

# **MEDIA NEWS RELEASE**

## **PRESTON RESIDENTS TREE SITTING TO STOP ITS DESTRUCTION**

At lunchtime on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 33 Dean St, Preston, residents are holding a community protest and will be installing tree sitters to occupy a 70 year old tree to stop its needless destruction by a property developer.

### **Background**

Love real estate agent Mr Ken Kang (ph 9471 0233) is the recent owner of a property at 48 Murphy Grove, Preston. In March 2011 he applied for a planning permit to demolish the existing house and build four units on the block. This was opposed by a large number of residents on the basis that it is an over-development and removes a notable tree from our area. His Planning Permit was rejected by the Darebin Council in April 2011. He subsequently appealed to VCAT and on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012 the Council's decision was affirmed on the basis of lack of vehicular access. Of most disappointment to the community was that the judgment stated that though "the tree is certainly a stand-out example in this locality" it may be removed.

Ken Kang is now preparing to remove the 20 metre lemon scented gum which is right on the rear boundary of the property. The community will grieve the loss of this healthy skyline tree which attracts large flocks of birds, and is home to magpies and possums. It believes that developers with vision would seek to use the tree to enhance a development of the block. The Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (case D4387-2012) has been asked to offer Mr Ken Kang the opportunity to mediate with residents to save the tree and do a responsible appropriate development of the block.

### **Action**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 33 Dean St, Preston

Local residents will assemble to install banners, guards and a platform for a tree sitter to occupy during daylight hours to prevent the tree being removed. This is expected to all be in place by lunchtime after which community voices will be raised in support of the tree.

### **Contact**

Mr Craig Walters  
cwalters@live.com.au  
ph 0431 983 041