

TO ALL MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

With the submission/objection period now completed I would like to thank all those who supported and assisted us through our campaign. There will be those who will, as is their style, try to denigrate the campaign that the Friends of Parkside Gardens conducted over the last month.

Our objective, during this period, was to ensure that people in our community were fully aware as to their rights in regards to forwarding a submission/objection to Council regarding the proposed housing development on Parkside Gardens. This involved an education program, which featured a public meeting, a public rally, door knocking, mail drops, media advertising, both electronic and print, and a media stunt.

All of this would not have been possible without ample money, willing workers and other community support. Money was raised through the sale of a range of Monichino wines labelled with our own, beautifully reproduced, Parkside Gardens labels and very liberal donations from the public. First thanks go to my hardworking committee who sometimes met twice a week so as to keep our “fingers on the pulse”.

They almost wore their collective knees out pasting just under 3,000 signed A4 sheets to newsprint rolls. Secondly to Jenny who made her business, The Living Room, available as a “nerve centre”. This must have caused some disruption but Jenny remained cheerful throughout the period and was a great educator for those seeking information. Supporters, wanting that something different for Xmas, at a fair price, should visit Jenny at The Living Room which is located in the Centrepoint Arcade in Maude Street (opposite Coles).

To all those “foot soldiers” who letterboxed and distributed information a big thankyou. Not a glamour job but very important. Thanks also, to those establishments who assisted us in photocopying dozens of reams of paper. Without access to your “reprographic” (I trust this is correct) copiers we would have struggled.

The Shepparton Aussie Shop in Knight St. as a “post box” for submissions/objections also helped the cause (this shop also has a wide range of suitable Xmas gifts). Wilsigns, our friendly sign writer once again produced when requested. Thanks. What about the

retired couple who spent hours labelling bottles of wine? Not an easy job when, particularly in the early stages, the quality labels caused some problems in the adherence department. However our intrepid couple overcame this and now have it down to a fine art. I bet this long retired ex councillor never envisaged himself doing this task.

Much appreciated folks. And there are others - Don Kilgour chairman and our speakers at the public meeting and our musicians at the public rally. Also helping us was Judy Campbell (World champion Town Crier) and Ben Hall who provided a horse drawn carriage to transport Judy around Shepparton. All our local politicians, both State and Federal were vocal in their support. All played a part in what we believe was a successful campaign but, all this would have been a waste of time had you, not taken the time to show your support by submitting a submission/objection.

Numbers submitted are unknown to us at this stage but we know that they total many hundreds. We suspect that this will be a record for this municipality and an endorsement of what the Greater Shepparton Botanic Gardens Association (GSBGA Inc) has consistently stated over the last three years. It also highlights that Councils so called public consultation is seriously flawed.

I remind you all that several times we asked Council to convene a Public Meeting on the issue of Parkside Gardens but they refused. Considering that the last time the issue of housing on Parkside Gardens arose (then known as the International Village) was when the Commissioners were in power. The Commissioners received thirty five (35) written submissions and this was enough for the housing proposal to be abandoned.

We trust that our Council will now accept that the community wants to retain Parkside Gardens as parkland and that they will also abandon the housing development plan. Be aware that this will probably cost us ratepayers some money as we suspect that there will be a financial penalty if Council resolves to break the Deed of Agreement, which exists between Council and VicUrban. However if we really want to retain our parkland then we will have to accept this.

If the Council hands this on to the Minister for Planning for resolution then we can say, with great certainty that most of these people do not deserve to be our representatives in Council.

AGAIN, I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR AMAZING RESPONSE!

**Bill Brown
Chairman GSBGA Inc.
25th November 2003**