

Belmont racing under threat

The Belmont Racing Industry and the historic Ascot Racecourse are under threat, according to Cassie Rowe, President of the Belmont Community Group.

The State Government's plans to privatise the TAB will have a devastating effect on Belmont Racing and concerns about its sale have been raised by many stakeholders throughout the industry.

"As President of BCG I am passionate about engaging with the local community to ensure support for a vibrant racing industry," said Cassie Rowe.

"The Belmont Community Group is campaigning to stop the privatisation of the TAB, which would kill off the local industry."

"The sale of the WA TAB, which has a potential sale value of \$1 billion and pays \$120 million to the racing industry annually, would undoubtedly have an adverse effect upon racing in Belmont and in Perth more generally."

History has shown the privatisation of TABs to be significantly detrimental to local racing industries. In a speech to Racing Victoria on 18 August, the Honourable Jeff Kennett conceded that his decision as Premier to privatise the Victorian TAB in 1994 was harmful to racing.

"A further hurdle for the local industry is the prospect of a forced council merger between Belmont and Kalamunda which could jeopardise the unique residential and stables area around the Ascot Racecourse."

"If the forced merger between Belmont and Kalamunda goes ahead the racing industry's traditional relationship with the City of Belmont will come under pressure in this greatly expanded municipality," said Cassie Rowe.

"Racing is an integral part of Belmont's community identity and has been conducted at Ascot since 1848. To lose it would be a tragedy not only for those who work in the industry, but for everyone in our community," said Belmont Community Group Executive Member and Vice President of the W.A. Racing Trainers Association, John Lugg.



BCG President, Cassie Rowe and Vice President Racing Trainers Association, John Lugg



Farmers Market update

In the last edition of the Belmont Community news we ran a story on the benefits of community farmers markets and were overwhelmed with responses. Clearly there is great enthusiasm for a farmers market in our area.

Since that time the Belmont Community Group has held a community forum which led to the formation of a Steering Committee. The Committee has been working on plans to launch a Farmer's Market in 2015.

"Farmers markets can add vibrancy to a local area and create a central meeting place for residents and families to shop, meet other locals and engage with their community," said Steering Committee member Jo Addy.

To get involved with the Belmont Farmers Market, sign up at www.belmontcommunity.com.au.

Cassie Rowe
President of Belmont
Community Group



Message from the President

It was just under a year ago that a small group of like-minded people sat around my kitchen table and decided to set up the Belmont Community Group (BCG). We wanted to provide an opportunity for residents to connect with their community, have their say on important local issues and network with other people.

The Belmont Community Group was set up to run community campaigns. For us, no issue is too big or too small and it's fair to say that we have ruffled a few feathers along the way!

From the outset the BCG has been free to join for residents and ratepayers in Ascot, Belmont, Cloverdale, Kewdale, Redcliffe and Rivervale. The BCG is proudly independent and open to progressive and innovative ideas which help provide solutions for our local needs.

Over the past year we have campaigned vigorously to oppose the forced amalgamation between the Belmont Council and the Kalamunda Shire and we are campaigning for the introduction of a 24 hour police station in Belmont. Recently we commenced a campaign, Save Racing @ Ascot, to support a vibrant racing industry in Belmont and oppose the privatisation of the TAB. We are also working to establish a Farmers Market in Belmont.

Obviously we have struck a chord with our local community and now have hundreds of members and supporters.

We have a cross section of community leaders on our executive including Sue Pethick (Chair of Belmont Community College), Phil Titchiner (Belmont Sports & Recreation Club), Cr Margie Bass (Belmont Rotary Club), John Lugg (V.P. WA Trainers Association), Carol Hanlon (CEO Belmont BEC), Kris Doherty (State Schools Teachers Union), Lindsey Fitzgerald (CEO Jacaranda Community Centre), Bella Scharfenstein (Coolgardie Residents Group) and Cr Lauren Cayoun (Belmont Councillor).

I would particularly like to thank our committee, sponsors, advertisers, and volunteers for their help. A big thank you must go to the team at Crush in Northbridge who design and print this newsletter, which goes to over 15,000 homes and businesses in Belmont.

We recently launched our website where you can find out more about the Belmont Community Group, join our campaigns, or sign our online petitions, www.belmontcommunity.com.au

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Property News

According to Gavin Hegney, the founding Director of Hegneys Property Valuers, the new multi-purpose stadium will position Belmont and the surrounding areas on the doorsteps of the entertainment and tourism hub. The entertainment precinct incorporates, Crown Perth and the Casino, leading bars and restaurants, the Crown Towers hotel, State Tennis Centre, Belmont Park Racecourse, outdoor cinema, concerts and sporting events.

"All this will increase the desirability for property close to this area and will positively impact on property values", said Mr Hegney.

The new multi-purpose Burswood Stadium will also have the capabilities to host major events consistent with requirements for Commonwealth Games and international athletics.

Belmont Men's Shed

Plans continue for the Belmont Men's Shed, an eagerly awaited community project. Coordinators of the Belmont Men's Shed have been conducting consultation meetings to allow input from local people into the plans.

Men's Sheds provide local men with opportunities to meet friends, take up hobbies and connect with other people in the community. Men's Sheds also help local men to learn valuable technical and social skills and improve health and general wellbeing.

If you missed the meetings and would like to find out more about the Belmont Men's Shed, or have your say, please call **Rev Brian Carey on (08) 9277 8013** or email brian.carey@westnet.com.au



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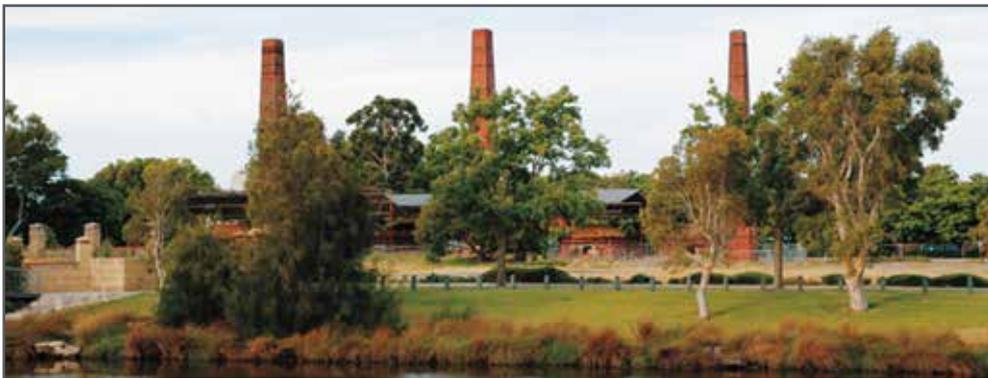
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Wreck or Rescue?

The site of the old kilns in Ascot Waters is large and well located, with a lot of potential. People in the community often flag innovative ideas for use of the land. The old kilns however, are a piece of Belmont history and part of the largest site of its kind in the southern hemisphere. To preserve the kilns we would need a strong commitment from the State Government. We are interested in your views; would you wreck or rescue?

Long-time Cloverdale resident, Christine Miller said, "I've always been in favour of keeping the kilns, they are an important part of our history and heritage."

One Ascot resident, Tina O'Connor, believes, "the whole area is becoming an eyesore; it is demolition by neglect. The State Government needs to fund a full restoration as has been promised otherwise some alternative must be looked at."

Belmont Community Group President, Cassie Rowe, has written to the Premier, Mr Barnett, and the Mayor of the City of Belmont, Cr. Marks, asking that funding be set aside in the budget to restore the kilns and upgrade the site for use as a community asset.

Email your thoughts to info@belmontcommunity.com.au or call us on **0418 200 149**.

Keep Belmont in Belmont

The BCG has maintained a vigorous campaign in opposition to the forced merger of the Belmont and Kalamunda councils and has always demanded that the community be given a vote on this important issue.

We've made two submissions to the Local Government Advisory Board in opposition to the forced amalgamation and have called for a democratic vote (you can view our submissions on our website).

"Our residents believe that a forced merger is illogical, will result in rates increases and will diminish our community identity," said BCG President Cassie Rowe.

Our anti amalgamation campaign is our number one priority and we'd love to have you on board. Sign our online petition at www.belmontcommunity.com.au or give us a ring on **0418 200 149**.

Noticeboard



Celebrating Small Business

The Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Small Business Awards provide encouragement to small business and recognition of small business achievements. By entering the Awards, small businesses have the opportunity to gain publicity and increase business opportunities at local, state and national levels. The Awards Ceremony, now in the 21st year, will be held at the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre on October 31st. To purchase tickets to the exclusive event, **visit the BEC website** at www.belmontbec.com or give Carol Hanlon a call on (08) 9479 3777.



Spring Garden Competition

The Rotary Club of Belmont's Spring Garden Competition is on again. The entries last year were of a very high standard, celebrating some beautiful Belmont gardens. The Competition recognises gardens that improve the look of our streets and add value to our environment. The award categories are Best Street Appeal Front Garden, Best Overall Use of Water Wise Plants and Best Overall Garden. If you have a great garden or know a neighbour who does, why not enter this terrific community competition? With winners receiving a \$500 Mitre 10 Belmont voucher and runners up receiving a \$150 voucher, it's well worth a go!

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On the ball

by Kris Doherty

Good Year for Belmont Bombers

It's been an exciting year for our local AFL club, the Belmont Bombers! Both the league and colts teams played deep into the finals, with the colts side making it all the way to the grand final after finishing the season on top of the ladder.

Club Vice President Adam Lee, who played in the clubs last premierships, says Belmont's strong involvement in junior football development is helping to drive success as players move into the senior ranks. "We have won four flags in the last 10 years and have built a strong future through our junior clubs.... It's also a testament to the positive club culture and great people we have at the Bombers. It's a great club to be around," said Adam Lee

Unfortunately this year wasn't to be for the boys in red and black. The league went down in the preliminary final by just 2 points to Secret Harbour and the colts succumbed to Ballajura in the big one. But Mr Lee had a message for opposition teams next year: "We'll be back, so watch out."



Racing roundup

Cloverdale resident, Marjorie Charleson wants to see night racing at Belmont Park Racecourse. Marjorie is the founder of Racebreed Australia and is a respected icon in the Perth Racing Industry. "Night racing at Belmont Park will complement the new entertainment hub on the Burswood peninsula and provide a potential boost to the racing industry", said Marjorie.

Local Ascot racing identity and trainer Scott Haley thinks the idea of night racing at Belmont Park is worth investigating. "The racing industry has some challenges at the moment and ideas to help the industry should be looked at. Our warm summer nights and Mediterranean climate could make night racing an attractive option for Perth", said Scotty.

In the frame

New Citizen Sundowner

A happy group of residents from Belmont enjoyed a special function to welcome new citizens following a recent citizenship ceremony. The function was hosted by the Hon. Samantha Rowe MLC at her office in Belmont Avenue, Cloverdale.

Cr Margie Bass, a director of Belmont Rotary, was a guest speaker along with Cassie Rowe the President of the Belmont Community Group. They spoke of the importance for new citizens to take opportunities to become involved in their community.

It was great to see new citizens and their families networking with others on the night!



Cr Lauren Cayoun, Samantha Rowe MLC, Cassie Rowe BCG President, Cr Margie Bass



BCG Patron Samantha Rowe MLC with Mr and Mrs Gunness and their daughter



Daniel Katenda and Mike Maidment

Make Belmont Safer

Dot Seghezzi, a pensioner and long term Kewdale resident, has had her home broken into three times. As a result, Dot has decided to join the Belmont Community Group campaign for a 24 hour police station in Belmont.

"We need more police in Belmont around the clock to deter people from committing crimes," said Dot.

If you want to help make Belmont safer, you can sign our online petition for a 24 hour police station at www.belmontcommunity.com.au or call 0418 200 149.

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