



Copley Newsletter

issue 25 May 2008

I have had occasion to look up **Democracy in Australia** and this is just a little of what I found. It resonated with me and hopefully will with you as well as we try to bring democratic rights into this small town of Copley and its surrounding district. I never leave a challenge unanswered so here we go.

"Characteristics of an open, democratic society"

An open, democratic society offers many benefits to its citizens. It gives them freedom to make choices about their lives, to develop their potential as human beings and to live free from fear, harassment and discrimination. It gives them protection under the law and the right to elect legislators of their choice and to remove them if they do not perform to their satisfaction. It guarantees freedom of speech, religion and assembly. It ensures an independent judiciary. Through the principle of the rule of law it guarantees universality of the scope of the law and equality before the law for all citizens.

Freedom of the press makes possible the exposure of corruption, malpractice and incompetence; diversity of media opinion offers alternative interpretations of news and events.

A strong democracy encourages an active and outspoken civil society and robust public debate including dissent and disagreement with government. Such a democracy gives its members many opportunities to participate in public life. A properly functioning democracy also has moral responsibilities to non-citizens, refugees, visitors and other nations."

"Attacks on community voices - There have been many recent attacks on community voices, especially on bodies that act as advocates for the environment, the disadvantaged or the community. These community groups are a corner stone of a healthy democracy."

"The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment." - Robert Maynard Hutchins, educator (1899-1977) <http://australianpolitics.com/democracy/>

<http://www.australiancollaboration.com.au/democracy/index.html>

reconciliation gymkhana



The People at the Gymkhana

Results will be available next issue when the book is found...in the meantime, enjoy the wonderful faces

siding news



Perilya zinc train on Sunday May 11th only 1 week after last visit to siding



Last wagon opposite Tommy's yard



Within 50 feet of residences



Security arrives after 20 minutes otherwise no security near the train



This close to businesses and church
Too close, wouldn't you say?

Where are the assurances given to the people of Copley concerning the use of the siding? Who is going to make them accountable for promises given at the questionable 'consultative meetings' where the people were told what was to happen in their town? Is this the amenity of our town? I think not!!!!

