



Cape Chestnut. Menangle Village.

Menangle Community Association

Care, Honour, Heritage

*Maurice Blackwood.
Menangle Community Association
310 Moreton Park Road,
Douglas Park, NSW. 2569*

30th October, 2015.

Mr Brendan O'Brien
Executive Director Housing and Employment Delivery
23-33 Bridge Street.
Sydney. 2001.

Dear Brendan,

Re: The Greater Macarthur Development Investigation

Thank you for offering to meet but unfortunately I have been ill, so as a result, below is my short submission. I do apologise for this.

Employment and Entertainment Delivery.

Now that tourism has overtaken coal in Australia as a bigger money earner, my opinion is tourism needs to be considered in your departments future plans if we are to grow and prosper. Secondly entertainment and employment for the new housing areas planned is also important and our plan provides part solutions for all these issues.

Previous reports.

The previous Macarthur South Growth Management strategy, the two local conservation area reports, the Camden Park Estate Heritage listings, and the large number of heritage items and listings, and surprisingly the current developers plans to restore the Rotolactor and Creamery, all indicate that the area is unique and we congratulate your department for recognising this in the draft plan..

Current Visitor numbers to the Menangle Valley confirm the areas attraction and its potential:

- The last Belgenny Farm Mothers day event had over 7,000 people visit on the day.
- Camden Park House has over one weekend annually has over 2,000 visitors.
- The Camden Park Environmental Center educates annually over 20,000 school students, and is continually booked out.
- The Rotolactor was so popular in its day, and was visited by the then population of Sydney, 2.5 million people in the 60's and 70s ! Daily people still ask for the Rotolactor, so it will be a draw card to the area like no other.
- The Dept of Agriculture charter is to educate and at "Agview" in about 1995, there were over 20,000 visitors per day over the years that it operated.

2.

Our Concept Plan.

Our plan is to preserve the areas unique history and to increase direct and indirect education, employment and tourism in the whole Wollondilly/Camden region by harnessing the existing State Government and non government assets over time. This also includes everything from agri tourism, education, farm gate, and food trails, of which many already exist but are not linked.

This will address some of society's problems through the education and entertainment of city dwellers in agriculture and also importantly in our Australian history, and just one hour from central Sydney.

The understanding of both our fresh food chain and our indigenous and colonial history can be achieved in this one valley and surrounding area. The area is also a fresh food source that can be expanded, but there is still the problem of land tied up by government and by "land banking" that we believe will be overcome in time given a clear planning direction.

The First Step.

Please consider that the valley has lost its identity and is no longer known as "the Cowpastures" or as "The Camden Park Estate" because the area is split up and/or renamed so it is very unclear. Menangle is clearly identified but it is only a small part of the story. Hence, no one is clear about its future direction either, so we now are depend on your department to identify it.

Please consider this is not new only a necessary re branding or clarification.

We suggest the area be refreshed with the name "Macarthur Agricultural Park (MAP) or "Cowpastures Agricultural Parklands" (CAP), or "Camden Park Agricultural Parklands"(CPAP) and perhaps "for agricultural and heritage area".

My personal preference is "CAP Agricultural and Heritage Area", as it keeps the historical link to the Aborigines and the First Fleet alive because the Aborigines created the "Cowpastures" that the First Fleet Cattle were drawn to, and the Macarthurs created the vast agricultural resource that was pivotal in Sydney's survival and development. "Macarthur" is already tied up in the area name, so CAP ties it up nicely.

This act of identification would create direction as well as maintain something unique in Australia that over time will:

- Create another major tourist destination for Sydney, and closer than the Blue Mountains.
- Provides entertainment for Sydney's growing population.
- Educates in the past, present and future for all Australians from an historic and current agricultural base.
- Uses the existing assets more effectively than they are at present.
- Help educate about our fresh food chain, life skills, and to challenge people with their past and their future to help assist in overcoming some of our social and health problems.

There is a wealth of agriculture still happening in the valley that we can add to.

New Report on Tourism in the Wollondilly Camden Area

Unfortunately I do not have this report yet, but Dr John Troughton will be sending it to you directly, and I understand it makes following points:

1. The Menangle Valley is on an historic rail line one hour from Sydney which is ideal for the carless to visit, and as well being on the F5, which is very significant.
2. The valley is Sydney's oldest and continually innovative food bowl with guaranteed water from the adjacent Nepean, and has a "huge history" from before the whiteman
3. It was the place the Aboriginals clans met, cleared and burnt the valley and farmed the land.
4. The valley has over 37, national, state and local heritage assets within a 6km radius.
5. The valley is mostly Class 2 agricultural lands still with available water.
6. The summation of these points is that the valley could not be more ideal for
 - a. Agriculture.
 - b. Agricultural and environmental education for all age groups.
 - c. Australian history education for all age groups.
 - d. Local and international tourism.

Our joint vision group is a combination of the views of the Menangle Community Assoc., the Wollondilly Tourism Association, Dr John Troughton from the Australian Education Futures, and Michel Kolnar the 1995 National Heritage Award winner.

We would be happy to assist further if requested.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Maurice Blackwood, Menangle Community Association.
Dr John Troughton, Australian Education Futures.
Mr Blair Briggs, Wollondilly Tourism Assoc.
Michel Kolnar.

Copies: Mr Tate Ryan, Wollondilly Council Tourism
Mr David Fitzgibbon, Senior Precinct Planner, Housing Land Release.

Attached:

- Macarthur Agricultural Park, MAP, concept