

COCKBURN CITY HERALD



Volume 3 No 6
Saturday February 10, 2001

Cockburn City's own INDEPENDENT newspaper
Letterboxed to Cockburn, Atwell, Banjup, Beeliar, Bibra Lake, Coogee, Coolbellup, Hamilton Hill, Henderson, Jandakot, Munster, North Lake, South Lake, Spearwood, Success, Wattleup and Yanagebup

41 Cliff Street, Fremantle
Ph: 9430 7727 Fax 9430 7726
Email: news@fremantleherald.com

1,000 rally against 'Death Roe'

Save Our Lakes

by JENNY D'ANGER

ABOUT 1,000 people turned out last Sunday to a rally to stop the six-lane Roe Highway screaming between Bibra and North Lakes.

The future of native wildlife was the focus of concern and frogs were the flavour of the day. The rally was held near the old gold tree on Bibra Lake Dye.

North Lake Committee members, locals Carmel Cooper and Brett Ozanne, donned frog outfits while dozens of kids and adults hopped to clapping frogs and banners to get the message out: "Save Our Lakes".

"The message is frogs, not freeways," Ms Cooper told the Herald.

North Lake Residents Action Group spokesperson Jo Branco stirred the massed gathering, saying the six-lane "Death Roe" would be the "death knell" for fauna and flora living between the two lakes.

"Let's kill the swans and cygnets, let's kill the Wetlands Education Centre which caters for 4,000 kids a year, let's kill the scouts who come here from all over the metro area to study wetlands, let's kill migrating birds as they fly in looking for nest, let's kill the recreation area used by the community near and far," he thundered to huge roars from the angry crowd.

He went on to compare government claims the road's impact on the area could be minimised to a lethal injection.

"It numbs the pain but the result is the same - it will kill," he declared as the crowd roared "No Roe Highway!"

Main Roads' plans would see the Roe Highway - which has its origins in Perth's eastern suburbs - built in between the Bibra and North Lakes, cutting a 100-metre wide swathe through the area, dislodging fauna and flora.

The Howard Government recently handed

over more than \$70 million to the State Government to fast-track the completion of the leg connecting the highway to the Kwinana Freeway by 2002.

The Lakes leg is the next in line for construction, expected to begin by 2004, although no funding has been set aside. When completed, the highway would extend from the eastern suburbs to the yet-to-be-built Fremantle bypass, intersecting near the Newmarket Hotel in Hamilton Hill.

A line-up of politicians, including from the major parties, pledged opposition to the route through the lakes.

.../continued p2



• Protesters listen to key speakers during last weekend's rally. TOP RIGHT: "Frogs" Carmel Cooper and Brett Ozanne. Photo by David D'Anger



Back to reality

HOLIDAYS are over and it's back to the grindstone and time to start saving for the next lot of hols.

Our distribution queen Marie "Grumpy" King is on the grizzle again and looking for reliable people to deliver the Chook.

Give Marie a call on 9430 7727 to check out the areas available.

• The Herald went to press a day early this week to cater for the elections.

Find the fake ad and win a feast for two at



Turn to the competitions page for details.

Save Our Lakes



• Francis Logan



• Jim Scott



• Carmen Lawrence



• Simon O'Brien

.../from p1.

Long time opponent, federal Labor MP Carmen Lawrence, told the crowd a state Labor government promised to stop the Fremantle extension of Stirling Highway (the bypass) without which Roe was a highway to nowhere and should be stopped.

She vowed to continue fighting at a federal level to stop federal funding being directed to the project.

"I will work to see not a single cent of Commonwealth money is spent on destroying this area," she told the crowd to applause.

Liberal South Metropolitan MLC Simon O'Brien ran a gauntlet of howls of abuse to tell the crowd the community would be consulted over the highway.

"I will be advising the community on how to work on ways to come up with a solution," he tried to assure the crowd over jeers.

Labor's candidate for the state seat of Cockburn, Francis Logan, said his party had listened and devised policies which should dramatically impact on the Roe Highway.

"Main Roads policy has been hanging around like a sore for 40 years and has to go," he said, but fell short of actually promising that a Gallop Government would kill the road.

Local Greens MLC Jim Scott labelled Main Roads as the Mad Road Department and said it was essential it became a sub-section of the Department of Transport, to ensure sensible road plans and better public transport.

Cockburn Greens candidate and Com-Net co-convenor Heather Smedley pledged to continue the fight against the highway, whether elected or not.



• Heather Smedley takes a stand