

ENVIRONMENT GROUP MEETS AT MONTROSE

[*Lilydale Express* 7 February 1971]

Over 100 persons attended the first meeting of the Montrose Environmental Group, and over 80 joined by subscription after the meeting.

One of the organisers of the meeting, Mr. R. Yates, said those responsible were "beside themselves" at the response of local citizens.

Professor 'J. S. Turner, professor in the Botany Department at Melbourne University speaking at the meeting said he was appalled that the motor car ruled decisions.

He said there was a need for people to observe the environment on foot, rather than destroy the environment to make wider roads for buses.

He said motor car tourists did not see the environment — "They see nothing, only a veneer."

The introductory speech made by Cr. Seymour, of Lilydale Shire Council was an outstanding understanding of world problems in environment destruction and pollution,

Later, Mr. K. Farr, of Blackburn Tree Preservation Society, briefly outlined the history and development of that group.

He noted that the two groups were concerned about different problems. The Blackburn groups' aim was to replace an area already destroyed while the Montrose aim was to prevent destruction.

Mr. Ron Taylor called for the formation of a group of local persons to quickly organise and stop further bulldozing of the area.

Thirty family subscriptions at \$2 were received, and eight individuals (\$1) and five students (25 cents) also



joined.

Group's aims

The aims of the group are:

- Planning of the area to restrict urbanisation and so preserve the character and aesthetic appeal.
- Encouragement of tree planting with a particular emphasis on the planting of species native to the area.
- Encourage community responsibility towards safeguarding natural environment.
- Promote an awareness and an appreciation of native fauna and flora and to ensure adequate areas are preserved to secure their survival.
- Survey areas to carry out a flora and fauna census.
- Preservation of the northern, north-western and south-western slopes of the Dandenongs.
- To seek close co-operation with Shire of Lilydale and other public bodies in achieving these aims.



Sherbrooke Rd Kallista was featured on MEG's roadside pamphlet "Roadsides A Community Resource" as an example of good roadside planning.