



Newsletter

May 2009

www.saveourspringwood.org.au

Welcome to our May Newsletter.

At the Council meeting of 17 February 2009, Deputy Mayor Janet Mays lodged the following Question with Notice to council staff.

"Please advise the total cost to date (Jan 09) of the Springwood revitalisation project. Such costs should include, but not be limited to:

- Council staffing costs;
- Consultant costs (external and internal);
- Community consultation costs; and
- Any ancillary costs."

Below is the Council response

"A search of Council records has provided details of expenses however the number of hours worked on the project by staff is an estimate. Considering the known and estimated costs a figure of \$206,818 is an approximation of all Council costs associated with the Springwood Town Centre Project to January 2009.

The approximate cost of \$206,818 is comprised of the following:

- Council Staffing (estimated): \$ 87,000
- Consultants (external and internal): \$101,853
- Community consultation: \$ 14,320
- Ancillary including advertising: \$ 3,645"

"The Expression of Interest process involved specific costs including staff time, advertisement costs, and consultants have provided expert advice on the process, probity and financial assessments of proponents."

SOS urges you to familiarise yourself with the information published on the BMCC website under Sustainable Living / Major Projects.

<http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/sustainableliving/majorprojects/springwoodtowncentre>

EMINENT ECONOMIST FORESEES END OF PPPS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Eminent economist, Professor John Quiggin, has just written an important essay examining the implications of the current global financial crisis. Professor Quiggin, an Australian Research Council Federation Fellow, based at the University of Queensland, has written the essay, *An agenda for social democracy*, in the Whitlam Institute Perspectives series. He writes: **"the idea of delivering public services through public-private partnerships appears to be dead, as least for the foreseeable future, and in its current form. This will entail acceptance by governments of responsibilities they have sought to outsource to the private sector."** (page 8)

This viewpoint has implications for local councils which might be seeking to embark on PPPs. Clearly the global financial crisis has changed the ground rules for how councils build and maintain infrastructure. Canberra has already recognised this in its handing out of infrastructure grants on a scale not envisaged even 12 months ago. It would seem that the more progressive councils are those which become adept at accessing such grants, rather than pursuing increasingly discredited strategies involving PPPs.

The full essay by Professor Quiggin can be downloaded from our website

www.saveourspringwood.org.au

What's on in Springwood

Fireworks Night

Sat 13th June

3pm – 8pm

Springwood Public School

Food & Market Stalls

Amusement Rides

Live Bands

Lego Expo

Magic Show

Tickets available at
Turning Page Bookshop
or Springwood Public School

A percentage of money raised will be donated to Strathewen Public School which was totally destroyed in the Black Saturday Bushfires

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### **Valley Heights Bush care Group**

Meet Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am

(4<sup>th</sup> Sat. of the month)

At the rear of 18-20 Cambridge St Valley Heights

(future Benoit Park site)

Further details: Pam Gardiner 47512196

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Heart Foundation Weekly Walk

If you wish to get your fitness up join in the Heart Foundation Weekly Walk.

Departs from the Springwood Neighbourhood Centre every Monday morning 8 am. till 9 am.

SOS SALUTES SPRINGWOOD

Small business in Macquarie Road.....how much do you remember?

In 1968 did you outfit your offspring from ***Bib & Bub Babies Wear*** or frequent the ***Bongo Drum Fashion Salon*** in Macquarie Road? How often did you sit and watch the world go by in the ***Golden Bars Coffee Lounge*** or patronize ***Clarice Cottle's Ladies Hairdressing Salon*** or ***Adamson*** the barber. Do you remember who owned the ***Fabulous Cake shop*** or ***Jet Dry Cleaners***?



Perhaps you were around in 1958 and patronized ***Goodland's Grocery Store***, ***Kirkland's Hardware*** or any one of a number of cafes, butchers, dentists, doctors and garages in the village or went to see the latest film at the ***Roxy Theatre***.

Springwood Historians, a group of independent local history historians, welcome any memories, anecdotes or photographs that you may have for their forthcoming history of businesses interests that were established in Macquarie Road from the 1870s until present day.

Please contact Pamela Smith: pamelasmith@mysoul.com.au or alternatively, pay a visit to Springwood Historians in the local studies section of Springwood Library (Braemar) on Monday 10am – 2pm.

CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

If you know of someone living in Springwood whose story would be great to share, and who wouldn't mind being featured in our column or, if you would like to contribute to our Newsletter, please let us know by contacting Narelle Halse on 0410 514 813 or 4751 4812 or emailing mail@saveourspringwood.org.au

We are also happy to publicise any coming events and to discuss with you any issues that concern you with regards to our Ward 3 area. SOS members can be found in the Town Square every third Saturday from 10am till midday. Councillor Brendan Luchetti joins us when he is able.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR COUNCILLORS

Your councillors represent you so you should contact them with regards to any concerns you have.

Alison McLaren	0410 441 842	amclaren@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
Daniel Myles	0414 418 161	dmyles@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
Brendan Luchetti	0414 195 986	bluchetti@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

SOS Save our Springwood Committee

AN UPDATE ON THE SPRINGWOOD TOWN CENTRE ISSUE

After a journey of delays and stratagems, the wandering caravan which the Springwood Town Centre Project, has now become, will pitch its tent in a Councillor's workshop on May 23.

To reprise: In November, following the Council election, Councillor Luchetti attempted to place a motion to rescind the invitation to the developers. On the casting vote of the mayor, the debate on the motion was deferred until February. Come February rather than the motion being debated as planned, the Mayor produced a minute which involved Council writing to the developers to ask whether they wished to continue in the process in the light of the economic climate.

Predictably they have replied in the affirmative.
Now we have the workshop.

The SOS position is that the developers should and could have been removed from the process at any time in the past year. However, now two main questions are to be decided by the councillors.

- Firstly whether the plebiscite on the developer involvement should be in the form of a poll or a referendum?
- Secondly the question to be put by the referendum needs to be framed. Little time is needed to resolve either question. The answers are automatic.

Only a referendum modelled on government elections can accurately reflect community sentiment and has the potential to deliver an unambiguous result. In contrast a postal vote is haphazard, non compulsory and the result inconclusive. Such a poll, whatever the result, cannot deliver an accurate representation of the community. It can only intensify the confusion over this matter. It cannot resolve it. Elections in Australia are not decided by postal vote. They are, in effect referendums requiring compulsory attendance at booths. It is recognised that the decisions to be determined at elections are too vital to be left to the chance of a poll. So it is with the question that will soon confront our community.

If it was to be built, a large scale shopping complex in Springwood would have the potential to unleash a massive and irrevocable reshaping of our community. Our Springwood, one of Australia's most historic towns with its rich heritage, would be sidelined from its unique future and reduced to just another shopping complex, just another suburb, a sign post on the way to somewhere else. The wording of the referendum is critical but needs little debate.

There is only one question at the core of this controversy. That question is whether the developers should be involved in the consultative process, Yes or No. This has been the question clearly defined via public meetings, petitions, council elections, Gazette articles and letters. The Council knowing this has no excuse to depart from it. No other issue should be allowed to blur it. It needs no further nuance. The question is direct and simple.
Developers: Yes or No.

Wording is critical in more than the referendum. The naming of the present project as the "Springwood Revitalisation Process" creates the impression that Springwood is in need of revitalisation and is withering away. However a walk through the thronging vibrancy of Macquarie Road any time, any day explodes that assumption. We may need an upgrading of some facilities; however the nature and extent of that upgrade should be determined by the community. The term revitalisation however suggests something far vaster is required and implies a problem that only appears to exist in the minds of some councillors.

However such terms can insinuate and to counter, it has been suggested, half in jest that the "Councillors Project" should be renamed the "Springwood Obliteration Project" (SOP). When considering the potential impact on our community, this could prove to be chillingly prophetic.

Words can be problematic. When condemning Council handling of this issue we refer to THE COUNCIL, however we should make clear that there are councillors, who have consistently opposed the thrust of this process and demanded a return to community democracy.

We value their stand.

SOS Save our Springwood Committee