



BACK THEN: Boats paddling on the Wollondilly River near the Kenmore Pleasure Grounds in 1949. Photo courtesy Goulburn Mulwaree Council. Inset: The council is purchasing the old boatshed on the former Kenmore Pleasure Grounds as part of 3870 square metre riverside acquisition to boost its public recreation space. A developer is hoping just some of the area's former glory can be resurrected.

An idea worth floating

By LOUISE THROWER

SOME 70 years ago boats were still pushing off from the Kenmore Pleasure Grounds, putting out for a day's picnicking or fishing.

The grounds, established around the turn of the century, loomed large in Goulburn's social life and thrust the Wollondilly River forward as a popular recreation spot.

Now a landowner is hoping the council can resurrect just a little

of that popularity and even restore the 100-year-old boatshed on site.

Council agreed at its most recent meeting to purchase a 3870 square metre strip, including the boatshed, at the bottom of Wollondilly Avenue, adjoining the river. It will pay \$46,000 for the land, based on a Land and Property Information valuation.

The strip was part of developer Graham Irving's proposed 28-lot subdivision on the former Seventh Day Adventist camping

ground and conference centre. His firm, appropriately named Boathouse Developments Pty Ltd, bought the land last year.

But the riverside portion was zoned 'public recreation' under the Council's Local Environmental Plan, meaning it had to be set aside as a public reserve. As such, Council was bound to acquire it from the developer.

The block contains the former boatshed, remnants of the old wharf and a barbecue, steps

descending to the riverbank, signs of picnic huts that once graced the site and other archaeological gems.

General manager Chris Berry told councillors the strip would create a link between Kenmore and the city, building on the riverside tracks already in place.

"It's part of a long term planning strategy going back to the 1980s," he said.

"...This is one of the very few areas (identified as public recreation) where we don't own land."

Cr Neil Penning questioned who was responsible for the boatshed's maintenance and pointed out it was both "old and significant."

Mr Berry replied that just because something was old, it didn't mean it was 'heritage.' The Burra Charter, which defined heritage conservation values, was very clear on this, he said.

Mr Irving has described it as a "jewel in Goulburn's crown."

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