

## WE KEPT THE CONCOURSE GREEN, GREEN

We're delighted to say our campaign to save the Concourse Green was successful, thanks to our wonderful BCS members and the enormous number of Beaumaris residents (861) who signed our petition in the weeks leading up to Council's decision. The outcome? Bayside Council unanimously voted against the master plan, prepared by consultants, that would have cost ratepayers \$300,000.

The Concourse Green is a substantial area of wholly unpaved land that provides a welcome sanctuary to the busy shops and businesses adjacent it. The green space with its 58 mature Australian native trees and large area of mown grass is at the heart of Beaumaris and has remained untouched for decades. With so much change and development going on in the suburb, it's comforting for some things to stay the same and clearly residents agree, judging by the result.

What was proposed (shown right) included cutting down trees and adding six large stone slabs on a very large paved area (25% of the Green) on the north-east corner, plus a large roofed shelter. A parallel pair of paved pathways would have intercut diagonally across the green, and stepping stones were to be added at the south-east.

Back in 2002, BCS successfully campaigned against a traders' proposal to build a car park on 58% of the

Concourse Green, and in 2004-2005, against a concrete skateboard park which Bayside City Council eventually built on a more suitable site near the football club building at Donald MacDonald Reserve. We're as proud of this newest victory as we are of these historical wins.

At the subsequent Council meeting, eleven residents put their case before Council. Nine of those speakers supported the petition, two opposed it.

Cr Laurence Evans, of Southern Ward, moved that the consultants' recommended plan be adopted for the rest of the Concourse, but not the intended Concourse Green alterations. To the great satisfaction of opponents of the unwanted changes, his motion was carried unanimously.



## SECONDARY COLLEGE CONCERNS

Few Beaumaris residents would be unaware of the massive changes underway on the 8 hectares of public land that makes up the site of the Beaumaris Secondary College, although the large black wall that's been built along Reserve & Balcombe Road is keeping the changes well hidden, no doubt as intended.

BCS members brought national media attention to bear, and hundreds of protesters and supporters worked tirelessly to convince the Victorian School Building Authority to save the 250+ trees planned to be cut down.

Sadly only 19 significant trees were saved and additional space for future plantings was secured.

The VSBA has agreed to modify its original new planting plan given that BCS stressed the species proposed were predominantly non-indigenous and at odds with vegetation around the site. We're seeking new planting proposals that are 100% indigenous, in keeping with previous indigenous trees and shrubs on the site and compatible with nearby Long Hollow Reserve and Balcombe Park.

There remains, however, serious concerns regarding the effect of chemicals/nutrients dissolved in water runoff from the large new sporting ovals given that the Long Hollow Heathland Reserve is just downstream of the land.

## PLANS FOR A BEAUMARIS BAY MARINA

The Beaumaris Bay Marina Environment Effects Statement [EES] lodgment is now seemingly imminent.

Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron Ltd which is the proponent of the large marina and three-storey dry stack for boats sought to be built in Beaumaris Bay, announced in May 2017 that it expected to lodge an EES with the Minister for Planning, Hon. Richard Wynne MLA, in June 2017.

Mr Wynne will consider the EES, and is expected to place it on public exhibition for 30 business days, inviting members of the public to make written submissions. After considering those submissions it's expected he'll establish an Inquiry, where individuals and organisations can elaborate on their submissions. BCS is strongly opposed and will decide its best response when the EES is finally released. At present, we are still waiting!

## A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME

Sadly, classic Beaumaris homes (often architecturally significant mid-century buildings) are being replaced with hastily built 'McMansions'. These ill-considered new builds often 'moonscape' the site, fill the entire block, spoil the character of our suburb and leave very little land for a garden and re-planting of indigenous canopy trees and shrubs as a sanctuary for birds and animals.

Our hard-fought-for VPO (Vegetation Protection Overlay policy) seems to be all too often ignored in these developments and we need to make Bayside Council accountable for much stronger enforcement.

In an effort to preserve these classic Beau homes and gardens, along with encouraging new builds that are sympathetic to our suburb's unique architecture and natural bushy character, BCS, in collaboration with Beaumaris Modern, has produced weather-proof signs to show Council and developers your opposition.



These A3 signs are free to members and supporters. Display them on your front fence or on a stake in your front garden. We even provide free home delivery! Just ring or text 04291 76725.

There's power in numbers, so please show your support on this issue. And if a significant home in your street is destined for the bulldozer, please object to Council to help keep these homes and trees, standing. Remember, we're in this together and we can't succeed without you!