



Mundaring Magazine

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Dear Sir:

While I'm not going to get into a letter war with either Mike Davies or Lois van Geloven, I want to make some points about their article in the August edition, called HIGH DENSITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE HILLS.

The tone of their article is Chicken Little: "The Sky is falling!" Well, it isn't. The article is designed to frighten people and people are too easily frightened today.

As if we haven't got enough to be worried about with international terrorists, now, locally, we have Mike and Lois telling us that the population of Mundaring is going to swell by thousands and thousands of people.

And all these newcomers will increase the possibility of crime, the health system will break down, property values will collapse, there is no place for them to work and so on and so on.

It is true that more people do want to live in the Hills. Some of the blocks for sale and development will be smaller than ten acres; some smaller than a quarter of an acre!

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But some of those smaller blocks will be built upon by many of the older people in the Shire who keep telling us they want to move from their bigger blocks to more easily managed ones so they can stay in the Shire, near familiar routines, family and friends.

The underlying snobbery of some people who presume that a better class of people live on big blocks and not quite so nice people live on small ones I have heard many times before. I dislike this attitude intensely.

One final point: The catchphrase "The Hills Lifestyle" is used over and over again by people who assume that their concept of what it means for them personally must be true for all the residents in the Hills. There are almost as many ideas about what The Hills Lifestyle means, as there are people who live here.

It would be interesting to hear from your readers about the variety of views they have on what the Hills Lifestyle means.

JOHN BEATON