to continue to raise the issues in the press and continue keep the issues alive and before the public.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm