

Royal Park Protection Group Inc.

Box 4122 University of Melbourne Post Office
Parkville 3052

<http://www.users.bigpond.com/deedub/index.htm>

Contacts: A. Munro (Convenor) 9347-6560 Fax 9349-1406 J. Bell (Secretary) 9347-6953

Quarterly News Bulletin

April to June 1998

Action Review

Campaign

Save Royal Park—Relocate the Commonwealth Games Venues & Village

Our Position — we are

- *Standing up* for the relocation of the 2006 Commonwealth Games netball and hockey venues from Royal Park to more appropriate locations — but not in public parkland;
- *Demanding* a proper, open planning process be conducted for selection of a site for the 2006 Commonwealth Games Village; *saying no* to construction of the Village on the Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital and adjacent sites; and *asking* for return to public parkland after closure of the institutions;
- *Saying no* to the construction of athletes' accommodation at the Urban Camp and *working to save* "Anzac Hall" for a museum and the Park from hotel development.

Lobbying Campaign

Thank you, members, for your work alerting our government representatives to the threat to Royal Park from the Commonwealth Games. Members have raised this with City of Melbourne Councillors; State Members of Parliament — ALP Opposition and Government; pre-selected ALP candidates for Melbourne electorates (Bronwyn Pike and Glenyys Romanes); and the Federal Member for Melbourne (Lindsay Tanner). Also with adjoining municipalities of Moreland, Moonee Valley and Yarra. Your efforts are having a significant impact. An indication is the number of replies members are receiving.

We are calling on you to continue ringing, writing and faxing. (If you need another Media Kit please contact us). *Send them the message that we want the Commonwealth Games Venues and Village relocated from Royal Park.* If you have not already done so, we are asking that you contact City Councillors

before the second Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday 4 August 1998. The subject of Royal Park is listed as an agenda item and RPPG will make another presentation. (Please note that Councillor Malcolm Ritchie is ill and cannot be contacted).

Submission to the City of Melbourne Planning Committee 13 July 1998

On 13 July RPPG made a submission to the City of Melbourne Planning Committee. A number of City Councillors appear to have had a change of mind and voiced opposition at the meeting to the construction of international-standard netball and hockey stadiums in Royal Park. They called for a report, for consideration at the next Planning Meeting, on construction of international standard stadiums in Royal Park and an investigation of alternate sites in Melbourne for the hockey and netball venues.

Contact with ALP State Opposition Members of Parliament

In this quarter, RPPG has had meetings with members of the ALP Shadow Cabinet and has spoken at several ALP forums. The ALP is redrafting its conservation policy and appears to be reviewing or revisiting its policy on Royal Park and the Commonwealth Games. (Current ALP policy is indistinguishable from that of the Coalition).

Contact with Community Allies

RPPG is building alliances with other community/environment groups who have been alerted to the threat to Royal Park by your letters to the papers and talk-back radio programs. A "Green Games" for Melbourne promotional campaign is being developed with these groups, including Friends of the Earth and Environment Victoria.

RPPG Supreme Court Appeal on the Urban Camp Case

Our Supreme Court Appeal against an Administrative Appeals Tribunal decision to allow a hotel development on the Urban Camp site is proceeding. Our legal representatives will advise us soon as to when the case will be heard.

We thank RPPG members and supporters including Parkville Association members for contributions to our Supreme Court Appeal Fund.

Royal Park as Real Estate? *"There's an awful lot of vacant land round here."* A quote from the (then) Chief Commissioner of the City of Melbourne, Kevin Gosper, reflecting on Royal Park while inspecting construction of the Zoo carparks 24/1/96. (Note that Kevin Gosper is now a committee member on the Commonwealth Games Bid Committee.)

Ongoing Projects and Committees

RPPG is involved in numbers of projects and committees, including:

- * Revegetation of the Railway Cutting on the Upfield Line through Royal Park;
- * Reconciliation Project with the Wurundjeri on Royal Park;
- * Joint initiatives with the Zoo (following agreement with Zoo Director) on birdwatching in the Park and the Zoo and revegetation of the Park;
- * Standing Committee on Royal Park with Council's Park and Recreation Staff. The next meeting is on trees and planting in Royal Park and Parkville. (Parkville Association representatives are also attending.)

Future Events

URGENT NOTICE — City of Melbourne Planning Committee meeting 4 August 1998 on Royal Park Hockey and Netball Stadiums for the Commonwealth Games

We would like you there to demonstrate support. (We have asked to make a presentation.) Thanks to the members who attended the previous planning meeting on 13 July, with great effect.

Meeting details: Time: 5 pm. Date: Tuesday 4 August 1998. Venue: Town Hall, Swanston Street, Melbourne. Ask at front desk for meeting room. Agenda Item: "State Hockey and Netball Centres Redevelopment in Royal Park."

RPPG First Annual General Meeting 31 August 1998

All members are urged to attend our first Annual General Meeting. The pre-selected ^{ALP} State Member for Melbourne, Bronwyn Pike, will be our guest speaker. Margaret Gardiner, a Wurundjeri Elder, will welcome members to Wurundjeri land. Please ask your friends and family to come along to the meeting — all are welcome.

Members are asked to nominate office holders for RPPG Committee positions. (See over page for nomination form.)

The meeting will be held: Time: 7:30 pm. Date: Monday 31 August 1998. Venue: Meeting Room 1, North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street, North Melbourne (next door to the Town Hall).

Parklands Principles Launch

The Parklands Defence Council (formerly H.O.O.P. — Hands Off Our Parks) will launch the Parklands Principles, an extension of the Parklands Code. All park-lovers invited.

Time: 12 noon. Date: Thursday 13 August 1998. Venue: Parliament House Gardens, enquire at front entrance of Parliament House.