



John and Don with the key message of our campaign against the NE Link and the destruction of



Sharon campaigns with a friendly frog for the protection of Banyule Flats Wetlands and against the planned NE Link.

For more pictures of the rally please visit the website at www.friendsofbanyule.org

In the Press

[How the Minister for Planning and his staff go about consultation.](#)

[Consultation with Community a sham](#)

[Brumby's unfair GAIC bites the dust](#)

SAVE OUR BUSH RALLY

Thank you to all those members who attended the Save our Bush Rally at Parliament House on February 24. There was a good turn out and a contingent of media was in attendance. It was gratifying to join with other groups fighting to protect Green Wedges, flora and fauna and bushland reserves across the wider metropolitan area and the Mornington Peninsula. Like us, they are collectively fighting against the destruction of these green open spaces which will be severely impacted or potentially lost to freeway development.

Friends of Banyule joined SOBA – Save Our Bush Alliance with other groups including Friends of the Pines Flora & Fauna, Save Coomoora Reserve Coalition, Green Wedge Coalition, and Westerfield Heritage Reserve (Mornington Peninsula). MC for the rally was Rod Quantock and speakers included Upper House Greens MP, Sue Pennicuick (Southern Metropolitan), Damon Anderson (Save Coomara Reserve), Gillian Collins (Friends of the Pines), Rosemary West (Green Wedges Coalition), Collin Long (Greens candidate for South East Metro), Marion Ware (Friends of Banyule), Brian Walters (Protectors of Public Lands Victoria).

It was noted by Sue Pennicuick and others that Green Wedges Coalition members, Taxed Out and Protectors of Public Lands Vic had had a win that week with the Growth Area Infrastructure Bill being defeated in the Upper House by the Greens and opposition, effectively preventing the Government to proceed with the proposed expansion of the Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB). Friends of Banyule made a submission to the Parliamentary Committee on this as reported previously.

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Visit SOBA websites

☞ **Save the Pines**
www.savethepines.net

☞ **Save Coomoora Reserve Coalition**
<http://www.gwc.org.au/scrc>

☞ **Green Wedge Coalition**
<http://www.gwc.org.au/>

Banyule Festival Sunday March 28

Friends of Banyule will again join Warringal Conservation Society to attend the Kids Arty Farty Festival on March 28.

We are looking for members you can help for a couple of hours at our stall to sign up new members, hand out flyers, sell t-shirts with our campaign message and talk to people about the campaign against the NE Link.

If you are interested in helping out please contact our volunteer co-ordinator Dennis O'Connell with information about what time you are available via info@friendsofbanyule.org

Inappropriate Development along the Yarra

by Dennis O'Connell

I attended a Consultative Meeting at Yarra Council offices on Wed' 3/2/2010, re the proposed development adjacent the Yarra River at 677 - 679 Victoria St Abbotsford, in support of 3068 Group, Planning Backlash, Protectors of Public Lands, residents and others objecting to this mammoth proposal. The meeting was well attended by in the order of 150 or more people who voiced their concerns.

This matter, whilst in another municipality, if approved in its current form, would set a very unhelpful precedent for future development along the Yarra River. It is after all, the same river we are trying to protect just a little further upstream. We should be very concerned about this proposal and I believe, give support to the community groups and Yarra/ Boroondara residents opposing the project.

The proposed eleven storey (41 - 48 meters high) project, is on the former Honeywell site, on a bend in the Yarra River abutting Victoria St, adjacent Victoria St Bridge, with two frontages to the river. It is by any reckoning a quite massive overdevelopment of what is at present (at river level) a tranquil and ecologically sensitive riverine environment. The development comprises 586 apartments, 688 car parking spaces, two ground floor restaurants, cafes, gymnasium and a roof top tavern as well as a floating pontoon on the river. Continues on page 3.

Important note to all Members and Supporters

Please continue to write letters to local and national print media, websites and the local MPs about the NE Link and our campaign. With your support we have had continuous coverage in the press for the past 4 months. Selected press clippings can be viewed on our website. Well done to all! [Please visit the website](#)



Membership Renewals 2010

If you joined Friends of Banyule between July 2008 and January 2009 and have not already done so, please renew your membership now.

You can download a form and payment instructions from the following link: [Membership Renewal](#)

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A mock coffin was filled with items representing the environment and flora and fauna under threat or which may be lost altogether as a result of freeway construction (i.e. Peninsula Link which will go right through their habitat). The coffin was later carried down Bourke St to Tim Pallas's office in Exhibition St. whereupon protestors were told that the Minister's offices were on private land and that they should leave the premises or face eviction and/or arrest. Protestors then left the offices peacefully having made our point. The irony that the Minister's minders used the issue of his office being on private land when they are in the process of alienating public land was not lost on those present.

Friends of Banyule will continue to work with Green Wedge Coalition and other groups and keep up the fight for green open space for people, not more cars, concrete and bitumen.

Dennis O'Connell

Public transport surveys now live

On Saturday 27 November, Victorians will vote in the next state election. The pt4me2 peoples' poll is a chance for you to have a say on the improvements you want for public transport. Pt4me2 will collate ALL your responses and present them to ALL the major parties in May 2010. Click to pt4me2 to get started. Do one or all of the surveys - each one only takes a minute or so. Please visit pt4me2 before 30 April 2010 to have your say.

Useful Links

"Moving Cooler: Transportation Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions"

www.movingcooler.info

"Win-Win Transportation Emission Reduction Strategies" www.vtapi.org/wwclimate.pdf



Sign up for our Free Media Service

Receive daily press clippings about issues relevant to our campaign against the NE Link, Public Transport and the upcoming election.

The news service is expertly collated by Kevin, one of our members. To be added to Kevin's distribution list please send us an email at info@friendsofbanyule.org



Banyule Swamp
Photo by Bernard Morey



From page 2 – Inappropriate Development along the Yarra

Key issues raised by objectors included:

1. Design issues relating to excessive height & scale, inadequate setbacks and architectural quality (non compliance with Planning Scheme)
2. Overdevelopment of the site (intensity & commercial/residential mix);
3. Inadequate ecologically sustainable design principles;
4. Visual impact on the river including impacts on flora, fauna (natural habitat) and pollution;
5. Vegetation removal;
6. Increased activity along the river and potential impact on the Capital City Trail (including pontoon/safety issues);
7. Inappropriate commercial uses and increased noise (from both potential future residences and users of the proposed bar/restaurant);
8. Traffic and parking concerns (potential impact on trams/cyclists/private car users).

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BOOKTIP:

YARRA, A diverting History

By Kristin Otto

"A lively history of the Yarra adding to our knowledge and understanding of the river and its city." *Australian Book Review*

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There were many speakers from both sides of the river, who raised various issues, including noted Melbourne architect Peter McIntyre who noted that the fundamental thrust of the Yarra environs Planning Scheme (s) was to "preserve the natural and rural character of the river". Most speakers shared similar concerns. Geoff Prior of Studley Park Vineyard noted that the height scale and bulk was a "monumental overdevelopment of the site". A nearby Boroondara resident on the Kew side of the river noted the elevation on that side was equivalent to fourteen storeys (the Victoria St side being cut below ground at eleven storeys). Other speakers included the Collingwood Historical Society who noted that the design of the project did not respect neighbourhood character, built or natural. I noted (as did others) that the proposal was a significant overdevelopment of the site, ignoring environmental concerns and potentially setting in, an helpful planning precedent for the future. Mary Drost of Planning Backlash, pointed out that the character of the area had been ignored and that the project at this scale would ruin the environs of the Yarra. Mary Kenneally of 3068 noted that the proposal amongst other things ignored the recently developed Yarra Wildlife Scheme. This point was also raised by Ian Pimrose, Yarra River Keeper, noting the wide range of wild life along the river including possums, sugar gliders, herons, ducks and various bird species not found elsewhere this close to Melbourne. He noted that paved landscaping in the proposed development would extend right to the river, interfering with both wild life and trail users. Additionally, it would negatively affect lines of sight and visual impact/dominance of the development, from various angles would impact on natural river environs and vistas. Noise/light from proposed tavern etc were also raised as key issues which the design did not adequately address or otherwise ignored. Council officers indicated that they would consider this or an amended proposal by the developer and would then go to Council with a recommendation. If the application was refused, it would be open to the developer to take it to VCAT. It is believed by some in the local community that the matter will likely go to VCAT or otherwise, possibly be "called in" by the Minister. The Yarra River and its environs are too precious a public resource, to allow this sort of rapacious development to degrade it and if continued, potentially lose what we are fortunate enough to enjoy today. The Yarra in my view, should not be up for sale to developers. Residents fought not so long ago to save the Abbotsford Convent and due to community action, saved it from development, preserving it for use by the public. This may indeed be another line in the sand, where we as the community collectively say, enough is enough, hands off the Yarra, leave our public spaces and our river environs alone, whether in Yarra, Boroondara or Banyule. **Dennis O'Connell**



Banyule Wetlands
Photo by Graeme Crowley

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Thank You for your ongoing support

Friends of Banyule Inc would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of the following groups in our fight against the NE Link

Warringal Conservation Society
Protectors of Public Lands Vic
Save Our Bush Alliance
The Green Wedges Coalition
Koonung Mullum Forest Association