

GIDGEGANNUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

Next Meeting Dates: 17th July (AGM), 21st August, 18th September,

AGM: Don't forget our AGM Monday, 17th July, 2006 at 7.30 pm Agricultural Society Hall, Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup.

Membership: This is now due for renewal, \$10 per person a year – please leave at the Newsagents attention the Treasurer, GPA. New members are always welcome and application forms are available from the Newsagents.

Differential Rates: After huge rate rises last year of up to 200% and an interim rate on some landholders, when we were revalued by the Valuer General under the Metropolitan Scheme, we put up a motion at the Annual Meeting of Electors that our rates should be pegged to a 10% increase per year at the most. This was what was recommended in the Differential Rates this year (UV properties had been revalued at an average of 28.9% by the Valuer General)s – along with recommended average rate increases of 5% for GRV properties and 7.5% for the Commercial and industrial rates. The GPA opposed this 10% increase as we felt the increase should be more equitable. A strong lobby from the Midland Commercial sector also felt that a 7.5% rate was inequitable to them. With a lot of help from the Rural Councillors, joined latterly by Midland Councillors, a uniform 5% increase has been adopted. This will mean a substantial saving to UV rated properties.

Mobile Phone Tower Coverage: The application by Telstra for a Mobile Phone Tower at the Reserve Road/Toodyay Road junction has been refused as Telstra felt unable to develop this site with conditions imposed by Main Roads. Telstra have already applied for approval for an alternative site in Gidgegannup which the GPA have supported. Hopefully this one will be approved and we will have wider mobile phone coverage in the near future.

Computer Courses: We managed to acquire a First Click grant for these courses which have now commenced. Provided everyone is agreeable we will organize courses like this in the future, but can't promise the funding. Any plans will be advertised in the Gidgegram.

Roads: We have asked for a white line in the middle of Reserve Road from the Quarry to Toodyay Road for safety reasons – apparently we do not have enough vehicles per day to warrant this, as we live in a Metropolitan area. If we lived in a Rural area we would qualify! A white line will be put on Stoneville Road on its upgrade in the next year. We have asked the City to look at grading the sides of some of our roads as erosion furrows are forming, even with limited rainfall. The kerbing damage at the corner of Reserve Road and Toodyay Road has been reported to Main Roads. We have requested Main Roads look at putting lights at the junction of Reserve Road and Toodyay Road. Residents with problems on other junctions let us know and we will add to list.

Bus Service: We have asked our MLA to look into providing a needs and feasibility study for this but, as yet, no response.

Toodyay Road: We are now told that this will be completed mid July, road markings, signs and culvert/drainage work should be completed in the next couple of weeks. Mulching and revegetation will follow.

Main Roads have been asked to look at upgrading the Toodyay Road, specifically the Roland Road/Toodyay Road junction, Red Hill and deceleration lanes into various roads, among them Reen, Stanley, and Lilydale Roads. Correspondence has been copied to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, our MLA and the City. It took us 12 years to get the last lot of passing lanes so let's see how long this takes!