



*Your news in brief - 26 February 2012*

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## Welcome to 2012

**This year** will be a busy one. There will be Council elections later in the year, the State Government is starting its anti-corruption Commission, and our Glen Eira council is already consulting us, in its own special way.

- The First Council meeting for the year was held on 7 February. For council the year has begun with a flurry of ‘consultation’ meetings. Six meetings have been held between 13 and 23 February, at various council venues across the City. As with all previous consultations, Council repeatedly invites us to ‘have our say’. Which is all very well and good, except that in the past no-one was listening.
- Council now also provides an on-line forum, where once again, you can ‘have your say’. As found in previous years, the main themes emerging from the various forums, is anger and concern about overdevelopment, traffic, and lack of consultation. It is time councillors took action on resident’s legitimate worries about Glen Eira’s future.
- Victorian Anti-Corruption Commission The State Government’s IBAC (Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission) has now been legislated, and world-wide advertising for senior positions has started. We understand the IBAC will be able to investigate corruption and malpractice in local government as well as state government It will have extensive powers to investigate both council staff and councillors. This reform has been needed for a long time.
- Council elections are scheduled to be held on 27 October 2012. This gives us nine months to ‘Consider our Verdict’. In that time the community will have to carefully assess the performance of our sitting councillors, and consider election promises from the candidates. Council elections are infrequent, they are held only once every four years, so in October cast your vote wisely.
- NOTE: Our new email address is [geresidents@hotmail.com](mailto:geresidents@hotmail.com) For more detailed information on issues, go to [geresidents.wordpress.com](http://geresidents.wordpress.com)

Finally, a message from GERA. This year will be particularly active, with many events and happenings in and around City Hall. We will do our best to report on these during the year, but we need your help. Contact GERA if you have Council problems that need fixing, or if you can tell us more of what goes on behind those big closed doors at City Hall. (Don Dunstan, President)