

INDEPENDENT PANEL HEARING RE FUTURE OF PARKSIDE GARDENS

We, the committee of the Greater Shepparton Botanic Gardens Association (GSBGA), have been overwhelmed by the support we have received in the lead up to and during the sitting of the Minister's Independent Panel on Parkside Gardens. This Panel spent a week hearing submissions regarding the future of Parkside Gardens.

The Panel members will now spend the next few weeks sifting through the huge amount of material that was placed before them and then make a recommendation to the Greater Shepparton City Council. Their recommendation/s will be revealed in due course.

On behalf of our committee I would like to thank all those members who, having pledged money quite some time ago, were prompt in paying. A big thanks also to those additional people who assisted us by generously dipping into their pockets. All donations ensured that we were able to use the services of a town planner and a barrister.

Julie Davies, our barrister, had an onerous task in putting together our presentation. Without prior knowledge of our three and a half year fight to retain Parkside Gardens Julie did a fine job in presenting our case.

A special thanks to our Melbourne based member, Denise Payne. It was Denise's efforts that resulted in a barrister that specialised in planning and one who suited our budget. Without a barrister our case had little chance.

Thanks also to all of our supporters who fronted the Panel in order to speak to their submissions. Your contributions have ensured that the Panel members have plenty to think about in the coming weeks. Finally, I have to publicly thank the members of our committee for the way they applied themselves to the task when I became virtually non effective during our most critical period in the lead up to the Panel hearing.

Bill Brown
Chairman GSBGA Inc.