

THE FIGHT FOR BRIGHTON LAWN

Congratulations to Michael Organ for his self-sacrificing and spirited defence of our city's birthplace.

His discovery that the area is a Conservation Zone of State Significance on Council's own heritage Study has placed the cat amongst the pigeons.

Until this discovery (and I certainly had not spotted it in the various volumes of the Heritage Study I'd consulted at Wollongong Library) I had long felt that Council's Heritage Study was a completely ineffective defence for nominated Heritage Items.

I can now see, however, that it at least provides an occasional refuge from which to do battle when the going gets tough.

Michael fought long and hard to prevent the erection on the units on the site of the old Brighton Hotel. If only the existence of this loophole had previously been known then perhaps it would have been possible to use the State Significance Listing to argue that the units currently under construction affect the visual amenity of the Conservation Zone by obstructing the view of Mount Keira which could formerly be glimpsed from the lawn. Surely the onus was on Council Officers to ensure that the visual amenity of a site of State significance was protected?