

Residents' Action Group For Auburn Area

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 1997

Sincerest wishes to all members of the Residents Action Group for Auburn Area for 1997 and hope that it brings much health and happiness to each of you and your families.

At the time of publication, it still looks as though 1997 is the year where the residents of this community who want a Quality of Life (decreased densities, no overshadowing, privacy and no high rise) **may have to show their might!**

Our thanks and appreciation to those who obtained/signed petitions to support the changes to the Town House (DCP11) and no to High rise as presented by Judy and Erica to Council in June. We have been waiting for some decision on DCP 11 & 12 (Townhouses & Flats codes) though this matter was originally raised on December 6, 1995, so that we could advise members of any successful changes made.

The draft code that came back to council for deliberation on November 20, 1996 after more community forums and petitions, did not even remotely resemble the draft put forward by Erica and Judy earlier in 1996. This draft was not our ideal, but was essentially a compromise to give it a better chance of being adopted. Where was the compromise in the draft that came back? **There wasn't any.**

The high rise component which Cr Le Lam successfully had included in the early draft, was nowhere to be seen within the document presented in November. It had neither been deleted or controlled, just kept out of sight for the time being. Your elected reps. (Erica and Judy) tried to have the matter defeated in June but were not supported by any other councillors. The Mayor suggested way back then to let the community decide - hadn't they already done that?

“Who pays the ultimate price for such poor planning and equally bad decision making?”

Again, when Judy and Erica tried to make changes to the November draft, the Mayor suggested that it could be interpreted that Judy and Erica were trying to “railroad council”. How can you “railroad council” when you have been trying to achieve an acceptable change to benefit the community for 11 months?

The Mayor wanted the whole matter deferred until he had a meeting with the Minister, Craig Knowles. He couldn't

give any assurances when that meeting might take place, if ever. Fortunately a meeting was arranged early in February when the Minister agreed to rezone 2c flat areas back to 2b for townhouses and villas only.

Whilst this is a welcome move it still does not address the main town planning problem in the Auburn area - that of overlooking and overshadowing infill townhouse development, particularly in areas that have not previously suffered this blight.

The revised code now covering townhouses and villas only with no reference to flats or high rise in shopping centres was represented to Council at its meeting of 19 February and was agreed to with minor amendments. It will be advertised before returning to Council for final approval.

Erica and Judy reluctantly supported this code as, whilst it is only marginally better than the present one, it incorporates some of the finer points of the code they put forward and can be used as the basis for further amendments.

The speed with which Development Applications are being lodged for townhouses continues at almost Eastern Creek pace and the threat of high rise still looms on our doorstep. Berala, Regents Park and Lidcombe are not immune to developers dreams for high rise. The repulsive reality of a 9 storey block with 190 odd flats will soon raise its ugly head in Auburn (Rawson St & Gibbons Rd) thanks to the former council. It will hopefully be the last that residents of Auburn Municipality see of such developments.

Who pays the ultimate price for such poor planning and equally bad decision making? The community. We need the support of like minded councillors. Where does the ALP now stand on high rise?

Before the elections RAGAA's public forums were a venues where Pat Curtin in particular, was highly critical of high rise and the town house code of the Independent Council. As a result, RAGAA suggested voters who cared about these issues, should vote “ONE” for RAGAA and then direct their preferences to the ALP as they were the only candidates (regardless of political persuasions) to take this stance. Now sixteen months later really little positive has been achieved and Labor seems unable to define its attitude to support for a code that gives Auburn residents little of the quality of life that they want and which the residents of Bankstown and Granville already have and ---

THE HIGH RISE ISSUE

STILL REMAINS AN OPEN ADENDA

see over

HIGH RISE TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL

Judy and Erica have a Notice of Motion before the Auburn Council meeting of Wednesday 5 March 1997 to restrict the height of all buildings in the main shopping centres to a maximum of three stories and in neighbourhood shopping centres to a maximum of two stories.

Will Labor honour their election commitment to oppose high rise? After all they have already supported high rise on the shore of Homebush Bay.

Will the independants who generally favour high rise vote for it as long as it is not on their doorstep?

Come to this and the next few Council meetings to lend your support to our aims and show the other Councilors that residents really do care about the quality of life in the Auburn area. You could even outnumber the developers in the gallery!

Fund Raising

**BACK BY
POPULAR DEMAND**

HUNTER VINEYARD TOUR

Saturday 17 May, to Polkobin and Wollombi
Depart Auburn 7.30am, return 7.30pm
Price \$40 includes coach fare, morning tea,
lunch and all wine tasting.

Liz 9643 2684, Judy 96495934, Erica 9649 7848

Limited seats available, so book early

FUN, ADVENTURE AND LAUGHTER WITH BOB HINCE

*You are cordially invited to the
Residents' Action Group for Auburn
Area next fund raising function to be
held at Auburn RSL Club
in the Orchid Room,
on Friday 14 March 1997
at 6.00pm for 6.30pm.*

Well renowned public speaker, Mr. Robert Hince will entertain you with his 'Fun, Adventures and Laughter with Bob Hince', presentation which is based upon his successful book of the same name.

Hot and cold fingerfood, beer, wine and soft drink will be provided on arrival.

R.S.V.P.

Liz on 9643 2684

Monday 10 March 1997

Judy on 9649 5934

Tickets

Cheques to be made payable to
RAGAA

\$18.00 each.

PO Box 60 Lidcombe North 2141

TRIVIA NIGHT

Thanks are extended to those members and friends who once again made our Valentines trivia night such a success.. Malcom Burns compiled the questions and as a reward, or perhaps as punishment, was given the job of presenting them. There were some groans over some of the questions but scores were up to average.

The round of Verbal Lookalikes initially drew many blank looks but ultimately scored the highest marks of all.

RAGAA Meetings

are held the SECOND TUESDAY of each month
(except January) commencing at 7 30 p.m.
at Berala Public School (Admin. building).

All are welcome.

Membership is open

for details ring Laurie Gordon 9649 4494.

Fund Raising & Donations are our only means of revenue.

Your **RAGAA** Councillors:

ERICA HOCKLEY 9643 2157

JUDY JONES 9646 5092

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Auburn Council meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the Council Chambers on the corner of Queen and Susan Streets Auburn, commencing at 7.45pm. Various committee meetings are held before the main meeting starting from 6.00pm. Town Planning and development matters are dealt with in the main meeting.

Forthcoming meetings will be held on: *March 5 and 19*
April 2 and 16
May 7 and 21
June 8 and 14

Come along and meet your Councillors
and fellow members