



### Port People gets Council action on Garden City Reserve management plan and budgets

The Council information session held on Wednesday Feb. 6th outside the Senior Citizens Centre & Trugo Club was the result of over three years of meetings, lobbying, submissions and occasionally resubmissions by the Port People Executive and the BCNA.

Stuart Hale (Project Manager Landscape and Urban Design) and Dwayne Carter (Acting Manager Buildings and Green Services) presented the plan, which included the following items on our wish list:

- Playground upgrade
- Protective fencing for playground, (but only along Beacon Road and Tucker Avenue.
- The playground will not be enclosed).
- 'Goat tracks' turned into proper pathways
- Conversational seating and seating under trees, with a picnic area
- Fencing or something to deter bikers & cars from entering Reserve. Council is reluctant for a number of reasons to fence the park. However, they are going to trial having trees planted all around the perimeter.
- Sustainable irrigation system. The Trugo Club will get a tank, which should water its grass and some nearby trees. Use of bore water has been investigated, but is unlikely to be used because it may affect the bore water of residents. Council has an expert looking at harvesting water from neighbouring rooftops and roads
- Many more trees/other vegetation of appropriate type planted. They will continue the present mixed European and indigenous planting and plant trees along the perimeter and along the pathways. They will plant more olive trees to supplement the existing ones along the path leading from Beacon Road and going past the Trugo Club.
- Support for heritage/mature trees. These will be mulched and given supplementary water.
- Sustainable way of dealing with dog faeces. They will be installing dog signage and looking at dog poo bins.
- Different areas for different activities (kicking balls, families etc. playing cricket, walking, dog walking, sitting & talking, bocce etc).
- Paving which is attractive & suitable for wheelchairs but won't encourage speeding cyclists. Paths will be widened so that cyclists and pedestrians will both be accommodated but will not be made of a surface to encourage speeding cyclists.
- Visual integration of Trugo club. They are considering how to do this: one idea is to change/lower the fence; another is to plant trees or a hedge.

- Planting of dog & draught resistant grass. They will eventually be adding kikuyu grass and getting rid of weeds.
- Plaque/historic memorial. Something will be done, but not till financial year 2010/2011.
- Water fountains for people and for dogs They are considering these, but again these are for later budgets.

The plan is for this to be done in three stages:

Stage 1 2008/9 financial year: \$264,000

- New plantings, esp. trees
- New paths
- New COPP standard furniture

Stage 2 2009/10 financial year: \$220,000

- New trees and vegetation
- New irrigation system
- Grass remediation

(Questioned about why the irrigation system was planned for the second financial year when a lot of trees were going to be planted in the first year, Stuart Hale replied: 'When new trees are planted they receive an intensive maintenance period of 12-24 months. This maintenance includes irrigation. Our thinking is to plant trees in the first stage, and investigate some options for water capture and reuse, before finalising the irrigation system design and installation in the second stage of works.')

Stage 3 2010/11 financial year; \$110,00

- New lighting
- Historical/interpretive markers

If you were unable to attend the information session the website details for GCR Masterplan updates are:

[http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/whats\\_happening\\_in\\_parks.html#L3](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/whats_happening_in_parks.html#L3)



The information on this page will be updated by 15 February to reflect the outcomes of Wednesday's meeting, and will include copies of the plans and associated documents. Discussions about the plan are taking place for about the next fortnight.

It will be presented to Council as part of the 08/09 Draft Council Budget. It seems likely that this plan will be accepted. However, the ominous comment

# Port People Inc.

Community update - Feb 2008



was made that whether it is accepted or not will depend on Council's 'priorities'.

*If you want this plan or something like it included in the 08/09 budget you should join Port People and go along to the Budget meeting and ensure that Council understands that the renovation of the Garden City Reserve is a high priority for all of us.*

The proposed date for this meeting is 25th March. A time and venue have not been confirmed as yet, but information will be available on the COPP website.

Port People estimates that the proposed works will be a return of rate payer funds to the local community of somewhere between \$600,000 and \$700,000.

We look forward to our involvement with Council and staff to see this important project completed in the next 12 – 18 months.



**Your skills are wanted – Please join our group to keep up the fight!**

**Contact Ari if you would like to renew your membership or join us as a new member**

**Port People - Annual General Meeting - mark your diary**

11 am Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Trugo Club, Tucker Avenue PORT MELBOURNE.

Light meal and intellectual stimulation from a guest speaker will be provided. Contact Ari Pappas.

**Re-zoning of excess road reserve and Heritage Overlay for Garden City Reserve.**

Port People is very pleased to report that the Council is getting closer to resolving the status of the land parcels in our park.

Following repeated requests from Port People, last week Council finally said that a recommendation was with the Planning Minister to rezone the left over road reserve on the Howe Parade extension to public park recreation zone.

Following another series of Port People submissions, the Council has already agreed to apply the same restrictive covenant conditions to the other portions of the park and apply the Garden City Heritage Overlay so it is protected for future generations.

**Port People convinces Council to convene community mediation on traffic safety and parking at Graham Street Public School.**

Port People has won commitment from the Council to establish a community consultation and mediation process, following the approval of a planning application for a childcare centre at the Graham St Public School (duration 2 years).

Port People submitted an objection to the planning application, based on safety, traffic management and parking concerns. Port People is supportive of childcare in the municipality provided it effectively takes into account the well being and safety of the adjacent residents.

Despite being a formal objector, and despite commitments from Council planning officers, Port People was not kept informed of the outcomes of traffic and safety studies required of the applicants, prior to council assessing the application.

The next thing we knew of the application was that it had been approved by Council.

Further lobbying with our ward Councilor has led to a commitment for a Council facilitated mediation process around safety, traffic behaviour and parking impact on the residents adjacent to the school.

