

# *Australian Garden History Society*

*Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria 3141 Telephone  
& Fax (03) 9650 5043 or 1800 678 446 Email: aghs@vicnet.net.au*



21st January, 2000

Mr Wayne Jackson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Football League  
Brunton Avenue  
Jolimont 3002

Dear Mr Jackson,

The Victorian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society, many members of which are keen football followers, is disappointed that the AFL has expressed its unhappiness with the announcement this week by the City of Melbourne that car parking in Yarra Park is to be reduced

This area was set aside by Governor Charles La Trobe In the 1850s as park land for all people. We believe that the increased use of this area that has occurred in recent years as a car park will degrade the area totally so that in time it will no longer be a green space for use by everyone.

The MCG is certainly 'the jewel In the crown of Melbourne's sporting venues' because of its setting within parkland so close to the CBD. We believe that if this area continues to be used excessively as a car park the damage by soil compaction to the remaining trees will cause their ultimate demise. The MCG set within a dust or mud bowl or even worse within an extensive bitumened area is totally unacceptable. The area is well served by public transport and CBD car parks and the public must be educated to use them and not believe it is their god given right to park at the gates to the ground.

As a western suburbs resident, not as well served by public transport as an eastern suburbs resident, I use a CBD car park when attending the MCG. Masses of other people do also and walk to the ground. During the Boxing Day test my 88 year old father walked with me and I could not help but think when I saw young and active people entering the car park in their vehicles how they could have done the same. In recent years when the car parks were closed due to an industrial dispute I recall Gareth Andrews saying on the radio what a pleasant experience it was walking to the ground through Yarra Park, he'd obviously not noticed its beauty before. We are pleased that the use of public transport is being encouraged so strongly along with the re-routing of the Swan Street trams.

We would support any stand the council, the AFL and the MCC take to encourage patrons to use public transport or the CBD's car parks. Our Society would welcome the opportunity to work along with such a consortium on educating the public on this Issue.

Yours sincerely

Helen Page Chairman,

Victorian Branch

*Australian Garden History Society Incorporated*  
(Incorporated in New South Wales)

*Branches in A.C.T., New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia*

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21st January, 2000

Dr John Lill  
General Manager  
Melbourne Cricket Ground and  
Melbourne Cricket Club Secretary  
Yarra Park  
Joilmont 3002

Dear Dr Lill,

Yarra Park

The Victorian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society congratulates the Melbourne City Council on the announcement this week that car parking in Yarra Park is to be reduced. We look forward to announcements of further reductions in future years. This area was set aside by Governor Charles La Trobe in the 1850s as park land for all people. We believe that the increased use of this area as a car park as has occurred in recent years will degrade the area totally so that in time it will no longer be a green space for use by everyone.

We are also very pleased that the use of public transport is being encouraged so strongly along with the re-routing of the Swan Street trams.

It is indeed disappointing that both the Melbourne Cricket Club and the AFL are expressing their unhappiness with the Council's decision. We agree with Dr John Lill that the MCG is 'the jewel in the crown of Melbourne's sporting venues' and this is largely because of its setting within parkland so close to the CBI/ We do not believe that they have contemplated that the effects of continued excessive car parking could lead to the area becoming a dust or mud bowl or worse still, a bitumens expanse.

We would support any stand the council, the AFL and the MCC take to encourage patrons to use public transport or the CBD's car parks. Our Society would welcome the opportunity to work with such a consortium on educating the public on this issue.

Yours sincerely

Helen Page Chairman,  
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January 22, 2000

The Editor,  
The Herald Sun, 40  
City Road  
Southbank 3000

Dear Sir,

Yarra Park

The Victorian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society congratulates the Melbourne City Council on the announcement this week that car parking in Yarra Park is to be reduced. We look forward to announcements of further reductions in future years. This area was set aside by Governor Charles La Trobe in the 1850s as park land for all people. We believe that the increased use of this area as a car park as has occurred in recent years will degrade the area totally so that in time it will no longer be a green space for use by everyone.

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We would support any stand the council, the AFL and the MCC take to encourage patrons to use public transport or the CBD's car parks. Our Society would welcome the opportunity to work with such a consortium on educating the public on this issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Page'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Helen Page Chairman,  
Victorian Branch

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