

Newsletter



enhancing Maroondah's environment and urban sustainability

Summer 2011

mark this date on your calendar...

...and help us make the change at the March 2011 Annual General Meeting

CROYDON CONSERVATION SOCIETY (CCS) is on the point of making some major changes into 2011. These changes to our constitution will be ratified at our AGM, to be held on **17th March 2011** at 8pm in the Glen Frost room, Croydon Library, Civic Square, Croydon. This is a very important occasion for our organisation, and we strongly encourage all members and friends to attend this auspicious event.

Come along and find out how we intend to operate into the future through the creation of a 'virtual community.'

Learn about how we plan to link together on-line and in real-time in a way that encourages community interaction, with sections for topical issues and up to date critical information.

To make this happen, we propose to use a different web page template with greater functionality. This will enable the committee to meet in an on-line forum, and if successful may even reduce our need for face-to-face meetings.

The evening will also feature a special guest speaker to talk about the Victorian Government's Desalination Project at Wonthaggi – something not to be missed!

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historic clocktower park safe for the future

Ringwood's Clocktower park is revered by the descendents, relatives, friends, and comrades-in-arms of those local Australians who fought or sacrificed life defending Australia's interests abroad.

Our local community is accustomed to this space being an important local meeting place for remembrance, and has an expectation that it will be kept as such. The pocket size park in the very heart of Ringwood provides a visual focus of remnants from our past history. More importantly, it is the meeting place for ANZAC and Remembrance Day services.

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When it was proposed to acquire a piece of this park to address traffic flow issues within the Ringwood Railway Station precinct, CCS added its collective voice to support our local RSL with a media release.

As a local conservation group, CCS opposed the destruction of trees, which contributes to loss of biomass in the face of Climate Change, not to mention loss of visual amenity.

If successful, the acquisition would have resulted in the removal of a stand of mature Cyprus trees that screen the tram lines and railway infrastructure,

leaving a totally dislocated, tiny island within a heavily trafficked intersection.

Thanks to all CCS and community members who took action, signed petitions or protested on-site. As a result of community pressure, the incoming Victorian Government recently announced that a fully integrated transport hub is back on the drawing board, all previously signed contracts have been rescinded, and the Clocktower is no longer under threat!

ccs challenges 2010 Tintern farm subdivision

In 2010, CCS lodged a written submission to VCAT in relation to Maroondah Planning Permit Application M/2010/117, to express concerns about the proposed development of a 34 lot residential subdivision at Tintern Farm. The primary concern was that subject land was not included under, nor did it conform to, Clause 22.03 *Neighbourhood Character Policy* of the Maroondah Planning Scheme.

CCS also questioned why Maroondah Council had not applied various relevant planning provisions to the subject land, particularly overlays relating to vegetation protection (VPO), design and development (DDO), and significant landscape (SLO). Such provisions would have ensured that any proposed development matched in with the existing character of adjoining properties, and fully considered existing habitat corridor values and canopy tree retention.

The potential loss of mature pine trees was also discussed, as this would result in biomass loss, increased exposure and altered climatic conditions for remaining ridgeline vegetation. Other issues raised included traffic management implications through increase vehicle access, loss of visual amenity, inappropriately small lot sizes, and inadequate mitigation for loss of existing vegetation.

Following the hearing, VCAT determined that conditional planning approval be granted.

landmark environmental win at Brown Mountain

CCS contributed financially in support of the community forest group [Environment East Gippsland](#) when they took the State Government to task over logging in Victoria's old growth forests. In a landmark decision handed down in final orders on the 14th September 2010, the Supreme Court has found that the government has a responsibility to look for and protect endangered wildlife before logging in the contentious Brown Mountain forests of East Gippsland.

Read all about the history of this momentous decision on the group's [Brown Mountain campaign webpages](#).

constitutional changes are coming...

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The following is the proposed amendment to the existing constitution, which will be discussed and put forward for ratification by CCS members at the forthcoming 2011 Annual General Meeting.

Amendment to the Constitution

To consider, and if seen fit, pass the following resolution as a special resolution:

"That the Constitution tabled at the meeting and signed by the Chair of the meeting for the purpose of identification is approved and adopted as the Constitution of the Association in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing Constitution of the Association."



Short Explanation:

The Committee considers that it is appropriate to update the Constitution of the Association to the Constitution of the Association to make amendments which:

- Improve the governance of the Association
- Reflect the current practices and procedures of the Association
- Clarify certain provisions of the Constitution
- Reflect the current Model Rules for an Incorporated Association as set out by Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Improve the drafting of the Constitution

A detailed explanation of the background to and reasons for the proposed resolution is set out in the Explanatory Memorandum below. A copy of the proposed new Constitution is available on the Association's website at www.croydonconservation.org.au, or if you require any further information please contact the Secretary on phone.

Explanatory Memorandum

1. General Changes

- (a) Numbering and Order
To improve the drafting and readability of the Constitution the clauses have been renumbered and re-arranged.
- (b) Revised Incorporated Association Model Rules
Clauses have been revised and new clauses have been included to bring the current Constitution up to date against current Model Rules.
- (c) Consolidation
The Objectives of the Association have been removed from Clause 3 of the Constitution and placed at the beginning of the Constitution.
- (d) Language and Wording
Numerous minor wording changes have been made to correct grammar, utilize modern language and clarify or improve the understanding of various clauses without changing their intent.

2. Specific Changes –Membership

- Membership clause has been amended to reflect the current Model Rules for Incorporated Associations as set out by Consumer Affairs Victoria.

3. Specific Changes – Annual Subscriptions

- The date of Annual subscription and payment has been set to reflect current financial procedures of the Association.

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4 Specific Changes – Resignation and Expulsion

- This clause has been removed and replaced with a new clause to reflect the current Model Rules clause for Incorporated Associations as set out by Consumer Affairs Victoria.
- The Appeal clause 8 (2) has been replaced by a new clause setting out the procedure for disputes and mediation in accordance with the Model Rules for Incorporated Associations.

5 Specific Changes – Meetings

- The Annual General Meeting clause has been revised in accordance with the Model Rules for Incorporated Associations.
- New clauses relating to Special; general meeting and Special Business have been added.
- General Meeting clause has been revised in accordance with the Model Rules for Incorporated Associations.
- Quorum at General meetings clause has been revised in accordance with the Model Rules for Incorporated Associations.

6 Specific Changes – Committee

- The Committee clause has been revised in accordance with the Model Rules for Incorporated Associations and separated into separate clauses to clarify the positions of Office Holders and Ordinary Members of the Committee

7 Specific Changes – Proceedings of Committee

- The clauses in this section have been revised in accordance with the Model Rules for Incorporated Associations and separated into separate clauses to reflect the current operation of the Association. The Committee believes that current requirement of a minimum of 9 meetings per year is difficult to achieve given other commitments by committee members and with improved electronic communications including the Associations website the committee will be able to carry out all necessary business with 6 scheduled meeting per year.

8 Funds

- The clauses have been revised in accordance with the Model Rules for Incorporated Associations and separated into separate clauses to reflect Model Rules for Incorporated Associations.

membership subscriptions now due

Annual membership subscriptions for 2011 become due as of the Annual General Meeting in March 2011. It's only \$15 yearly or \$80 for life membership, so please forward your payment to the Treasurer at your earliest convenience.



Note that CCS income is limited to investment returns on funds raised previously through street stalls and the paper recycling initiatives of our founding members, and membership fees.

Having a relatively small membership base and with current investment returns at an all-time low, we are in danger of becoming financially unviable.

This is despite cutting communication costs by establishing an internet site and more than halving the cost of paper and postage for newsletters, as we still have a fee for site hosting.

So spread the word about the role CCS performs for the Maroondah community – remembering that *CCS is YOUR group – how can you help?*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete and forward application with payment to:

The Secretary
Croydon Conservation Society
PO Box 869
CROYDON VIC 3136

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ P/code: _____

Membership Type: \$15 Annual \$80 Life Year of Joining: _____

Please tick any of the areas in which you might like to contribute your skills:

- Tree plantings
- Cleaning up Maroondah
- Information gathering — for publicity or special projects
- Publicity — promoting & reinforcing our value to the community
- Newsletter production or submitting articles of interest
- Lobbying as required in respect of environmental issues

If undeliverable, please return to:

Croydon Conservation Society
PO Box 869
CROYDON VIC 3136

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