

WE NEED EXPERTS BEFORE
KINGS!

GREAT NEWS FOR WOLLANGARRA!

28/11/88

It is now certain that we have at last been able to purchase that special little block of land that I talked so glowingly about in the recent newsletter! This is wonderful news for Wollangarra, and I am absolutely convinced that such a project could not hope for a better home. Once again I would like to thank the Gilder family, especially Miss Barbara Gilder, for being prepared to sell the land to us at a price that we can afford, and for being willing to take us on at all! We have agreed to pay for the land in two stages. There are two separate blocks, and we only ever intend to build on one of them. So we will pay \$20,000 for this one straight away, giving us clear title to the land we want to build on, and then pay a further \$20,000 for the other block in 18 months time. It isn't going to be easy finding that second payment as well as finding the money for all the building and equipment expenses over the next 18 months, but we'll manage it somehow, I'm sure. The whole arrangement will hopefully be tied up legally in the next couple of weeks, and then we're away!

This leaves the way open at last to apply officially for the necessary access rights from the CF&L Dept., and to apply to the Maffra Shire for a Planning permit. It also means that, thankfully, those 1000 railway sleepers that I bought were not a waste of time either! Applications have also been made to the Melbourne Newsboys Foundation for help with the purchase of the wood-stove and the hot water boiler, and to the Melb. Rotary Club for help with the purchase of a cement mixer as well as some help with selling books in the future.

All being well, I hope to be living on the land before Xmas, and visitors will be welcome from then on. You should write to me first if you can, so I know you are coming, and can tell you how to get there.

Wollangarra has also bought its first vehicle - a rather elderly Holden Station Wagon, which used to belong to an SEC linesman who was up a pole when a car slammed into it and knocked it and him over. He won't be needing a car at all for a fair while! It was a good buy and should be a good vehicle for hauling gear up from Melbourne. It seemed unnecessarily expensive to buy and run a 4WD until later on.

Anna Pappas has designed a tremendous Wollangarra car sticker already. They will be \$1 each, and they really look good. You should be able to get them by Xmas, and you can order them right away if you like. Our Wollangarra Council is now finalised too, and our councillors are Neil Derrick, Chris Balmford, Jill Sykes, Peter Achurch, Ross Matlock, Liz Marsh, Gerry Gerrish, Ginny Wiseman, Ross Stevens, Jan Taylor, John O'Shea, Kirsten Thompson, Rose Gilder, Chris Dunlop and me. The plan for the first Council meeting is to have it at Wollangarra on Sun Dec 18th at 2.00pm. Could all councillors (and Mittagundi councillors who are encouraged to come to this meeting also), let me know please, how that weekend sounds. If you hear nothing more, assume it's on.

I suspect I will be up and down from Melb. to Licola a lot over the next few weeks, but you should be able to reach me in Melb quite often for a few weeks yet. For those weeks I will be based more than anywhere else at Rick Lindsay's place (240 1121). It will be invaluable for Rick and me to spend some time together before we take off in two different but equally remote directions, and he has kindly offered me accommodation at his place to enable that to happen. Things are likely to be somewhat hectic and chaotic over the next few weeks I suspect, but please do get in touch if you think you can help the project in any way. Obviously the time has now come for me to leave the wonderful home that the Gerrish family has provided for me for over 6 months now, and for me this will be very sad. Thankyou once again Bill and Lesley, for all that you have put up with, and for all that you have given to me. Without you and your support, Wollangarra may well never have happened.

Does anyone know of someone who is skilled with old stationary engines? The carby and governor of our old sawbench engine (a Roseberry of about 1920 vintage), should be looked at by an expert before it leaves Glen Iris. Any offers of help there quite soon, would be appreciated greatly.

Meanwhile the best you can possibly do to help us is to try and sell some books. The news about the land is wonderful. We must now knuckle down to the nuts and bolts of paying for it, and building something really special on it.

Cheers, Ian.