

SUBMISSION NO 24 (Object)**RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY**

About two years ago South Gippsland Shire appointed a new CEO, and quite right too! Now we have a brand new set of Councillors, I'm hoping for a more effective performance in the future and in particular emphasis placed on social and environmental needs.

In my forty two years residence in South Gippsland the Shire has lacked intelligent well directed leadership. The professionals over the years have gained total powers of decision making. They appear to have lacked creativity, ideas, positive thinking and action. I amongst others have suffered from the Shire's performance in a number of ways. The future however is in their hands.

This week I am informed that a proposal has been presented to Council, the intent of which is to sell off a small patch of forested land. I have visited the location and I was impressed with this small animal habitat. It is not the first time patches of land have been sold by the Shire to the adjacent land owner for grazing purposes.

We are constantly warned about the threat of climate change, the loss of biodiversity and extreme weather changes but so many residents still want to believe they can carry on as usual.

Not long ago the Shire was quite happy to consider a car wash for the main street of Mirboo North and then a proposal was seriously considered to build a second petrol station. Both proposals were simply not acceptable to reasonable people. The Shire CEO at that time, when questioned, stated, with his finger up in the air, "I know all about that, there was a petrol station there before, and the tanks are still in the ground". I doubt he was aware of the proximity of the development to the library, the kinder and the elderly person's residential centre. The bed and breakfast alongside was certainly not considered. When approached, the managers claimed they had no idea of the plan and its proposed location. The readers can imagine their shock.

I had an extensive conversation with a Ward Councillor. This person was patient with this irate concerned member of the public. The usual attitude protecting the Shire and it's difficulties was explained which really did not impress this citizen. I can only hope my message gets through to the various levels of governance.

My attempts over the years stressing the need to protect what is left our tree cover and the need to have a proper environment plan usually fell on deaf ears. Such proposals that further degrade should not be considered, the immediate response should be 'such a proposal should not be possible'. I say the bureaucratic process should be modified.

I must ask the question 'does this sale with it's forest cover lost; suggest that the new Council is no better than the last, or, is it to be more of the same'?

The section of land is approximately one acre, and is located about seven kilometres from Leongatha, on the Mardan road. It's local name is Watson Park.

Ron Brown
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



SUBMISSION NO 25 (Object)

From: [Richard Lester](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Press - Sent T - Andrew](#); [Press - Sth Gipps Voices](#)
Subject: Watson's Pk - Submission 9/4/22
Date: Friday, 11 March 2022 1:17:24 PM

Watson's Pk - Submission 9/4/22

To South Gippsland CEO & Councillors

In 1968, I returned home to our family farm - 631 Mardan Road, after 371 days active service in Vietnam, a psychologically scarred young man - not understanding, but desperately needing positive reconciliation & rehabilitation

Planting trees saved me - my mother Mary was desperate to reconcile our almost treeless pioneer family farm, by tree planting - I volunteered to be her assistant & muscle power
That tree planting awakened a seed in me, of the incredible positivity, beauty & resilience of nature, which I embraced.

Over the last 54 years, being nurtured by nature I have become dedicated to the precious, positive, healing powers of nature & the need, for our Community to better appreciate & protect it.

In 1980s, I became Head Gardener, Shire of Woorayl, a highlight was transplanting a mature Blue Atlas Cedar from Gena Roughhead's garden in L'gatha, to Mossvale Pk & completing many township & roadside tree plantings.

In 1988, I co authored "Significant Trees of Woorayl Shire" - I stated, that "I found the gardeners I met, as inspirational as the trees they planted".

Gardens, especially trees, are so often planted as a lasting tribute, celebration of life, or legacy to someone who we loved & respected in our lives
Therefore, we must treat our precious trees with the same respect, particularly our older, mature citizen trees.

My inspiring mother Mary, was a tree planting hero, Gordon & Linda Watson were extraordinary neighbours & tree planters & they gave so much to their Community.
Many tree planters have committed so much voluntary time to plant trees for posterity.

Sth Gippsland has so many tree planting heroes, many celebrated in "Significant Trees of Sth Gippsland"
However, despite their trees listing for protection, too many are still sacrificed in the name of development.

So many tree planters have channeled their heart & soul into trees, that have an intrinsic value in the wealth, health & wellbeing of us all
There is now, so much growing support for South Gippsland Land Care
Therefore, it is so concerning that Councillors proposal to sell "Watson's Pk" is contrary to its own Tree planting & Preservation Policies. I plan to lodge an application to Council, that "Watson's Pk" mature vegetation, be listed on Council's own Significant Tree Register.

I am convinced the Council proposal to sell "Watson's Pk" - 630 Mardan Rd, is an ill conceived, disregard of the many priceless Community, Historical, Environmental & Economic values of Tree Scape.
There appears to have been inadequate Environmental or Historical Assessment !

There is a rational, alternative route for the proposed animal underpass.

Watson's Pk, together with recent, neighbouring, private tree plantings, has created crucial, permanent Koala habitat - a tiny, precious oasis in a heavily developed, rural, district monoculture.

In 2014, Thelma Arnup urged me to assist in saving the 100 yr old Bair family Flame tree. It was successfully transplanted at the new Aldi Supermarket site. Thanks for the innovative support from Aldi & the many Public supporters.

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Despite our deputation to Council, Councillors offered no support, except for the offer of a seedling Flame Tree - it felt like a complete lack of empathy or understanding.

It was an incredibly, inspiring & innovative initiative in Sth Gippsland, historical tree preservation, that Council needs to better understand, initiate & adopt.

Councillors, please reconsider your proposal to sell "Watson's Park" & respectfully & adequately assess the full Community considerations & benefits of Sth Gippsland's precious Significant Tree-Scape.

Sth Gippsland, is historically recognised as the "The Land of the Lyrebird" , with forests of the Tallest Trees in the World & so many Significant planted Citizen Trees.

Thank you, Dick Lester

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

SUBMISSION NO 26 (Object)

From: [Ian Starkey](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Re: Watson's Park, Sale of land discussion
Date: Sunday, 13 March 2022 11:04:32 AM

> On 7 Mar 2022, at 10:46 AM, Ian Starkey [REDACTED] wrote:
>
> I was saddened to read in the Sentinel-Times of the South Gippsland Council's decision to sell off a small parcel of land known as Watson's Park, Koorooman. It's so disrespectful to a person and family who contributed so much to the South Gippsland community.
> I, my wife and two children were fortunate to rent a house off the Watson's for two years when we first moved into the district in 1978. We found Gordon Watson, our landlord, one of the considerate and warm gentle human beings we have ever met. When we paid our rent he would leave vegetables that he had grown on our back door step for us. He walked with a continual stoop from years of hard work establishing his farm that had been originally selected by his parents. Gordon and Linda held Garden Parties for many years to help raise funds for charities and community projects. This small park that he planted and tendered is a small remembrance to his life and contribution to the district and should be preserved. The sale of it should be reconsidered by the Council and the cattle underpass placed in an other location.
> Yours respectfully,
> Ian Starkey
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
>

SUBMISSION NO 27 (Object)

From: [Ildi Ehsman](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION Objection Sale Watson's Park
Date: Monday, 14 March 2022 4:02:17 PM

SUBMISSION: Objection to the Proposed Sale of Watson's Park in Tarwin Valley

This land is home to many of our precious and near to extinction species, fauna and flora. Koalas are regularly cited in this area and the trees that provide habitat to them should be protected, thus the sale of the Watson's Park is contradictory to the preservation of our wildlife and their habitat.

Please stop the proposition of this land sale which would cause irreversible destruction to our unique wildlife and to their habitat.

Yours sincerely,

Ildi (Cindy) Ehsman

[Redacted Signature]

M: [Redacted]
e: [Redacted]