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MINUTE BOOK

BLACKBURN CREEK

CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group held
Sunday, 12th April 1981 at the residence of Mr. & Mrs.
J. Burgess.

Present

Mr. Graham Burgess

Mrs. Megan Short

Mr. Barry Collins

Mr. Don Brodie

Mr. Reg Letcher

Mr. Stan Moore

Mr. Lee O'Neill

Mr. Mike Crabb

Mr. Roy McKenzie

Mr. Ken Clark

Guest: Mrs. Dorothy Smith

General Business

General business involved discussion on the MMBW's intention to dispose of its surplus land between Pakenham and Main Sts, Blackburn and how this committee can ensure that the land remains as public open space for the benefit of all the community.

As the MMBW's intentions were not yet clear in regard to the land, the following letters were read to outline the information which was known:-

- (1) Letter from MMBW dated 17/3/81 to Mr. & Mrs. P. Short indicating the Board was considering disposing of land surplus to its requirements
- (2) Letter dated 3/4/81 from Lady of Nunawading to Mr. L. O'Neill indicating that before any land could be sold, the area would need to be rezoned and a planning permit obtained. Council would only be prepared to purchase land north of Galang Park
- (3) Letter dated 1/4/81 from Lady Dwyer, Solicitors to Mr. J. Burgess indicating that no applications had been made to develop the land. This letter also summarised a discussion with MMBW (Mr. Apple) as to the steps which would need to be taken should the Board ~~to~~ decide to develop the land.

As a result of general discussions, the following actions were proposed:-

1. A deputation from the committee to meet with Mr. E. Jane, (Town Clerk, City of Mwanawading) to discuss the matter and ascertain what approaches, if any, have been made to Council in regard to the land.
2. Those committee members available to inspect the creek and park on Friday, April 17, 1981 at 9 a.m. to assess whether a working bee should be held to clear up any rubbish etc. which presently detracts from the appearance of the area.
3. As soon as sufficient information is available, a newsletter be prepared and distributed to residents outlining the situation and how the committee propose ~~not~~ tackling the problem.
4. A public meeting be called to advise residents in detail of the situation.
5. An environmental report to be prepared with input to be sought from interested groups such as Blackburn Birdwatchers Club and Blackburn Tree Preservation Group. Mrs. Megan Short offered to coordinate the preparation of this report.

Other courses of action discussed for future consideration included:-

- a) Letters to local State and Federal MPs, West Ward councillors, local Board of Works councillor, Mayor and councillors, MMBW, Minister for Local Government and The Age.
- b) Further involvement of the local press. Both the Eastern Standard and Mwanawading Gazette were expected to have articles in their next issues regarding the land.
- c) On obtaining details of the Board's plans, to question the possibility of flooding of a substantial part of the land. Long term

residents of the area have mentioned this aspect. It was agreed that a sub-committee would be required to handle the following matters:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| - Environmental Report | - Mrs. Megan Short |
| - Flood Investigation | - Mr. Mike Crabb |
| - Resident Communication / Action | - Mr. Mike Crabb /
Mr. Reg Letcher |
| - New Resident Publicity | - Dr. Don Brodie |

The following executive functions were agreed to:-

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Chairman | - Mr. Graham Burgess |
| Acting Secretary | - Mr. Ken Clark |
| Treasurer | - Mr. Stan Moore |

The next meeting of the committee is to be held as soon as possible after the meeting with Mr. Jane.

Meeting closed 10.40 p.m.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group held
22nd April 1981 at residence of Mr. & Mrs. G. Burgess

Meeting commenced 8 p.m.

Present

Graham Burgess

Megan Short

Ian Swann

Reg Letcher

Mike Crabb

Ken Clark

Joan McKenzie

Wendy Rosier

Apologies

Don Brodie

Stan Moore

Barry Collins

Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting held 12th April 1981 were read. Moved Megan Short, seconded Reg Letcher that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

General Business

Megan Short briefly summarized the meeting held with Mr. E. Jane (Town Clerk) and Mr. D. Wilson (Engineer) of City of Kinawading. The main points were:-

- Mr. Jane was emphatic that Council had not received an offer of the land in recent times
- Council wrote to the Minister for Planning approx. 2 weeks ago requesting Section 32(b) of the Town & Country Planning Act not be implemented and that any proposals for the land be fully advertised. Apparently MMBW could rezone the land under section 32(b) if Council did not object. It was suggested that this committee also forward a letter to the Minister along similar lines.
- Council had never been offered the land east of Laurel Grove
- The impression was gained that Council would not object to subdivision of a limited amount of land at the end of Malcolm St., Sheehans Rd. and Waratah Crescent, however Council would object to barrelling of the creek and total subdivision.
- Council would suggest that pressure be applied to the MMBW

As a result of this meeting, the following

actions will be taken:-

- (1) A letter will be written to Mr. Jane thanking him for his courtesy and the information given and stressing the total opposition of this group to any change in zoning of the land
- (2) A letter will be written to Minister for Planning requesting that section 32(b) not be implemented in this instance and expressing resident concern to any change. A copy of this letter to be forwarded to Mr. Don MacInnion, local State member.
- (3) A letter will be written to MMBW requesting full details of their proposals for the land, plans of subdivision and details of approaches made to the City of Kunawading to purchase the land.

Reg Letcher reported that approximately 12 people inspected the creek and park on Friday 17th April 1981. Although there are isolated instances of rubbish, etc. the overall tidiness is generally good. It was suggested that this committee should not only oppose any residential development of the land but should consider organising a group to beautify the area and restore it to its original state as a naturalist reserve. It was pointed out that much of the original fauna and bird life of the area has changed over the years as a result of the MMBW's neglect of the area and the introduction of horses.

Reg Letcher advised that he had contacted members of the Blackburn Tree Preservation Society who have agreed to assist us in preparing our environmental report on the area.

Graham Burgess advised that a tentative booking had been made of The Avenue Church Hall on Wednesday 27th May 1981 for a public meeting of residents.

A letter dated 15/4/81 from MMBW to Dr. & Mrs. Brodie was read. The main points of this letter were:-

- land west of Laurel Grove was offered to council by letter dated 4/1/79 at current market value on the following terms:
 1. Repayment of principal over 7 years
 2. No interest to be charged for first 3 years
 3. All outgoings to be responsibility of council
- council by letter dated 14/2/80 declined to purchase the land other than 0.51 ha which adjoins Halang Reserve
- the Board intends disposing of the land west of Laurel Grove at the earliest practicable date
- investigations as to the most appropriate future use will be carried out
- whilst sympathising that the land possesses local public open space worth, it is up to council to purchase the land
- the land east of Laurel Grove will be offered to council later this year

Discussion as to the content of the newsletter to residents took place. It was agreed that a sub-committee comprising Megan Short, Ian Swann, Mike Orrell and Joan McKenzie draft the newsletter. Ken Clark offered to establish distribution plans and Graham Burgess would arrange printing.

Meeting closed 10.25 p.m.

Minutes of Blackburn tree conservation Group
held 7th May 1981 at residence of Mr. & Mrs.
G. Burgess

Meeting commenced 8 p.m.

Present

Graham Burgess	Helen McFarlane	Phil Patterson
Reg Letcher	Ian Swann	Roy McKenzie
Megan Short	Stan Moore	
Ken Clark	Brian Crouch	

Apologies

Don Brodie, Mike Crabb, Barry Collins

Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting held 22nd April 1981 were read. Moved Megan Short, seconded Roy McKenzie that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

Matters arising

Letters have been forward to the following:-
Minister for Planning - copies to West Ward councillors
- br. Sharp, West Central ward
- Don MacLennan, MLA

Board of Works

Munawadding Progress Association

Town Clerk - Mr. Jane

Mayor & councillors lodging formal opposition to any change in zoning

From this correspondence, br. McIlbrick replied and br. Sharp telephoned Graham Burgess

Reg Letcher reported that representatives from the Blackburn Tree Preservation Society had viewed the area and that a further inspection would be arranged.

General Business

Distribution of the newsletter to residents was completed over the weekend 2-3rd May 1981.

General discussion as to the next moves the committee should take agreed on the following:-

1. Approximate cost of maintaining the area was to be obtained by Ian Swann
2. Graham Burgess agreed to approach the bdy of Munawadding engineer in an endeavour

to obtain further information.

3. A letter would be forwarded to Mr. Granter, Minister for Water Supply as a result of an approach made by Mr. Alan Jarman, MHR to Mr. Granter

In regard to the public meeting to be held 27th May 1981 it was agreed that the following basic format would be followed:-

- a) Outline the situation in as much detail as is known at that stage
- b) Indicate action taken by this committee
- c) Outline the committee's views as to what further action is needed
- d) Request views of those present as to further ways our objective can be achieved
- e) Ask for assistance in the form of specialist knowledge, etc.

- f) Call for donations to defray costs

It was agreed that at our next meeting on 20th May 1981, a trial run of this format be carried out.

Helen McFarlane advised that she was obtaining information as to the possible effect on bellbirds of any development of the area.

Other initiatives to be taken included:-

- organise a press release by 15th May 1981
- a letter box reminder to be organised the weekend before the public meeting
- personal invitations to be issued to local councillors
- personal contact to be made with all those at the original meeting on 8th April 1981

Meeting closed 10.45 p.m.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
held 20th May 1981 at residence of Mr. & Mrs.
G. Burgess

Meeting commenced 8.15 p.m.

Present

Graham Burgess

Helen McFarlane

Mike Crabb

Reg Letcher

Ian Swann

Visitor - Dorothy Smith

Megan Short

Stan Moore

(Community Development

Ken Clark

Phil Patterson

Officer, City of Nun.)

Apologies

Don Brodie, Roy McKenzie

Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting held 7th May 1981 were read. Moved Megan Short, seconded Stan Moore that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

Matters arising

The Blackburn Tree Preservation Society's May/June newsletter contains a summary of the position and indicates the Society's support for residents to preserve this land. Reg Letcher is to invite members of the Society to attend our Public Meeting. A letter has been sent to Mr. Granter, Minister for Water Supply expressing our opposition to development of the land. Invitations to attend the Public Meeting have been forwarded to the 3 West Ward councillors, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Renfry, Mr. Glose of Nunawading Progress Association, Mr. Don MacKinnon, MLA, Mr. Alan Jarman, MHR. Mr. Mead is overseas and will not be able to attend, Mr. Wendy Reid has advised that she will try to attend part of the meeting but there is a meeting of councillors on that night. Mr. Reid has indicated her full support for our objective. Ian Swann advised that he was still obtaining details of as to likely maintenance costs of the land.

Correspondence

at reply dated 12/5/81 to our letter to

MMBW was read. Main points of this letter were:-

- land west of Laurel Grove was offered to Council by letter dated 4/1/79 at current market value on terms of:-
 1. Repayments of principal over 7 years
 2. No interest during first 3 years
- by letter dated 14/2/80, Council declined to purchase the land other than 0.51 ha adjoining Halang Reserve
- the Board by Government direction must dispose of surplus land
- the Board intends disposing of the land at the earliest practicable date. A thorough investigation as to the most appropriate alternative future uses will be carried out. Rezoning will be necessary and proposals will be placed on exhibition for public comment or objection before any final decision is made.
- the opportunity is still available for Council to purchase the land west of Laurel Grove and it is expected that land east of Laurel Grove will be offered to Council later this year.

General Business

Megan Short gave a brief summary of information gained to date for the environmental report. It was agreed that publicity for the public meeting be obtained through press coverage, notices in shops, in the library, on light poles, and through personal contact with those at the original meeting. Graham Burgess advised that the small hall has been booked and arrangements made to cover the various tasks for the meeting.

Format of the meeting was discussed and the following agreed to:-

Introduction - Graham Burgess

Background - Mike Crabb

Environmental Report - Megan Short/Helen McFarlane

Resume of committees views on options - Graham Burgess

Meeting closed 10.45 p.m.

Minutes of Public Meeting held at Wesley Hall, The Avenue, Blackburn on Wednesday 27th May 1981

Mr. Graham Burgess, chairman of the Blackburn Creek Conservation Group welcomed approximately 145 people to the meeting and thanked them for showing their concern by attending. Members of the committee were introduced to the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received from:-

Mr. Alan Garman MHR	Mr. E. Jensen
Mr. Don Mackinnon MLA	Mrs. S. Holcroft
Mr. Will Renfrey	Mr. & Mrs. R. Borer
Mr. David McFidrick	Mr. J. Sherlock
Mr. Alan Ward	Mr. & Mrs. L. O'Neill
Mr. Wendy Reid	Mr. & Mrs. R. Webster
Mr. H. Rogers	Mrs. D. Herfs
Mr. & Mrs. J. Robb	Mr. E. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Young	Mr. J. Wishart
Mr. & Mrs. Lane	Mr. R. Shakespear
Mr. & Mrs. Taylor	Mrs. Milton
Mr. & Mrs. McKenzie	Mr. & Mrs. Kempkin
Mr. Cameron	Mrs. N. Wade
Mr. & Mrs. N. Allen	Mr. & Mrs. Brown
Mr. E. Dunbar	Mr. B. Glyn

Mr. Burgess advised that residents first became aware that the Board of Works was endeavouring to dispose of the land between Main Street and Pakenham Street, Blackburn which was surplus to its needs following an enquiry by Mr. & Mrs. P. Short and the Board's letter dated 17th March 1981.

In this letter, the Board advised Mr. & Mrs. Short that they intended to dispose of land west of Laurel Grove which was surplus to their requirements. The land had been offered

to the City of Kunawading but Council had declined to purchase most of the land involved. As a result of this letter, 49 concerned residents attended Kunawading Progress Association meeting on 8th April 1981, to discuss the issue and determine what action they could take to oppose development of the land.

At this meeting, Mr. Jim blowes, President of the Progress Association handed the meeting over to residents and a committee to be known as the Blackburn Creek Conservation Group was formed.

Since this meeting, the committee has met on 9 occasions with the aim to obtain information from various bodies and indicate the opposition of residents to development of the land.

A meeting was held with the Town Clerk and Engineer of the City of Kunawading. Council had written to the Minister for Planning requesting that any rezoning proposals be fully advertised.

The committee has written 21 letters to Councillors, MLA's, M.M.B.W. etc. to get information and express opposition to the development.

At this stage, the Board has only offered land west of Laurel Grove to Council and Council has purchased 0.51 ha of land adjoining Talang Reserve and rejected the rest. However, the Board has indicated its intention to offer land east of Laurel Grove later this year.

Mr. Mike Brable then proceeded to outline the background to the Board's involvement with the land. Most of the land was originally privately owned and rural in nature. Between 1955 and 1973 the Board

compulsorily acquired the land. At one stage, it was intended that a secondary road connecting Albion Road and Heath Street would be constructed through the area. However, this proposal was subsequently dropped. In 1976 the land was rezoned Proposed Public Open Space and Stream Floodway ** Zone.

In January 1979, the Board sent a letter to Council offering the land west of Laurel Grove for \$120,000 on the following terms:-

1. Repayment of principal over 7 years
2. No interest charged during first 3 years.

By letter dated 14th February 1980, Council declined the purchase of the land except for 0.51 ha which adjoins Halang Reserve. Cost of this land was \$6,000. It was pointed out that at no stage during these negotiations were residents informed of the Board's intention to dispose of the land.

Mr. George Horton of Laurel Grove asked how much land could be developed for residential purposes. He was advised that approximately 10 acres is in question, however, only a small number of blocks could be developed as much of the land is either subject to flooding or restrictive easements. However, if the Board took the extreme step of damming the creek, it would be possible that all the land might be developed.

Mr. Ron Thyer of Dickens Street asked was the land compulsorily acquired as being flood prone and now proposed for general sale. He was advised that some of the land was acquired as flood prone, but in fairness the Board had carried out work which may have overcome the flooding.

Mr. Tom Slitt of Laburnum Street asked whether the Board had to retain ownership of part of the land. The answer to this question was that the Board had to retain ownership of the creek and approximately 30 feet each side.

Mr. J. Newman of Myrtle Grove commended that the cost of \$120,000 was nominal considering that Council were proposing reconstruction of Myrtle Grove which was still in good condition.

Mrs. Cameron of Dwyer Street asked whether Council were reluctant to purchase the land because of the flooding aspect. The Chairman replied that he felt that a number of lots of land within the City of Murrumbidgee were subject to wrangling between Council and the Board and mentioned that the Board were trying to influence Council in the use of its "tip" land which adjoins an area the Board is developing as an International Botanical Garden.

Mrs. Megan Short on behalf of the Committee outlined some of the environmental effects development could have. She pointed out that the creek land is a sanctuary for numerous bird, plant and animal species. The land in question is a bushland corridor linking from Garie Street Reserve through to Blackburn Lake. To break a link in this chain may threaten many species.

The sub-committee preparing an environmental report had already established rare species of fungi and toadstool rings and were gathering information as to the relationship between the various types of plant life to birds and animals in the area. Records maintained by residents list 72 species of birds which

have been sighted in the area in recent years as an example of the effect development could have Mrs. Short quoted a study into bellbird colonies in the eastern suburbs and how 5 colonies in the city of Murrumbidgee had disappeared in the past 8 years. Only one colony of bellbirds remains in the immediate area now at the corner of Laurel Grove and Linum Street and this would be under threat if the creek land was developed.

Mr. Smith of Blackburn Tree Preservation Society added the Society's support to the committee's aim to maintain the land in its present state. The Society is concerned about the gradual disappearance of large trees from the Blackburn area and this would be further complicated by more development. Open areas are needed to maintain large trees.

Mr. Thompson made the point that as well as emphasising the environmental aspects, the human needs ~~for~~ such an area should be stressed.

Mr. Peter Holcroft of Malcolm Street mentioned that Talang Reserve and the Bowling Club were extensively used for sporting activities and whilst he had no objections to these there was also the need for more passive recreational areas which the creek land offers.

Mrs. Zappe, a resident of Acacia Avenue for 28 years mentioned that the area was used by walkers, hikers, joggers, children and bird watchers and that the need for this type of area in future years would increase.

Mr. N. Walters of Laurel Grove mentioned that a goanna, fox and night heron had been sighted in the area in recent years.

Mr. J. Wood of Laurel Grove raised the point that

since residents of Laurel Grove maintained their own roads, could Council use their rates to pay for the land. He also raised the point as to whether the National Trust could assist as various nearby areas are classified by the Trust. Mr. Mike Beale pointed out to the meeting that one of the problems to be faced was that the proportion of open space to population of 10 acres/1000 head of population was very close to being achieved in the City of Kunawading and that residents in other areas may oppose a further impact on the City's rates to purchase this land.

Mr. Newman of Myrtle Grove stated that West Ward councillors have expressed concern at rating in this ward in proportion to other wards and it may be time to ask for some of our money back.

Mrs. Helen McFarlane produced figures to show that residents of the Bellbird area own 2.5% of the city area but pay 7.5% of the rates.

The chairman invited Mr. Peter Short to address the meeting. Mr. Short pointed out that a recent paper prepared by Mr. Alan Mathison, Education Officer with the City of Kunawading had stressed that increasing population density, increasing leisure time, travelling costs led to the need for low cost recreation and passive recreation which all led to pressure on local bush parks. Mr. Short added a final assumption to this that the number of local bush parks must be increased, not decreased. Mr. Graham Burgess then proceeded to list all the options available to the MMBW, Council and residents. These can be summarised as follows:-

1. MMBW - required to retain stream and floodway zone

- the Board does not consider the land to have significant public value which would enable the Board to retain it under the Metropolitan Parks scheme
- with ministerial approval the Board could sell the land back to residents or their successors who initially sold the land to the Board with the land being rezoned as Public Open Space.
- with ministerial approval the Board will sell the land to a co-operative group of residents as Public Open Space provided the group demonstrates that the required maintenance will be attended to.

2. Council
- purchase land and have rezoned as Public Open Space.
 - purchase land and have rezoned as Public Open Space and/or Residential 'C', subdivide and sell off part or all of the land.
 - purchase land, rezone as Public Open Space and allow committee of residents to maintain for 7 years and review at end of that period.

3. Residents
- form a co-operative to purchase and maintain the land and transfer to council at the end of say a 7 year period at the same price as acquired from MMBW
 - form a Committee of Management to maintain area (Council purchase land)
 - agree to pay an "area improvement rate" for a specified period of years to enable council to offset in part or in total, additional costs for interest and maintenance associated

with the purchase of the land.

- residents and/or council ~~it~~ could apply for the whole area to be rezoned Stream and Floodway zone with council assuming full maintenance responsibility.

The chairman summarised the situation as follows:-

- that the argument for retention is very strong
- the area has been open space for many years
- the area formed an integral part of the natural bushland corridor from Blackburn Lake to Middleborough Road
- if the area was lost to development it would undermine the value of acquiring Blackburn Lake sanctuary recently
- by developing the area, we run the risk of destroying the environment of the area and lowering the quality of life of the community
- it is a peaceful area which contrasts with the modern day pressures of life, business demands, etc.

The committee are aware of the dilemma faced by the Board and the council and believe that the parties must be brought together to resolve the impasse. With this view in mind, a further meeting has been arranged with the City Engineer to discuss the problem.

The committee intend to investigate the relevant Acts under which the Board is constituted and operates to determine whether the Board can retain the land in some form or another.

It is intended to discuss the problem with the National Trust particularly in respect of the possible effects on its existing relation for certain streets in the adjoining area.

To continue to press the matter with government ministers, local MLA and Board. Investigate regeneration of the area.

Report back to residents by end of July.

The chairman asked the meeting to consider the following resolution:-

"That the meeting fully supports the committee's actions to date and its proposed further representations to Minawading Council, MMBW, governmental officials and any other authorities and entities considered appropriate to achieve the aim of preserving the land in its present state."

The motion was moved by Mr. P. Sabina, seconded by Mr. J. McMurphy and carried unanimously.

Mr. Colin Jones asked whether another option would be for MMBW to gift the land to Council. The chairman advised that there were a number of similar problem areas in the metropolitan area and the Board would not wish to create a precedent.

A motion was moved by Mr. J. Still, seconded by Mr. R. Anderson that "Residents oppose any re-zoning for other than Public Open Space and/or Stream and Floodway." carried unanimously.

Mention was made of the Board's concentrated development plans for Box Hill which further emphasises the need for passive recreation open space areas such as this.

Mrs. Tyrell of Mollelon Street asked why the land west of Laurel Grove was offered

before land east of Laurel Grove.

The chairman advised that this was the Board's doing and he was not aware of the reason, however, the Board have indicated that land east of Laurel Grove will be offered to council later this year, therefore, all the land is subject to the same threat. The committee's actions are in regard to the whole of the land between Main Street and Pakenham Street.

Meeting closed 9.55 pm after the chairman thanked the committee and helpers for their efforts to date.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
held 16th June 1981 at residence of Mr. + Mrs. P. Short
Meeting commenced 8.15 p.m.

Present

Graham Burgess

Megan Short

Peter Short

Mrs. Zappe

Stan Moore

Mike Crabb

Ian Swann

Barry Collins

Brian Crouch

Richard Elvinis

Roy McKenzie

Graham Burgess summarised the successful Public Meeting held 27th May 1981 and expressed thanks to speakers and others who helped make the meeting such a success.

General Business

A letter was received from Mr. L.D. Wilson expressing support for the committee's objectives and enclosing a donation of £10. Two letters were also received from the Minister for Planning.

Discussion took place regarding future action to be taken by the committee and it was agreed to take the following steps:-

1. Summary of Public Meeting minutes and results of questionnaire as to future usage of park completed by 114 members at the public meeting to be forwarded to Council, MMBW and both local papers.
2. Approaches to be made to Conservation Council of Victoria, Fisheries & Wildlife Department, National Trust and Conservation Trust to determine how these organisations may be able to assist us.
3. Copy of Act under which the MMBW operates to be perused to assess the ways in which the Board could retain ownership of the land.
4. Depending on the findings of 3, pressure to be put on councillors and local members to

have the area rezoned Public Open Space.
copies of correspondence from Council files
regarding the Board's approaches to Council since
1975 are incomplete and further follow up to
Council will be made to complete this file.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
held 13th July 1981 at residence of Mr. & Mrs. P. Short

Meeting commenced 8.15 p.m.

Present

Graham Burgess	Reg Letcher
Peter Short	Richard Elvins
Megan Short	Ken Clark
Ian Swann	

Apologies

Mike Crabb	Stan Moore
Brian Crouch	Barry Collins
Don Brodie	Helen McFarlane

Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting held 16th June 1981 were read. Moved Peter Short, seconded Megan Short that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

General Business

Graham Burgess reported that he attended a public meeting of West Central Ward councillors and sought councillors' views on the future of the land. As a result, it has been arranged for council's open space committee to meet our group on-site. Don MacKinnon, M.L.A. contacted Graham Burgess and asked how he could assist. It was suggested to him that lobbying in the appropriate quarters to transfer the land to council at no cost would best meet our objectives. Mr. MacKinnon indicated his willingness to assist as much as he can. Councillor Alan Mead has forwarded a letter to Graham Burgess advising (officially) that the Minister for Planning has advised council that the MMBW must advertise any proposals to change zoning of the land. Graham Burgess advised that he contacted Dorothy Smith, council's Community Development Officer who is endeavouring to obtain

further correspondence from Council's files regarding the land. It was also arranged for our group to be listed in the forthcoming Council Year Book. In addition, Dorothy Smith suggested that the group could be eligible for a grant from Council to meet costs of environmental study, etc. Graham Burgess also advised that Barry Collins had contacted Colonel Wilton of the Victorian Conservation Trust who could not offer much in the way of assistance except to ask us to send a copy of our views to him and he would see what he could do to assist.

The Victorian Conservation Council have written to Blackburn Tree Preservation Society asking them to report as to the features of the area and have indicated that they will lobby the appropriate bodies when the report is received.

Megan Short reported that Les Smith of Blackburn Tree Preservation Society spent some hours recently inspecting the area and gathering a detailed knowledge of the area. She agreed to follow up on the Victorian Conservation Council's letter and the Tree Preservation Society's reply. She also reported on contact made with Nick Jafstrom of the National Trust who asked that we write to the Trust's Chief Administrator setting out the situation so that he can take up the matter.

Reg Letcher advised that he has spoken to George Cox, M.L.A. for Mitcham and sought his support. It was suggested that a summary of the group's views be prepared and forwarded to local members Cox,

Richardson and Jarman and to their opposition counterparts. Reg also advised of an opportunity to have an article published in the newsletter of the Australian Association of Environmental Education. Reg will approach Alan Reid to ascertain the best approach to take. Ian Swann reported that he had obtained a copy of the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1958 and that the proposed sale of the land would seem to be based on policy rather than the Act's directives. This policy would seem to emanate from the Property & Services Department. As the Town & Country Planning Act is the basis for the Board's planning, a copy is to be obtained and Stan Moore's assistance sought in its interpretation. Richard Elvin produced 2 title searches for part of the land and advised that he expects to have searches of the other 12 titles comprising the whole of the land in 3 weeks.

Further discussion took place as to future action and is summarised as follows:-

- A rough concept of development of the land as a passive recreation area is to be organised by Ian Swann
- The committee prepare a submission to Council's Open Space plans to ensure that the land is recognised as a potential purchase
- Mrs. Sharp and McElrick be invited to inspect the area prior to council elections
- Graham Burgess to discuss the application for a grant from Council with Dorothy Smith and based upon her advice,

apply for a grant for trees up to \$500,
and environmental study and conceptual
plan up to \$1,000.

- A report back to residents by letter
box drop by 31/7 to be prepared by
Graham Burgess
- Tentative date for working bee for
cleaning up the park to be 16th August.
- Next meeting Wednesday 5th August 1981.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
held 13th August 1981 at residence of Mr. &
Mrs. P. Short.

Meeting commenced 8.15 p.m.

Present

Graham Burgess

Stan Moore

Reg Letcher

Ian Swann

Peter Short

Mary Crouch

Megan Short

Mike Crabb

Barry Collins

Ken Clark

Apologies

Don Brodie

Phil Patterson

Helen McFarlane

Richard Elvins

Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting held 13th July 1981 were read. Moved Megan Short, seconded Peter Short that minutes be accepted. Carried.

Business arising
from Minutes

Graham Burgess advised that he had applied for a recreation initiative grant of \$750 from City of Dunawading to cover cost of environmental study, prepare landscape architect's plan for a passive recreation area and planting trees to regenerate the area.

Council has acknowledged the application and it will be discussed by the Standing Committee No. 2 on 17th August 1981 and ratified by Council on 24th August 1981.

As further information is required by Council, it was agreed that the application be varied to indicate individual amounts as follows:- environmental study \$525, landscape architect's plan approx. \$450, trees \$500.

The meeting was advised that Newsletter No. 2 was delivered to households on the 8th-9th August 1981. Graham Burgess advised that he had arranged for Council to provide 3 44 gallon drums and plastic bags for rubbish to be collected at the

working bee on Sunday 16th August 1981.

Correspondence A letter was received from Mr. Jensen of Acacia # Avenue expressing support and enclosing a \$20 donation.

Treasurer's Report Stan Moore advised income by donations have totalled \$148, expenses \$68, giving a balance of \$80. A bank account has been opened and it was moved by Stan Moore, seconded Megan Short that the account be operated on by the treasurer (Stan Moore) in conjunction with the chairman (Graham Burgess) or secretary (Ian Black).

General Business Mike Orable reported on an article in The Sun regarding the MMBW resetting flood levels for Gardiners Creek. Ian Swann has followed this up with the Board and it only applies up to Highbury Road. Reg Letcher mentioned that Aub Weston had suggested that land the MMBW had acquired in Jeffrey Street 25 years ago had since been sold and units erected thereon. Graham Burgess agreed to discuss this further with Aub Weston. Stan Moore advised that he had contacted Ian Port re Box Hill Council's attempts to gain control of land along Gardiners Creek. The land concerned is covered by a Planning Scheme reservation for the Healesville freeway. Box Hill Council is hoping to get control of the land for limited development pending a decision being made regarding the future of the freeway. Graham Burgess suggested that we endeavour to highlight that our land is a link in a corridor of land running from Burwood drive-in through to Blackburn Lake and that the whole corridor must be reserved. It was generally agreed that

this was a good approach. It is proposed to organise a walk from Blackburn Lake through to the Burnwood drive-in at some future stage to enable a better appreciation of the corridor of land to be obtained.

Megan Short reported on behalf of Richard Elvins that the unmade extensions of Sheehans Road, Waxatah and Malcolm Street through the park do not appear on the Board's titles and are therefore presumably brown land.

Megan Short also advised that the letter from the Conservation Council to Blackburn Tree Preservation Society did not ask for a report but indicated the Council's support for preservation of the land.

Barry Collins agreed to attend the Standing Committee No. 2's meeting on 17th August 1981 if alder. Graham Burgess is to attend a Public Meeting to discuss the Metropolitan Planning Implementation Plan at Runawading Council on 18th August 1981.

He also offered to contact Ted Jane and arrange a meeting with Council's open space committee.

It was suggested that the group inspect the Masons Road retaining basin which is owned by the Board but maintained by Council to see what has been achieved by Council maintaining Board property.

Discussion as to future plans agreed to:-

- Steady flow of information to the local press to keep the issue alive
- A submission as to the Committee's views as to the worth of the land, how it is used, etc. to be prepared and copies ~~sent~~ sent to the Board, Council, local members, ministers, etc.

Graham Burgess to prepare a rough draft
Next meeting Wednesday 16th September 1981.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
held 16th September 1981 at the residence of Mr. &
Mrs. P. Short.

Meeting commenced 8.15 p.m.

Present

Graham Burgess

Brian Crouch

Charles Wilson

Joan McKenzie

Reg Letcher

Mrs. Zappe

Richard Elvins

Megan Short

Ken Clark

Peter Short

Helen McFarlane

Ian Swann

Mike Crabb

Apology

Chas. Wilson

Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting held 13th August 1981 were read. Moved Richard Elvins, seconded Megan Short that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

Business arising
from the minutes

Graham Burgess advised that further information had been submitted to Council in regard to our application for a grant. The Standing Committee meeting held on 17th August deferred a decision and the matter will be further discussed at the Standing Committee's meeting tonight (ie. 16th Sept.) with the outcome known Friday 18th September.

Correspondence

Letter from Sen Rigby of Stacia Avenue expressing support and a donation of \$15.

General Business

Excellent response was received from residents to the working bee held on Sunday 16th August 1981. It was agreed to burn the piles of rubbish on Show Day, 24th September and hold a barbeque in the evening. Members of the group were to contact those present at the working bee and invite them to the barbeque.

Mrs. Zappe presented a report outlining in some detail how the area could be developed with big

trees, native vegetation and bird life.

Peter Short reported that he had followed the creek down to Burwood drive in. The area could be readily walked through along a track from Landerbury Road to Box Hill Golf course, through to Station Street then a bike track to the State College.

Graham Burgess advised that Don MacKinnon rang again and advised that he had made an inspection of the area. His view seemed to be that it was really up to Council to purchase the land. Graham asked him if would be chair a meeting between the Board, Council and this group which he indicated his willingness to do.

Discussion took place on a draft prepared by Graham Burgess summarising the situation as it is at present and listing options open to us. Members were asked to consider the draft and convey their views to Graham so that a final draft can be prepared shortly. Graham also reported a telephone discussion he had with Mr. Apple of MMBW on 14th August wherein Apple indicated that he expected plans to be before Council within 2 months. If Council want the land as open space, the Board would again offer the land to Council. Plans are also being prepared in regard to land east of Laurel Grove.

Discussion occurred on how the committee could improve the footpath from the footbridge to Main St. Richard Evans offered to inspect the path to see what work would be required.

A deputation comprising Graham Burgess, Megan Short and Mike Orable will meet with Ted Jane, Town Clerk in approx. 2 weeks to ensure that Council's Open Space Committee is well aware of the significance of this land.

Next meeting Wednesday 14th October 1981.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
held 14th October 1981 at residence of Mr. & Mrs. P. Short

Meeting commenced 8.15 p.m.

Present

Reg Letcher	Richard Elvins
Wendy Rosier	Brian Crouch
Megan Short	Graham Burgess
Peter Short	Ken Clark
Ian Swann	

Megan Short chaired the meeting in view of the delayed arrival of Graham Burgess.

Apologies

Helen MacFarlane	Barry Collins
Charles Wilson	Mike Crabb

Minutes

Minutes of meeting held 16th September 1981 were read. Moved Peter Short, seconded Brian Crouch that minutes be accepted. Carried.

Business arising
from minutes

Rubbish in the park was burned on 26th September due to the bad weather on Show Day.

The application to City of Kunawading for a grant was not approved. However, Council did offer support by way of tree donation. Peter Short will approach John Brandenburg in this regard.

Graham Burgess reported on the meeting he and Megan Short had with Ted Jane (Town Clerk) on 1st October 1981. Ted Jane's initial view was that he thought the Board could do little with the land. However, when Graham suggested they could sell it back to adjoining land owners, he called in the Town Planner, Ron O'Neill who confirmed this could be done without any change of zoning and could be built on with the Board's permission. This advice surprised Ted Jane who then suggested that we prepare a submission to Council as to why Council should purchase the land. He offered to assist with the preparation of the submission. The

concept of a linear park to be included in the Metropolitan Parks Plan was discussed but Ted Jane did not feel this was likely to succeed. An exchange of land between Council and the Board was also discussed as a possible solution. The Board has power to acquire existing open space land from municipalities but must sell land to Councils. General feeling was that outcome of the meeting was encouraging.

Correspondence

A letter from City of Kunawading inviting us to send a representative to a seminar on "Local Government in Kunawading" to be held on Thursday 22nd October 1981 between 5.30 pm and 10 p.m. Peter Short and/or Ian Swann will attend.

General Business

Discussion took place regarding improvements needed to the track running from the bridge to Main Street. Whilst not yet complete, investigations show the need for barrel drains at the end of Laurel Grove and Boongarry Ave. Ag. pipes and screenings in other parts would allow drainage of water from the north side.

Richard Bluns agreed to write to the Board offering assistance to reconstruct the path. The letter will also request that the occupier of the Board's house in Main St. move the fence back to enable people to walk through to Main St. on the south side of the creek. A copy of this letter to go to Council. It was suggested that worthwhile publicity might be gained by contacting Anne La Traille of the Age to highlight the worth of the area.

The meeting concluded with general discussion on the submission to Council. Various segments of the submission were allocated to different members to prepare an outline for the submission. An informal meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 21st October 1981 to discuss the submission further.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group held
13th February 1982 at residence of Mr. & Mrs. P. Short

Present

Graham Burgess

Brian Crouch

Reg Letcher

Wendy Rosier

Mike Crabb

Ian Swann

Charles Davis

Megan Short

Peter Short

Phil Patterson

Ken Clark

General Business

Graham Burgess advised the meeting that the report outlining the features of the land and the Group's reasons for its retention has been finalised and copies distributed to group members and other interested parties. Runawading Council are now having discussions with the MMBW as to the value of the land and the land is listed on Council's Open Space Committee's list of land which may be acquired at some future time. Although these developments are encouraging we should not become complacent as the ownership of the land is still far from resolved. Copies of the report have been delivered to some councillors and arrangements were made for copies to be personally delivered to remaining councillors. Stan Moore will also deliver a copy to Box Hill Council's Administrator. A walk to Blackburn Lake and return is to be held on Sunday 21st March 1982 commencing at 10.30 am. The walk will highlight the features of the area and the linear park concept. A working bee is to be held on Sunday 4th April 1982 to plant trees and tidy up the creek area. Advice of the walk and working bee is to be delivered to all those who attended the public meeting last May or who have shown support since.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group held
19th April 1982 at residence of Mr. & Mrs. P. Short

Present

Freda Chitty

Megan Short

Ken Clark

Richard Elvins

Mrs. Osborne

Peter Short

Joan McKenzie

Malcolm Rosier

Brian Crouch

Helen MacFarlane

Mrs. Zappe

Graham Burgess

Bruce Hadfield

Stan Moore

Charles Davis

Mike Crabb

Apologies

Ian Swann

Reg Letcher

Phil Patterson

Don Brodie

Barry Collins

Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting held 18th February 1982 were read. Moved Brian Crouch, seconded Richard Elvins that minutes be accepted. Carried.

Matters arising from minutes

Further copies of the report have been delivered to councillors and Graham Burgess will deliver copies to the remaining two councillors shortly.

Finance Report

Bank balance currently \$. Money from sale of badges to be handed to Malcolm Rosier and report money to Graham Burgess. A special vote of thanks to Malcolm and Wendy Rosier for providing badges which have proved a successful money raiser and publicity aid.

Activities Reports

Brian Crouch reported on the successful walk to Blackburn Lake and return on 21st March attended by over 100 residents. Good publicity was received from reports in The Sun "Easterly" and Nunawading Gazette. A vote of thanks was expressed to Megan Short, Brian Crouch and Reg Letcher for organising the walk. Megan Short reported on the successful working bee held on 4th April when 140 trees were planted. Over 50 residents showed their support by attending. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be written to Reg Letcher who organised

the donations of trees. ~~by~~ Letters of thanks also to be sent to the Natural Resources and Conservation League, Blackburn Tree Preservation Society and Les Smith for donating the trees. It was pointed out that group members must ensure that the areas around the trees are kept tidy otherwise the Board's contractor will be instructed to mow over the trees. The Board's main concern is to keep the park tidy. A vote of thanks was expressed to Megan Short, Brian Brough and Reg Letcher for organising the working bee. It was suggested that available members meet at 10am. each Sunday to carry out any work on the trees.

~~General Business~~
General Business

Graham Burgess reported that progress in discussions between the Board and Council have been slow. He will contact Mr. Apple of MMBW in an endeavour to hasten matters along. Graham pointed out that Ted Jane retires in June '83 and we should try to resolve the matter by then. Councillors are well aware of our cause and have sought information from Ted Jane. Comment in the main seems to be favorable.

A copy of our report has been given to Margaret Ray, the new Labor Party member for Box Hill. It was agreed that we write to her congratulating her on her election and send copies of correspondence with the previous Ministers for Water Supply and Planning and ask her to take our cause up with the new ministers.

Graham Burgess advised that Dorothy Smith, Council's Community Development Officer had rung him and stated that Council would like to sponsor a walk along a route chosen by our Group. Council would

publicise the walk and provide a barbeque at the end. Dorothy Smith suggested May 9th as a possible date. Other dates suggested were 8th May, 29th May and 30th May. Graham will liaise with Dorothy Smith to arrange a suitable date. A sub-committee comprising Richard Blvins, Brian Brouch and Peter Short will organise the route.

A letter was received from City of Kunawading inviting us to send two people to a meeting to elect a committee for the ^{Kunawading} Family & Community Services ~~Regional~~ ^{Local} Consultative Committee. This committee distributes grants to community causes from funds allocated by the Department of Community Welfare. Richard Blvins offered to attend.

In appreciation of the donation of 40 trees for our recent working bee, it was moved by Megan Short, seconded Mike Brable "that we write to Blackburn Tree Preservation Society thanking them for their donation and apply for associate membership at a cost of \$4". Carried.

The matter of boulders being put in the creek in Turners Park near Blackburn Road was raised.

Selen MacFarlane spoke to workmen who stated that the work is being done to prevent erosion where a drain joins the creek.

Megan Short advised the meeting that she approached John Brandenburg regarding Council's offer to donate trees to our group and was asked to apply through the Town Clerk. The matter was subsequently referred to Council's Open Space Committee which recommended the request. This decision was ratified by Council subject to formal approval to plant the trees being received from the Board.

After much discussion it was moved by

Graham Burgess, seconded Joan McKenzie "that we advise the Board that the Group have planted some trees on the land". An amendment was moved by Bruce Hadfield, seconded Brian Bouch "that we adopt the original motion but notify the Board in due course." The amendment was carried and became the motion. The motion was then defeated on the casting vote of the Chairman. The subject of communication with the general public was discussed. It was generally agreed that a newsletter would be issued within say 3 months or earlier if there were any significant developments. Meetings of the Group will be held approximately each 6 weeks. Next meeting to be Tuesday, 25th May 1982.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group held
25th May 1982 at residence of Mr. + Mrs. P. Short

Present

Peter Short

Megan Short

Ken Clark

Richard Elvins

Reg Letcher

Brian Crouch
Ian Swann

Freda Chitty

Mike Crabb

Graham Burgess

Mrs. Zappe

Charles Wilson

Joan McKenzie

Apologies

Wendy Rosier

Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting held 19th April 1982 were read. Moved Megan Short, seconded

Matters arising from minutes

Brian Crouch that minutes be accepted. Carried.
Letters to Margaret Ray, Natural Resources and Conservation League, Blackburn + District Tree Preservation Society have been forwarded.

General Business

Graham Burgess advised that Ted Jane had contacted him and advised that progress was slow. We will need to continue pushing our cause to keep it high on the Board's priority. Graham also spoke to Mr. Apple of the Board but was advised that the Board's valuation of the land is still incomplete.

No reply has yet been received to our letter to Margaret Ray although she has written to Brian Crouch acknowledging a copy of our report and suggesting that until Council's attitude is known there is little action she can take. She has offered to take the matter up with the Minister for Conservation + Planning if necessary.

Richard Elvins reported on a meeting he attended to elect a committee for the Runawading Family + Community Services Local Consultative Committee. This committee assesses priority for grants for bodies not covered by other grants. Further information on this committee will be available by next meeting.

Megan Short reported on a meeting of the

Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society which she and some other members attended. The society are working on a "Big Trees" project to encourage the planting of more big trees and are also looking at whether Council could implement a Tree Preservation Order. It was suggested that our group should hold a combined meeting with the society and Graham Burgess will pursue this with the possibility of having Alan Reid as guest speaker.

The meeting was advised that work on the creek in Furness Park has been completed. This work was to control erosion of the creek bank.

Reg Letcher advised of a meeting of the Men of the Trees sub-committee which was attended by some of our members and at which our groups objectives were outlined. Although Men of the Trees is not a source of trees, there is the possibility of cooperating with them on a tree propagation program.

Reg also reported on a year of the Tree committee meeting to be held on Thursday 29th May. The committee has received 100 tree guards from ARC and will decide on how to use them at this meeting. Members were asked to attend this meeting to support our cause if possible.

Details of the Council sponsored walk to be held on Sunday, 30th May have been distributed to 1000 households in the area. Information regarding this Groups recent activities were outlined on the brochure. Peter Evans, ABC radio announcer who lives in Salisbury Avenue has been contacted and asked to attend.

Next meeting to be held 1st July 1982.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
meeting held 13th July 1982 at residence of Mr.
& Mrs. P. Short

Present	Peter Short	Megan Short	Graham Burgess
	Richard Elvins	Charles Wilson	Reg Letcher
	Ian Swann	Mike Crabb	Mrs. Zappe
	Joan McKenzie	Ken Clark	Brian Crouch

Apologies Malcolm Rosier Freda Chitty

Minutes Minutes of previous meeting held 25th May 1982
were read. Moved Richard Elvins, seconded

Matters arising
from minutes

Peter Short that minutes be accepted. Carried.
Graham Burgess advised that the proposed
combined meeting with Blackburn & District
Tree Preservation Society had not yet been
arranged.

Correspondence

No reply has yet been received from
Margaret Ray in response to our letter
dated 1/82.

General Business

Graham Burgess reported on his latest discussion
with Ted Jane who advised that the Board
were still awaiting a survey report of the
whole area. The Valuer-Generals Dept. will then
value the land and this is not expected to
be available prior to the end of October.

Graham also reported a discussion he had
with Mr. Apple of N.M.B.W. who "admonished"
the Group for planting trees on the Board's
land without permission.

Brian Crouch advised details of a meeting
of the Penawading Garden Education Advisory
Committee which he attended on 8th July.

Each member group outlined their activities
and Peter Short outlined activities of our
group and the support we had received.
Ian Belcher is to co-ordinate activities

of each group to avoid clashing of dates. Megan Short advised details of the McTellar bequest being made to the National Trust to develop a natural fauna and flora reserve. Kunaowading Council ~~and~~ advised the Trust of the suitability of our land. A letter and details were forwarded to the Trust on the Group's behalf. The Trust acknowledged our letter and mentioned that 40 requests had already been received and that the information would be presented to the executors.

Reg Letcher reported on the Year of the Tree committee's appreciation for our assistance on ~~27th~~ ^{June 7th} May.

The meeting expressed its congratulations to Brian Brough, Richard Elvins and Peter Short for organising the most successful "Laburnum Walk" on 30th May. Between 140 and 160 people attended and Kunaowading Council, who sponsored the walk, provided drinks and damper for the children.

Ian Swann reported on the Honeyeaters Walk / Tree Planting ~~and~~ conducted by Alan Reid which was attended by 200 people and concluded with a tree planting in Halang Reserve.

Richard Elvins advised the basis on which the Kunaowading Family & Community Services Local Consultative Committee provide grants. He suggested that any request for a grant would need to stress community use of the land as distinct from the conservation aspect.

To keep the issue moving it was agreed that letters be written to the Minister for Planning and Minister for Water Supply seeking their assistance. A letter is also to be written to MMBW enclosing a copy of our report and seek advice as to the present position.

Graham Burgess suggested that a hike day
be arranged on September 12th and
offered to organise same.
Meeting closed 9.35 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
held on 9th September 1982 at residence of
Mr. & Mrs. P. Short

Present	Ian Swann	Megan Short	Peter Short
	Stan Moore	Reg Letcher	Charles Wilson
	Wendy Rosier	Mrs. Zapper	Richard Elvins
	Ken Clark	Brian Crouch	Mike Crabb
	Bernice Shean-Smith		Graham Burgess
	Gaye		Lillian Smith
	Meeting was chaired by Megan Short		
Apologies	No apologies were received.		
Minutes	Minutes of previous meeting held 13 th July 1982 were read. Moved Reg Letcher, seconded Ian Swann that minutes be accepted. Carried.		
Matters arising from the minutes	Megan advised that she contacted Margaret Ray's secretary who advised that a reply was forwarded some time ago to our letter dated 6/5/82. Megan will endeavour to obtain a copy.		
Correspondence	A newsletter from Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society was received.		
Finance	Stan Moore advised that the bank balance is currently £44.		
General Business	Richard Elvins advised details of the recently formed Blackburn Residents Association who are endeavouring to preserve the character of the Blackburn area, particularly from over development. Councillors have been approached to amend properties in the area classified by the National Trust for from column 4 to column 5 thereby limiting excessive development of properties. Discussions are also occurring to assess whether a Tree Preservation order could be applied to the area and ultimately a Local Development Scheme prepared for the area. Councillors are sympathetic to residents		

views. Richard Elvins moved, seconded Wendy Posier that we send a letter to Council supporting the Blackburn Residents Association in their endeavours. Carried.

Richard also outlined details of an application for a grant of \$450 which has been lodged under the Department of Community Welfare Services FACS Program. The matter of Blackburn Bowling Club's application to Council to extend a green and its club house was discussed at some length. It was agreed that because the extensions would absorb half the existing car park and no viable alternative parking was available, this group would lodge an objection to the extensions. The possibility of the car park being extended into Talang Reserve along the creek would create numerous problems and should be ~~vigor~~ vigorously opposed. Peter Short and Len Clark agreed to draft the objection and lodge it with Council.

Munawaring Council have appointed planning consultants, Collic Planning & Development Services Pty. Ltd. to prepare a Structure Plan for the whole municipality. The consultants are seeking submissions and comments from groups and individuals. It was agreed that a copy of our report be forwarded to the consultants together with details of the community support the group has received and the current state of discussions between the Board and Council. Brian Brouch, Peter Short and Len Clark agreed to prepare the submission.

Graham Burgess mentioned the article by Sandra Bardwell which appeared in The Age

recently regarding the walk to Blackburn Lake and the subsequent letter from a student in Isema seeking details of our group's activities.

Mr. Apple of MMBW advised recently that the survey of the land has been completed and the valuation is being prepared. The Board's offer to Council should be finalised by the 1st week in November. A copy will be forwarded to us.

No developments have occurred in regard to the McFellar bequest.

It was agreed that the two recently elected councillors be approached and provided with a copy of our report and familiarised on the group's aims. An addendum to the report is to be prepared to detail activities conducted and support received since preparation of the report.

Graham Burgess agreed to obtain dates of Council's Standing Committee No. 2 meetings so that we could have representatives at the meeting which discusses the Board's offer for the land.

Graham is also to approach Mr. Palmer to obtain permission to pull down fences in the park. If permission is given, this would be done at a working bee on the 1st Sunday in October at 10 am. Peter Short and Brian Brough agreed to publicise the working bee.

Lily Smith of Kumanading Year of the Tree committee outlined plans for promoting of Year of the Tree and getting community involvement. The committee are planning a discussion night in November (date not yet finalised) to which everyone is invited.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
meeting held 28th October 1982 at residence of
Mr. & Mrs. P. Short

Present

Charles Wilson	Richard Elvins	Megan Short
Graham Burgess	Peter Short	Barry Collins
Mike Crabb	Ken Clark	Wendy Rosier
Mrs. Zappe		

Apologies

Stan Moore Freda Chitty Reg Letcher Brian Crouch

Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting held 9th September 1982 were read. Moved Megan Short, seconded Wendy Rosier that minutes be accepted. Carried.

Matters arising from the minutes

Further to our letter sent to Margaret Ray on 6/5/82, it has now been determined that a reply has not been sent. However, Margaret Ray has offered to raise the matter with the Minister for Planning.

A letter was sent to City of Nunawading supporting Blackburn Residents' Association in their aim to prevent overdevelopment of the Blackburn area.

An objection to Blackburn Bowling Club's application to extend their green and club house has been lodged with City of Nunawading. A copy of our report and details of community support has been forwarded to Bollic Planning & Development Services Pty Ltd. who are preparing a structure plan for City of Nunawading.

Treasurer's Report

Current bank balance is \$113

General Business

Graham Burgess advised that copies of our report had been given to Ron O'Neill, Town Planner, City of Nunawading; Mr. ~~Boyle~~ Boyne; Mr. Apple and the Planning Dept. of MMBW. Mr. Plummer has not yet been given a copy of the report.

In a recent telephone conversation with Mr. Apple, he advised that it was unlikely plans and

valuation of the land would be presented to Council until early next year. It was also explained that the lease of part of the land to Barry Palmer was able to be terminated by either party on one months notice. Graham also raised the issue of erosion of the creek and was asked to refer it to the Board's Mitigation office. Graham also mentioned the state of the pathway on the northern side from the bridge through to Main Street.

Graham also advised that he rang Mr. Martin of the National Trust but the Trust is not buying land at present.

Richard Elvins reported in regard to our application for a grant from the Department of Community Welfare Services FACS program. Although a final decision is not yet to hand, a favourable result is unlikely as a low priority was attached to our application.

The meeting was advised that the Kunawading Year of the Tree committee are holding a meeting at Blackburn High School on 12th November. Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society recently conducted a Big Tree Identification Project in Acacia Avenue whereby large trees were identified and notices attached. It is intended to extend the program to other streets later.

The public meeting conducted by Blackburn Residents' Association recently resulted in an attendance of over 400 who overwhelmingly called on Council to implement a Local Development Scheme. Since that meeting, Council voted 11 to 1 in favour of preparing a Local Development Scheme as a matter of urgency, Cr. Barelli being the voice of dissent. Council is to advertise for the formation of a working party comprising 4 residents, an architect/developer and

a real estate agent. As it is considered important that the creek land be included in the Local Development Scheme, it was moved by Megan Short, seconded Joan MacKenzie that "Blackburn Creek Conservation Group make a submission to Runawating Council that we believe the creek land and the adjoining corridor running from Blackburn Lake to Middleborough Road should be included in the Local Development Scheme currently being developed". Carried.

Another motion moved by Barry Collins, seconded Peter Short that, "subject to his acceptance Jan Swann, together with Graham Burgess and Mike Loxley be nominated as our representatives on the Local Development Scheme working party, subject to the terms of the advertisement". Carried. Graham Burgess tabled a draft of a letter he prepared to Minister for Planning stressing the value of the strip of land as a community asset and seeking an appropriately low valuation when the land is offered to Council. It was agreed that the letter was appropriate and that Margaret Ray and Minister for Water Supply, David White should also be included. It was agreed that a letter be prepared and forwarded to all councillors updating them of community support our group has received in the past year. An update of activities of the group would also be prepared and forwarded to both local papers.

A Christmas get-together and send off for Megan & Peter Short was agreed upon in the format of a BYO barbeque at Graham & Beth Burgess' home on December 10th at 6-6.30 p.m. Next meeting to be 24th November 1982.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
meeting held 24th November 1982 at residence
of Mr. & Mrs. P. Short

Present

G. Burgess

M. Short

P. Short

J. McKenzie

B. Crouch

I. Swann

R. Letcher

B. Collins

Mrs. Zappe

M. Crabb

Apologies

S. Moore

Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting held 28th October 1982 were read. Moved Brian Crouch, seconded Peter Short that the minutes be accepted. Carried

Matters arising from minutes

Further to our application for a grant from the Department of Community Welfare Services FACS program, advice has been received that our application has been unsuccessful.

Treasurers Report

Current bank balance is \$107.

~~General~~ Correspondence

Graham Burgess advised of two letters he has received from a Mrs. Lilian Jinger, a former Blackburn Resident who has lived in Lake Boga for many years.

Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society's latest newsletter has been received.

Letter from Renawading Council advising that Blackburn Bowling Club's application for a permit for extensions to their club house and greens had been refused ^{on the following grounds:-} Having regard to the area of land needed for the clubhouse and green extensions and therefore the necessity to provide car parking on an extended area adjacent to the creek, it is considered that the proposal would adversely affect the amenity of the area through undue encroachment on a part of the reserve suited for the regeneration of native flora."

General Business

Graham Burgess advised of his most recent discussions with Mr. Apple of MMBW. Survey plans are now complete and the Valuer-General

valuation is now awaited. He expects to have an offer to Council finalised in February 1983. In an endeavour to exert pressure on the Board, Graham has spoken to Margaret Ray who has contacted the Board and spoken to the appropriate Ministers. Graham also contacted the Runawading mayor, Mr. McKibrick and he has agreed to meet the new Board chairman with Ted Jane to bring the issue to a head. Reg Letcher reported on the successful Year of the Tree meeting held at Blackburn High School on 12th November which was attended by 60 people.

Members were advised that a recent advertisement in The Age whereby Runawading Council proposed leasing an area of land to Blackburn Bowling Club ^{for 4 years} relates to approx. half the car park and does not involve any buildings.

Graham Burgess advised the meeting of the recent appointments of Brian Brough to Blackburn + District Tree Preservation Society's committee, and Ken Clark to Runawading Council's Local Development Scheme Advisory Committee.

Reg Letcher reported on a letter Men of the Trees had received from the Minister for Conservation seeking views on issues of conservation of natural resources so that a State Conservation Strategy can be developed.

Reg sought input from our group on any matters members may wish to raise.

In regard to future activities, it was mentioned that the Council of Adult Education have organised a walk for January 10th starting at Blackburn Station to the Lake, down along the creek then up to Laburnum station.

Graham Burgess expressed best wishes to Peter + Megan Short for their year in England and thanked them for all their support.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
meeting held 18th April 1983 at residence of Mr.
& Mrs. J. Black.

Present

G. Burgess

C. Wilson

H. Zappe

R. Elvins

K. Clark

B. Crouch

Shirley Pary

M. Crabb

J. McKenzie

Maxine Wood

R. Letcher

Minutes

Graham Burgess reported on discussions which took place at a meeting on 16th February 1983, ~~and~~ which was terminated early due to information coming through regarding the Ash Wednesday bushfires of that day. Minutes of the previous meeting held 24th November 1982 were read at that meeting and moved Richard Elvins, seconded Reg Letcher. The motion was carried.

Treasurers
Report

Current bank balance \$93.54

General
Business

Graham Burgess reported on the successful cricket match held with Blackburn Residents Association on 6th March 1983 and subsequently won by Blackburn Creek Conservation Group. The Mayor, David MacLittich bowled the first ball to local member, Margaret Ray M.A. City Administrator, Ted Jane also attended. Letters have been forwarded to all three thanking them for their attendance.

Ken Black summarised the recommendations put forward by an advisory committee of which he was a member, to Runawadding Council regarding areas of special significance in the municipality.

Brian Crouch reported on current activities of Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society and their invitation to us to provide a display

at a native plants display at North Ringwood in August next.

Graham Burgess reported details of his meeting with Brian Walker, Minister for Planning which was arranged by Margaret Ray. As a result, the Minister requested the Board to reassess the basis of valuation bearing in mind the historical use of the land as open space. As a result, the Board has reassessed the valuation and has offered the land to Council for a figure believed to be in the vicinity of \$300,000, approximately half the previous valuation.

The offer will be discussed at a committee meeting of all councillors on 26th April next and then be submitted to a Council meeting on 9th May 1983.

It was agreed that various members would contact ~~all~~ councillors and invite them to inspect the area prior to the meeting on 26th April.

Meeting closed approximately 10 p.m.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group ←
meeting held 24th May 1983 (cont'd from next page)

General
Business (cont'd)

Some names have been suggested for the park and it was decided to seek further suggestions at the walk on 29th May 1983. A final list of suggested names to be agreed at next meeting.

Meeting closed approximately 10 p.m.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
meeting held 24th May 1983 at residence of
Mr. & Mrs. B. Brough

Present

I. Swann

R. McKenzie

S. Moore

R. Elms

H. Zappe

J. McKenzie

P. Patterson

N. Walters

R. Letcher

B. Crouch

M. Grabb

B. Collins

C. Wilson

G. Burgess

Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting held 18th April 1983 were read. Moved B. Brough, seconded J. Swann that minutes be accepted. Carried.

General Business

Graham Burgess summarised the series of events which led up to Runawading Council unanimously voting to purchase the creek land from MMBW at a valuation of \$ _____. A letter dated 12th May 1983 was received from the ~~Chief~~ ^{Chief} Administrator formally advising Council's proposed action.

On behalf of our Group, a letter was forwarded to the Mayor, Councillors and Chief Administrator thanking and congratulating them on their decision to purchase the land.

A walk to Wandinang Sanctuary on 29th May 1983 has been organised and brochures printed by Council. The meeting expressed its thanks to Richard Elms and Brian Brough for organising the walk.

Arrangements were finalised for a night out at La Salvados restaurant on Friday 17th June 1983.

General discussion took place regarding a committee of management to manage the land and the pros and cons of including Blacks Walk and Turness Park in the one committee.

The future of the BCCG was also briefly discussed but it was considered premature to make any decision at this stage.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group
meeting held 6th October 1983 at the residence
of Mr. & Mrs. R. Elvins.

Present	R. Letcher	Mrs. Osborne	R. Elvins	H. Zappe
	B. Crouch	G. Burgess	I. Swann	M. Crabb
	K. Clark	M. Rosier		

Apologies	B. Collins	C. Wilson
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Minutes of previous meeting held 24th May 1983 were read. Moved R. Elvins, second B. Crouch that the minutes be confirmed. Carried.

Matters arising from minutes Brian Crouch reported on the successful walk held on 29th May 1983, which included Wandinong Sanctuary where Mr. Bernard Cooke gave an informative talk on its history and achievements. Approximately 100 residents took part in the walk.

General Business Graham Burgess advised that transfer of the land to Council was progressing slowly and that the matter was due to go to the MMBW board on 18th October.

Discussion took place as to future action with the park. It was agreed that members meet on 16th October at 9.30 a.m. to walk through the area to enable a development plan to be prepared. Richard Elvins offered to coordinate the plan. Mrs. Zappe advised of work required on the north side and damage done to trees by the horse.

The future role of the group and a suggestion that a constitution and mailing list be developed was discussed. Graham Burgess offered to write to Council to obtain guidelines for committees of Managers. It was agreed to renew membership of Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society.

Minutes of Blackburn Creek Conservation Group held 30th November 1983 at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. G. Burgess.

Present: G. Burgess R. Letcher I. Swann H. Zappe B. Crouch
K. Clark M. Rosier

Apologies M. Crabb, R. Elvins, S. Moore

Minutes Minutes of previous meeting held 6th October 1983 were read. Moved G. Swann, Seconded B. Crouch that the minutes be confirmed, carried.

Matters arising from minutes

A letter from Nunawading Council was received calling on the group to form a Committee of Management (CoM) for the land and suggesting that the C of M. might also cover Furness Park and Black's Walk. The letter also referred to an application by Blackburn Bowling Club to formalise parking ^{ways} in the bowling club car park has been deferred by Council pending formation of the C of M. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the C of M should manage the whole land from Furness Park to Middleborough Road. ~~and that a CoM~~ Blackburn Creek Conservation Group to be renamed and a constitution prepared with objectives which support the role of the C of M. The BCCG (renamed) would hold meetings periodically to enable a wider cross-section of the community to participate in the planning and development of the whole land. The C of M would comprise 6 members nominated by the renamed BCCG, 2 of whom would reside east of Main Street, 2 from west of Pakenham St. and 2 between Main St. and Pakenham St.

In addition, a maximum of 2 members overall nominated by Blackburn Bowling Club, Scouts, Guides and Laburnum School, together with one member of Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society plus whatever number of council representatives would be on the C of M. Graham Burgess agreed to draft a response to Council on this proposal.

On the matter of Blackburn Bowling Club's application to formalise parking bays in the present car park it was decided to seek further information as the plan provided did not give sufficient detail as to the exact nature of the work proposed. Only 3 members, Mrs. Gaffe, Brian Brough and Richard Elvins braved the wet weather on 16th October 1983 to walk through the park and ~~prepare~~ ^{prepare} a plan for future development. Richard Elvins is working on a plan as a result of this walk.

General Business

It was agreed that a draft submission, prepared by Reg Letcher on the efforts of this group in preserving the parkland, be formalised and forwarded to the Minister for Conservation in response to his request for submissions towards development of a State Conservation Strategy.