



"Julianne Bell & Rod Quantock lead celebrations following the Government's decision to scrap the Hoddle St. Study" Melbourne Leader 14 March 2011 Picture: R. Mc Kechnie

ROYAL PARK PROTECTION GROUP INC. NEWS BULLETIN May 2011

Royal Park Safe - for now - from East West Link Freeway/Tunnel

It is not so much a red light for the Hoddle Street Study that the group with members from Carlton, Collingwood, Parkville, Fitzroy and Royal Park were pictured celebrating outside Collingwood Town Hall but the green light for the study on the Doncaster Rail Link. This signifies that the State Government has abandoned plans for Sir Rod Eddington's East West Link tunnel/freeway designed to bulldoze its way through Royal Park. Also being celebrated is the recognition of the need for public transport - that is rail - as opposed to yet more freeways and massive road works. It is an incidental recognition that the neighbourhood character and amenity of Collingwood and Richmond must be protected against freeway development. Additionally it is the celebration that Yarra Park will not be resumed for years for the purposes of a giant construction site - as was initially proposed. The Baillieu Government should be commended for recognising the need for rail travel. It is not so much scrapping the Hoddle Street Study as deferring it to be resumed after the plans for the Doncaster Rail Link are completed. So the effort expended by the Hoddle Street Study Strategy Group, the consultative committee, won't be wasted. See the link to the Leader: <http://melbourne-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/comments/red-light-for-hoddle-st-road-study/>

The RACV is however continuing its freeway building campaign. The RACV propounds its views in its April 2011 Royal Auto journal. In the Article "RACV names congestion and road safety as key issues in the State Budget" we are told that *"Mr. Negus (CEO) listed congestion at the end of freeways including the Eastern Freeway in Collingwood ..., severe congestion in inner Melbourne ... as key areas to be addressed in the Budget and forward programs of the government."* In the Royal Auto edition of February 2011 Peter Chandler, Chairman of the RACV Board, writing his first column as President, goes further and says that the *"RACV is looking forward to working with the new State government in pursuing a better and safer transport future for all Victorians... Key projects for Melbourne include the East/West Tunnel from the Eastern Freeway to City Link with an extension to the Western Ring Road (presumably WestLink), the north-east 'missing link' from the Metropolitan Ring Road at Greensborough to the Eastern Fwy and East Link..."* Anyone get the feeling of déjà vu when reading this?

Julianne Bell RPPG Committee Member

Coming Events:

Royal Park Protection Group Inc. Meeting Saturday 4 June 2011:

Meeting: Time and Date: 10:30 pm Saturday 4 June (RPPG holds its regular meeting every second month)
Venue: The Walmsley House (heritage prefabricated iron cottage) in the Australian Native Garden, Royal Park, just off Gatehouse Street Parkville, just before the intersection with Royal Parade. It is next to the Golden Elm tree on the corner. Melways Map Reference: 2 B B4
Transport: On-street parking available in Gatehouse St. Tram along Royal Parade to Gatehouse St. stop.
Enquiries/Contact: Anne Phefley RPPG Secretary Mobile: 0412 279 156

Celebrate World Environment Day - Community Planting Day in Royal Park Sunday 6 June 2011:

Event: The City of Melbourne has issued an invitation to folks to participate in a planting day in Royal Park. Activities have been advertised some especially for children: plant indigenous plants and grasses to create more native habitat for our native birds and insects (tools and plants provided); watch boomerang throwing and listen to the didgeridoo in a bushland setting; join a bush tucker trail; meet live frogs and learn about their water bound lives; enjoy a free multicultural afternoon tea with the African Women's Network; and much more!

When: Sunday 6 June 2011

Where: Royal Park Old Poplar Rd. next to car park. (Melways map reference 29G11)

Enquiries: 96589658 City of Melbourne or Julianne Bell RPPG Committee member Mobile: 0408022408.

News Bulletins:

RPPG is a member of Protectors of Public Lands Victoria Inc., (PPL VIC) which is a coalition of 80 environment, heritage and community groups dedicated to preserving and protecting heritage and environmental sites of significance. RPPG members may like to be included on the PPL VIC distribution for news bulletins with items concerning our transport, planning, population issues and the environment including parks. PPL VIC has alliances with other community organizations such as Planning Backlash Inc., Green Wedges Coalition Inc. and Sustainable Population Australia (Victoria) and is a member of the Coalition of Transport Action Groups (CTAG.) If you would like to be on the email mailing list concerning issues of importance to Victorians send your email address to Julianne Bell at jbell5@bigpond.com

Parliamentary Inquiry into Environmental Design and Public Health

On 5 April 2011, the Legislative Council announced this inquiry which may be of interest to members. One of the interesting sections is "the role of public open space in promoting health. We need people making submissions to convince Parliament that we cannot afford to lose any more of Royal Park and that it is essential to the health and well being to surrounding neighbourhoods. The submissions close 30 June 2011.

Here is the link: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/committees/legislative-council-committees/standing-committee-on-environment-and-planning/inquiry/289>

Message from the Convenor

Since the City of Melbourne abolished the Royal Park Master Plan Committee and its sub-Committee the Vegetation Management Group we are not informed over new planting plans or any major projects proposed for Royal Park. So we ask members to be alert to any changes in the Park. If you see any trees being felled or new paths/roads being laid please advise me as soon as possible. (Once was RPPG was consulted before any tree was removed in the Park and a site inspection held!) Please also report if you see any dogs in Dogs Banned Zones namely the Wetlands, the Billabong near the tennis club in West Royal Park, the Australian Native Garden and the Grasslands near the Royal Children's Hospital. We fought to have these areas dog free so that water birds would be encouraged to return and children could have safe playing areas. I look forward to seeing members at the World Environment Day Planting in Royal Park!

Paul Leitinger RPPG Convenor Mobile: 0401 99 2000

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