

Out and About with *Wattsy*



AUSTRALIA DAY WITH WHITEHORSE AWARD WINNER DILNAZ

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR - YEAR OF THE MONKEY

NEW SCHOOL FENCE AT WATTLE PARK PRIMARY

9 BOWLERS AND A POLITICIAN

INTERVIEW WITH CH 9 OUTSIDE THE VANDALISED BURWOOD POLICE STATION

OPENING OF HYSLOP HOUSE WITH REV PETER WELSH

OPENING OF NETS AT ERIC RAVEN RESERVE WITH PRESIDENTS OF CAMBERWELL LACROSSE AND GLEN IRIS CRICKET CLUBS

NAZARETH HOUSE FETE

RESIDENTS ARE ANGRY WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL OF THE DEAKIN BRIDGE PROPOSAL

SHARING A JOKE WITH BOROONDARA MAYOR CR JIM PARKE

SOUTH EASTERN VOLUNTEERS AGM

RAJ AND THE TEAM AT ST MICHAELS PRIMARY SCHOOL FAIR

TOURING CRAIG FAMILY CENTRE BEFORE THE OFFICIAL OPENING

WELCOMING REV JOHN CARRICK TO ST THOMAS AND BURWOOD

GRAHAM WATT M.P. State Member of Parliament for Burwood District. WINNER OF MY COLOURING IN COMPETITION

STUDENT AWARDS AT PARKHILL PRIMARY

WITH BOROONDARA AUSTRALIA DAY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PUBLIC AND PROUD



Watt's Cracking?



Graham Watt MP
Member for Burwood



Planning for the Future

There have been a number of developments that are starting to cause considerable disquiet amongst residents in Burwood. The Andrews Government has recently signalled its intention to review planning laws. Already there are a number of decisions by the Minister for Planning that signal an end to the orderly management by local government in planning affairs, these include:

- Imminent approval of a large scale development of the old St Leo's College site in Hay Street, Box Hill South, in spite of community opposition and Whitehorse Council's pleas as the responsible authority to rule against the project;
- Removing Whitehorse Council as the responsible planning authority, by calling in the Deakin University proposal to build the interconnect between its campuses in Burwood, and
- Ignoring community concerns with plans to build a large scale, multi storey development at the public housing estate in Markham Avenue, Ashburton. An area surrounded by a mandatory height of 8 metres set by Boroondara Council.

I am holding a public forum with a panel of concerned locals on Tuesday 22 March at 8pm at the Ashburton Library to discuss these decisions and the Andrews Governments proposed changes to zones.

Graham Watt

Graham Watt
Member for Burwood



Future Tennis Champs play at Parliament

It was quite fitting, on the final day of the Australian Open, that young aspiring tennis players from local clubs participated in a tennis competition at Parliament House.

The Burwood Electorate Parliamentary Tennis Tournament was a great opportunity for young champions to play on the grass court in the Parliamentary gardens.

This will be the first, and last time, that the competition will be played as the court will be demolished to make way for a new building in the cramped Parliamentary quarter.



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Autumn Edition Newsletter 2016



A bridge too far

Following a recent community meeting, I continue to receive petitions from residents expressing concern with the Andrews Government's decisions to call in the proposal by Deakin University to build a 240m long bridge across Gardiners Creek and remove Whitehorse Council as the committee of management for that parcel of land. Both decisions were made without consultation.



Planning Minister encourages development

The Andrews Government has proposed changes to residential planning zones, including applying mandatory multi storey development zones to all streets within 100 metres of any activity centre or commercial zone. Furthermore, any zone would apply to the entire length of the street. Combined, these changes have the potential for large scale multi storey developments across many of our quiet suburban streets.

Burke Road crossing removed!

The removal of the Burke Road Level Crossing, funded by the former Napthine Government in the 2014/15 budget, is now complete with the new Gardiner train station open to commuters.

The train line has been placed below Burke Road, providing improvement in travel times and potentially allowing more services without affecting the residential amenity of the local community.



Cloud over Markham Estate

Residents are still in the dark over the Andrews Governments development plans for 240 units on a public housing estate abutting a council mandated 8m residential zone.

With a lack of detail and no consultation, the government have begun demolition works at 2 - 18 Markham Avenue, Ashburton.

I will continue to ask questions on behalf of local residents and have tabled a number of petitions in parliament.



Minister set to rule on Hay Street Development

The Minister is contemplating a 310 unit, seven storey development at the old St Leo's College in Hay Street, Box Hill South, with strong objections coming from the Whitehorse Council and local residents. The current government campaigned against this development while in opposition and it is ironic that the project resembles the Minister's plans for more "infill" development.

New future for Ashwood

The completion of the \$10.5 million first stage of the redevelopment of Ashwood High School in 2014 has breathed new life into the school.

Work on the second stage at the redevelopment will begin this year, with \$5 million allocated from the 2014/15 Napthine Budget.

This is a culmination of work that began with my commitment to rebuild the school in 2010.



PLANNING FORUM

Invitation to all residents concerned with the direction of planning under an Andrews Government.

A public forum Tuesday 22 March at 8pm at the Ashburton Library in the Copland Room.



UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR POLICE STATIONS

The cuts to sworn police officers across the state by the Andrews Government, are having effects locally with the downgrading of the Ashburton Police Station. The previous government increased police by 1700 which facilitated Ashburton Police Station opening seven days a week. However, due to the current reduction in resources the Ashburton Police Station has been cutback to two dayshifts a week.



GET SAFETY BACK ON TRACK

Concerns are growing amongst the travelling public regarding the lack of Protective Service Officers (PSO's), especially during late night weekend services. The Andrews Government decision will mean only limited stations will have PSO's deployed in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday morning, when drunken late night revellers are making their way home.



VANDALS HIT POLICE STATION

Recent reports on both Channel 9 News and Drive with Tom Elliott (3AW), of the vandalism and closure of the Burwood Police Station have concerned many local residents. The Shadow Minister for Police, Hon. Edward O'Donohue, recently visited the station to talk with locals about the effects of cutbacks in police numbers across the state by the Andrews Government.