

**Save Strathallan Open Space Community Coalition Inc.**

100 Main Drive, BUNDOORA, VIC 3083

**Newsletter 2 May 2017**

**Membership**

Thanks for your support of the SSOSCC.   We now have 2 Corporate members, 97 Full members and 39 Associate members of the SSOSCC.   We ask you to encourage others to sign up as members, as this will assist in demonstrating to all that the Strathallan Open Space is a precious resource that must not be developed.   The revenue raised has contributed to funding administration expenses, including the costs associated with our new web site:              [**www.savestrathallanopenspace.com.au**](http://www.savestrathallanopenspace.com.au)

**Petition to La Trobe University Council**

Thanks to the great efforts of so many local residents; Golf Club members and friends, we now have 4,654 signatures on our petition to the La Trobe University Council.   This number exceeds our expectations and flags to La Trobe University, local councils, local members of Parliament and the wider public that there is an overwhelming concern by the local community about the future of the Strathallan Open Space.   Thanks to everyone who helped to get so many signatures.

**City of Darebin Council**

In the last Newsletter, we said that Darebin Council had unanimously passed a very significant motion to Save Strathallan Open Space.   Part of that motion was to write to the Minister for Planning, Richard Wynn, the members for both Preston and Bundoora, and to the University.     The letters have been written.    We may hear soon about replies received by Darebin Council.

**City of Banyule Council**

Last Tuesday (2 May) a group representing the SSOSCC met with four Banyule Councillors, including the Mayor, and three Council Officers.  A presentation was made to the Council explaining the history of the Strathallan Open Space and the concern for the future.

Also at the meeting, as a guest of the SSOSCC, was Elizabeth Webb, who is a local (Moreton Crescent) resident.   Elizabeth was heavily involved in the “Strathallan Campaign” more than 25 years ago.   She has a mountain of paperwork from that era and a terrific memory for the detail of assurances made at the time by Government departments, Mark Birrell (Minister for Major Projects) and La Trobe University.   Elizabeth demonstrated that she is just as passionate today about the future of the Open Space.

The SSOSCC delegation was given a very good hearing by the Banyule Councillors and Officers.   The Banyule Mayor suggested that the SSOSCC should write a formal submission to the Council, emphasising the concern for the Open Space and the potential traffic chaos, and danger to the Moreton Cres area, should the Open Space be developed.

**La Trobe University Council**

On 31 March I wrote, as President of SSOSCC, to the Chancellor and Councillors of the La Trobe University Council.   The letter detailed some of the history of the Strathallan Open Space and requested an opportunity to submit the Petition and make a presentation to the Council to make them aware, first hand, of the widespread community concern about the future of the Open Space.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor has responded to my letter, on behalf of the University.    The Committee of the SSOSCC are disappointed with the response.   My letter was not presented, or discussed at a Council meeting and the request to make a presentation not mentioned in the reply.   I will seek to re-engage with the Chancellor and the full University Council.  We will keep you informed of any progress.

**Regards Peter Roberts-President Nicholas Abbey-Vice President**