

Crowd takes over meeting

About 40 Blackburn bellbird area residents invaded Nunawading Progress Association's meeting last week following rumors of a threat to bushland near their homes.

Residents living close to Gardiner's Creek between Main and Pakenham Sts. had heard reports that the Board of Works intended to sell much of the land it owned close to the creek.

Other rumors
that a new arterial road might be built through the creek reserve added to the stir.

A big deputation to seek information on the rumors and to discuss action on the issue was assembled to attend the association's regular public meeting at Nunawading civic centre last Wednesday night.

The "invasion" took progress association officers and the audience by surprise because the issue had not previously

been aired or its details known.

Progress Association president Mr Jim Clowes suspended the meeting to enable the Gardiner's Creek problem to be outlined.

He suggested that the Blackburn residents form a committee of five to investigate and act. They did so later in the night.

Inquiries by the Gazette later established that the "problem" land alongside the Gardiner's Creek was the area which the Board of Works no longer has use

for and which Nunawading Council has declined to acquire.

Dropped

A Board of Works official told the Gazette that there was no proposal whatever for a new road to be built through the area.

He said a tentative zoning for an arterial road through the area had been dropped several years ago.

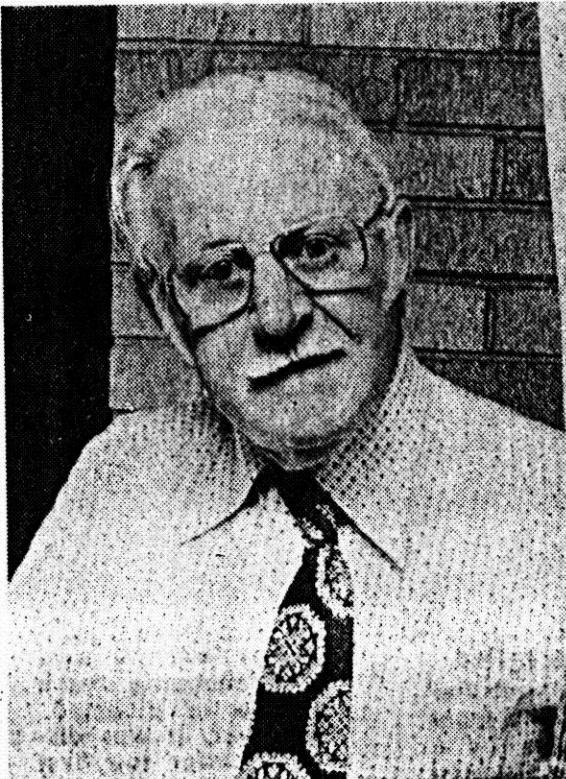
The Board, he said, now needed to examine how it could dispose of its surplus unwanted land along the creek reserve since Nunawading Council had declined acquisition offer.

(The council has bought only that section of the board land lying directly north of Kialang Reserve in order to extend that parkland. The council has declined to buy the other creekside land offered because of lack of funds and the heavy additional maintenance cost it would involve.)

Some of the Blackburn residents at last week's meeting claimed that a council purchase of all the offered land for public open space would solve their problems.

Mr Clowes warned them, however, that Nunawading Council's existing open space purchasing program was already committed for nearly \$2 million throughout the municipality and additional purchases would bring a further crushing financial burden for ratepayers and the council.

● **Rezoning possible**
says board: council's view, see Page 9.



● **Progress Association president Mr Jim Clowes — chaired the "invaded" meeting.**