



NUNAWADING Gazette

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Half-price creek land

by Simon Kinch

The Board of Works' selling price for the Blackburn Creek land has dropped by nearly half over the past two years.

This was revealed last week by the Member for Box Hill, Mrs Margaret Ray, after Nunawading Council accepted the latest price of \$272,000 (Gazette, May 11).

"The council two years ago refused to buy the 24-hectare creekside land when the board first offered it at more than \$500,000.

It was the board's later threat to subdivide the land for home sites that led to formation of the Blackburn Creek Conservation Group which spearheaded the successful public campaign to save the site as parkland.

Mrs Ray explained this week that the future of the creekside land had been an issue for many years.

The site had first been proposed as parkway in the 1929 Board of Works plan.

Original quote

The original board price quoted to the council some years ago had been more than \$500,000 on the basis of the site's residential potential.

Mrs Ray said that as local State member she had asked the Planning Minister, Mr Walker, on behalf of the conservation group, to make the valuation reflect parkland rather than residential value.

"Following discussions between the minister and the board it was agreed to drop the valuation of the land to one reflecting cost to the board," Mrs Ray said.

Mrs Ray and the chairman of the conservation group, Mr Graham Burgess both welcomed Nunawading Council's unanimous decision to acquire the land as public open space.

The site borders the Blackburn section of Gardiner's Creek between Main and Pakenham Sts, known locally as Blackburn Creek.

Local house burglars are switching their attention from color TV sets to video recorders.

Senior Sgt Alf Oldfield, of Nunawading CIB, said video recorders were being stolen in daylight from unoccupied homes, particularly in the Vermont South area.

He appealed to everyone to promptly phone the police if they notice suspicious activity during the day in their areas.

Unfamiliar vehicles pulling into neighbors' carports or private garages while owners were absent should be a danger signal to be noticed and acted upon, Sgt Oldfield said.

A prompt phone call would bring police to check the activity.

No harm was done if the activity were found to be normal or authorised.

Special note should be made of car registration numbers where vehicles were involved.

Videos top of the list



● Park officer Ian Belcher shows Marc Boyd, 9, how to use binoculars correctly during the bird watching segment of the school holiday program.

Many Nunawading youngsters in the eight to 13 age group took part in the council's popular junior park ranger session at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.

Mr Belcher said the program was designed to increase the youngsters' awareness and appreciation of the environment.

Activities included bird watching, pond and creek sampling, nature films and use

POLICE DISARM STATION YOUTH

Nunawading crime car squad police disarmed a youth after a 50-minute drama at Heathmont railway station on Friday night.

The emergency, which also halted train services, began when a Heathmont station staff member noticed a youth on the platform wielding a sawn-off shotgun.

Police were notified and units headed by Nunawading crime car police converged on the station.

Witnesses saw the police, led by Sgt B. Dickie, approach the youth on the platform.

The youth held the shotgun against himself as police tried to reason with him.

Hurried orders were relayed to stop trains approaching Heathmont from either Ringwood or Ferntree Gully while the drama continued.

Sgt Dickie engaged the youth in conversation and pleaded with him to surrender and hand over the shotgun.

The police were able to edge closer and eventually seized the loaded shotgun.

Train services resumed a few minutes later.

A 16-year-old youth from Heathmont was later charged with a number of offences including using a firearm to resist arrest.

He will appear in the Children's Court at Ringwood today.

INSIDE

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'LOOK UNDER THAT TREE'

of field study equipment.

At the conclusion of the program a get-together barbecue was held at which successful youngsters were presented with their junior park ranger certificates.