



THE BEAST'S MONTHLY MAILBAG...

Sent in by *The people of the Eastern Suburbs*

HOARSE REPLY

Dear Duncan Horscroft (Horse's Reply, Letters, The Beast, July 2013), I don't recall asking what volunteer organisations you are affiliated with but I'm glad you took the opportunity to show your compassionate side.

And yes you are right; I too don't recall the children of the rural schools nor the women at the refuge in Zimbabwe where I volunteered being concerned about a supermarket, their next 4-wheel drive purchase or parking meters. Zimbabwe (Zim-bab-way) - look it up!

But this is beside the point. As unfair as it is, the desperate problems of the developing world are unrelated to most of the issues in our part of the world such as the Bronte RSL redevelopment and the Bronte Cutting parking meters, which you, Duncan, have complained about in detail - look it up!

Your Pearl Bullivant-esque assumption of me was not only worlds apart but so B-O-R-I-N-G to us that have lived in the area long enough to remember the butchers at Charing Cross and the drive-through bottle shop and no cafés at Bronte. And if I was to purchase a Bugaboo it would make headline news. And no, Mr Horscroft, I don't live in a mansion, nor do I have a garage or driveway, let alone a 4-wheel drive, and I live in Randwick - such a bad assumption - and if you don't know where that is, look it up!

But, Duncan, you have dodged my questions like a true politician. So let's get back to my point: what are you currently doing for Bronte regarding the development, now that the community has rejected this

oversized building? Yes, the Bronte that you claim you care so much about. Have you asked the developer, David Hynes, and the RSL to withdraw their DA for a building that breaks height and floor space ratio laws? Have you asked them to put forward a building that complies with the planning controls? And, Duncan, please confirm for us that the Bronte RSL Social Club will be returning the Macpherson Street RSL site, like the developer says it will.

"As unfair as it is, the desperate problems of the developing world are unrelated to most of the issues in our part of the world such as the Bronte RSL redevelopment..."

I would expect you are aware that Save Bronte is very active in ensuring any RSL development does comply with regulations by which the rest of us must abide and is suitable to the zoning of the RSL site. Your hands are no longer tied - you are no longer the Bronte RSL Social Club president - and this development issue is yet to be finalised so it is not too late for you to assist or give a much needed donation to Save Bronte to cover legal costs for the urban planner and for Land and Environment Court costs (Account: Save Bronte; BSB: 082057; Account Number: 146167663; Bank: NAB).

Here is an excerpt from the latest Save Bronte media release: "In response [to the DA], residents and

local businesses lodged thousands of pages of objections with Council, as well as a petition with 2,060 signatures calling for the redevelopment plans to be rejected and replaced with ones that are sympathetic to the character of the existing neighbourhood centre."

"With this latest move [to have the height and FSR limits raised] we can only surmise that the WLB-RSL partnership has come to the conclusion that their oversized building will not be approved under the current planning controls, nor under the new controls that are proposed by Waverley Council for the site. So WLB is now attempting to have the rules changed for WLB's benefit at the expense of our community."

The whole document can be found at www.savebronte.com. Look it up Duncan!

It is not your compassion I would question Mr Horscroft, it is your community spirit - look it up!

Rebecca, Randwick

DANGEROUS, DIVISIVE, HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE

Thanks Meni for your response to my letter regarding the shrine to Mary in Coogee (Let Sleeping Gods Lie, Letters, The Beast, July 2013). You make a really good point and illustrate a really big problem when you say: "why would you get yourself all riled up over a bunch of flowers and a couple of statues?"

Well firstly, as per my letter, I guess one unauthorised but undealt with hijacking of public property could lead to others, but that's not really the big issue here. The big issue is that so many people think that religion is silly but harmless and we should allow those who wish to kid themselves to do so in peace. I would agree that once upon a time that was certainly the case.

However, I'm not sure if you've noticed that one after another, once thriving secular societies (societies where religion is kept separate from the government) across the globe are quickly regressing into religious fundamentalist states. Have you heard of Turkey, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, America? Are you aware of how quickly the human rights of women, gays and non-religious people or people of other religions are disappearing in these countries? That is what happens when secularism dies.

started a works program to replace the removable poles with sturdy, square-cornered permanent netball poles - in effect converting this shared space into a netball-only facility, with no consultation with the facilities' users. The official reason given is OHS - apparently now it's too dangerous for people to remove the poles without safety training, even though the courts have had removable poles since their inception. This surely is OHS gone mad!

Now that the park is increasingly having to fund its own existence, it just doesn't make any sense to reduce the utility of this space by installing permanent poles and decreasing the potential base of paying users for this facility. Unfortunately our protests seem to have fallen on deaf ears with the Centennial Park Trust, who have advised us that the works program will be going ahead as planned.

Paul Ceccato, Randwick

RESPONSE TO PAUL

Dear editor, we would like to respond to the letter of complaint received regarding an inline skating activity at Moore Park.

Centennial Parklands is one of the largest and most popular community sports venues in Sydney. We accommodate over 550,000 sports participants every year across more than 20 registered sports. Junior teams right up to elite sporting clubs use our fields, courts and facilities.

Our responsibility is to provide safe, accessible and available facilities, and while we are a self-funded public parklands, we are still fortunate to be able to provide high-quality facilities for the community to enjoy.

For the last number of years a booking has been made for the use of the netball courts at the Robertson Road Fields in Moore Park. These courts have an old style of removable netball post, which in the past have been damaged and lost. This leads to obvious problems when netball hirers then come to use the courts. We have decided to replace these old posts with higher quality permanent posts.

We have, over the last two months, made contact with the inline skating booking client (who is not your correspondent) and consulted in the matter of post improvements. The booking client has been, even

up until an on-site meeting on Wednesday this week, satisfied with the process we have undertaken. The client has further confirmed that the installation of these permanent netball posts does not restrict the use of the courts for inline skating, and that the type of posts chosen have made the area safer for the skaters.

Guy McDonald
Manager Sport and Recreation,
Centennial Parklands

WAVERLEY CEMETERY PLANS

"Waverley Cemetery... is a fully commercial business that has been trading successfully without funding assistance from Council or ratepayers for over 135 years..." (Locals Concerned by Waverley Cemetery Plans, The Beast, July 2013).

This is news to me! Who owns it? Who maintains it? Where and how does Waverley Council's director of corporate and technical services come into the picture?

And, "...if Council can't find a feasible option (to the cost of maintaining the cemetery)... the burden will undoubtedly fall on the ratepayers..."?! How can this be if it is a fully commercial business?

Kathleen Tangney, Waverley

BRONTE RSL

It is extremely disappointing to hear the news that WLB, the developer for the Bronte RSL site, wants to change planning controls in order to get its overdevelopment approved. Instead of waiting for Council to assess its development application, and for a decision by the JRPP (state government assessment panel), WLB is now trying to change the rules to double the size of what's permitted on the site.

This is despite many months of feedback from the local community, who overwhelmingly oppose the proposed overdevelopment. The community and Council are together on this - we don't want the RSL site overdeveloped.

The existing rules have taken many years and much effort from council planners and other professionals to fine-tune. They are the rules the rest of us have to play by. Imagine a local resident feeling entitled to overdevelop their home to double the permitted size. You just wouldn't dream of it.

Bronte locals are not anti-development. We are pro-development and want to see the RSL site developed into something that contributes in a positive way to the streetscape and our suburb.

We do not want to see it overdeveloped, to the benefit of only the developer, at the expense of our neighbourhood. Isn't that fair enough?

Roger Rajaratnam, Bronte

"Bronte locals are not anti-development. We are pro-development and want to see the RSL site developed into something that contributes in a positive way to the streetscape and our suburb."

THE 'PLAN FOR BONDI'S FUTURE'

Today I was at the Bondi organic markets, where I bought some food from the stalls and ate sitting on the grass while some kids ran around and the sun was shining. This is a Bondi Beach community experience.

The 'Plan for Bondi's Future' is a real estate and commercial enterprise to be paid for with taxpayers' money and will have no benefit to the community. This plan will end up replicating Bondi Junction at the beach, attracting more traffic, pollution, trade at the beach and cheap (in and out) tourism, and instead of benefiting the community will add more pressure on a congested beach. People come to the beach to enjoy the pristine sand and surf. Bondi Beach is already a success story because of what it is and the proposed changes are not needed from a community perspective.

In a few months' time a Woolworths will be built at the Swiss Grand Hotel and lots of plastic bags will appear at the beach. Australia-wide, this supermarket usually has big parking facilities and its construction in Bondi Beach will add pressure to the already tight parking.

The council looks to remedy this situation with its 'Plan for Bondi's Future'. The three-level underground car park is not necessary for beach traffic and realistically is for Woolworths, Harris Farm and the new shops proposed.