

Traders lead push to revitalise town centre 'the right way'

# Torquay vision revealed

Greg Dundas

TORQUAY traders are working on a vision to revitalise the town's key retail precinct as they strive to influence decisions on the Surf Coast Shire's controversial C66 planning amendment.

Underground carparking, taller buildings, pockets of high-density housing, protecting valued architecture, improved public transport access and a redevelopment of Gilbert St will be proposed as the town grapples with rapid population



Barrie Sutherland



Martin Duke

growth while trying to retain its coastal village charm.

Torquay Commerce and Tourism Bell St representative Barrie Sutherland said traders were determined to keep a balance between commercial and cultural ac-

tivity while continuing the evolution necessary as the town grows.

He said underground parking was the most visually appealing way of coping with the demand for more car spaces, while taller buildings should be allowed in central areas, so long as they don't obstruct beach views and are not visible from the beach.

Central living options and accommodation were also vital to keeping the town centre vibrant, Mr Sutherland said.

"It's about improving what we have without losing the best bits and what makes this a special place," he said.

"A good CBD is somewhere people want to live, where business thrives and where people meet and socialise - that's what we're hoping to help create."

While most of the attention on C66 has focused on how it will affect the town boundary at Spring Creek, Torquay Commerce and Tourism president Martin Duke said other aspects had

the potential to cause great harm to the town.

In a proactive step, the body is articulating its vision for the town. That vision will form part of its submission on C66, which must be lodged by March 6.

The group held a pivotal meeting on the project last night, a day after launching the Torquay Town For Tomorrow website to help it sell its vision and encourage other community members to make submissions on C66.

"C66 doesn't plan for the future of the Torquay town-

ship, it is not just about moving the boundary, there's a lot more to it than a lot of people realise," Mr Duke said. "If C66 was approved as it is we would lose the character of Torquay as it stands now."

"This is not about saying 'no' to development or progress. This is about making sure things are developed in the right way, a way that ensures Torquay remains a town that is unique."

What do you think should happen in Torquay's central business precinct? Write to us: news@theecho.com.au

## New footy film to kick a goal for Aussie rules fans

Greg Dundas

CAST and crew of *Blinder* will land in Torquay next weekend for the hometown premiere of the footy-based feature film.

An exclusive preview screening of the film will be held in Geelong on Saturday, February 23, following the world premiere at Melbourne's Crown Casino this Tuesday.

The movie will be released nationally in cinemas next month.

Producer Virginia Kay said the film's team would host functions in Torquay at the weekend, including a relaxed public release of the soundtrack at Growlers at 3pm Sunday.

*Blinder* stars Jack Thompson, Oliver Ackland, Rose McIver, Anna Hutchison, Angus Sampson, Bob Morley, Josh Helman and Zoe Carides, some of whom will venture to the Surf Coast for next weekend's events.

"We spent almost six months in Torquay when we were making the film, so this is a good chance to come back to revisit some friends who were so helpful to us at that time," Ms Kay said.

"This time last year the team were arriving in town to film, now we're able to come back to say a huge thank you to the local supporters of the film."

"We could not have done



Director Richard Gray

it without the ongoing support and dedication from the local community."

Director Richard Gray has been in the US working on his fourth feature film, *Lookalike*, but will be in Torquay for next week's celebration.

"I grew up holidaying with family on the Great Ocean Road and always dreamed of shooting a film there. We have locations from Torquay to Apollo Bay and they're just stunning."

After playing a footy coach in *The Club* 30 years ago, legendary actor Jack Thompson returns to a similar role in *Blinder*.

His performance, plus the presence of former Aussie rules stars Glenn Archer and Sam Kekovich as executive producers, will help attract attention for the film.

It opens nationally on March 7 at the Village cinema in Geelong and Readings outlet at Waurin Ponds. Visit [blinderthemovie.com](http://blinderthemovie.com)



Star: Jack Thompson plays the coach of the Torquay Tigers football club in *Blinder*, which premieres in Melbourne on Tuesday.

**GEELONG'S  
BIGGEST  
RANGE IN STOCK**

**SCOOTERS AUSTRALIA**  
PLUG INTO LIFE

**FREE  
IN HOME  
DEMONSTRATIONS**

Monarch Royale  
3 & 4 Wheel  
versions

*The best scooter  
on the  
Australian market!*

- Style •
- Power •
- Comfort •

*Exclusive to  
Scooters Australia*

• IN HOME SERVICING • ASK ABOUT OUR 'NO INTEREST EVER!' PAYMENT PLAN • ALL BRANDS AVAILABLE

1300 622 633 • [geelong@scootersaust.com.au](mailto:geelong@scootersaust.com.au) • [www.scootersaus.com.au](http://www.scootersaus.com.au) • 52 Charles St Newcomb Geelong • Ph 5248 7338 • Fax 5248 7474