



Imagine if this were you - a cautionary tale

The ongoing saga of an ordinary family seeking proper access to their home

1993 was a very good year. You own a house and you have a wife and child. You think it is time to provide safe easy car access for your young family. Now, our frontage provides all the things we need, like electricity, water, the sewer and the telephone — but we cant drive on it.

You see our bit of road is unbuilt and we would need to to join up with the built bit further along.

So our drive had to be quite a lot longer than most peoples that just join onto the pavement. We do have a right of way over a neighbouring property but it`s too steep to get onto our land.

So in went the plan *Easy?* — not so easy

Read on.....

Our baby daughter was 2

We were young and full of hope and absolutely delighted when, guess what? Approval in Principle was granted, subject to our engineer doing drawings. Council wanted changes which was fair enough. The plan was resubmitted and advertised with required amendments in 1995 Approval in Principle was again granted in 1995 subject to more engineering detail involving the piping of lots and lots of the Council stormwater drain. Then we got a letter asking us to delay work while Council did roadwork and drainage in the unbuilt Road Further amended engineering details were provided as requested.

First disastrous error by Council

Then in 1998 — disaster. Our bit of unbuilt road was rezoned without any notification to us but not as road — as bushland. Guess what you cant do on bushland? Drive a car on it. Now we love bushland and are members of the Wyargine Bushcare group and havent missed a meeting since it started but as it seems you cant drive your car over bushland we and Mosman council were in a fix.

This was found to be a gross error that needed to be corrected by a provision made in an amended LEP 1998 no.8 by the State Government itself to allow road access to my property. Imagine our little driveway going all the way to the minister. We were getting a bit impatient by then but were mightily impressed.

Our daughter was at school

There were so many changes to plans. Four in one year! Our engineer was dizzy! It was discovered that the drainage culvert we had to cross to get to our land was really a creek so - no piping, which was good, but lots more plan changes. Then it was discovered that we needed another absolutely new plan for associated work on our own land. We were still young but had less enthusiasm

Our daughter was growing up and doing ballet

We battled on. In went the final plan with all the amendments council required. 11 years later our “integrated development plan” which included an associated vegetation management plan of selected approved native plants was wearily sent off to Council.

Local ginger groups were concerned about frogs, aboriginal relics, acid soil etc- literally hundreds of different issues, Some became confused, thinking that my modest driveway, which I alsosaw as a wonderful *sculpture of a green snake dreaming* (see over page)- and could hardly wait to show them, was going over bushland reserve. It was not, we explained It was going over the unbuilt road The minister had remedied Council`s mistake we explained patiently.

Second disastrous error by Council

We awaited the report by Councils senior planning officer with excitement.

No objection found valid !

Hooray! we had passed all the tests after 11 years.

But what was this? He advised *refusal*— because council had blown it again. The amended LEP had been incorrectly worded and drawn, would you believe, so it would have to go back to that Minister again. But Council would first have to vote again to send it back to the minister. It seemed to me that it would be the fair, right and natural thing to do.

November 2004 — Armageddon !!

Unaccountably this new council decided NOT to correct that technical error of the previous Councils officers even though it went right against the express wishes of that council. They refused to send it to the minister Things had changed I was told. The community was against it. — *What community* The objectors had been proved totally wrong by the officer. And what about our right to access. It had been before Council umpteen times for changes to this and that and we hadnt taken it to court as we were advised to do because we had faith in our Mosman Council to get it right.

We feel betrayed and cheated.

Our little daughter is now thirteen with a bicycle.

I have a vision of her one day riding out of our gate over a magic little bridge, crossing the creek and riding up the green snake dreaming driveway into the broad sunlit uplands of Mosman.

My family is still waiting – ELEVEN YEARS LATER

Paul Delprat



DECREE

Creative and Symbolic

As a result of a meeting of **Mosman Municipal Council** on the 15th of November 2004 when council voted almost unanimously to deny my family access to our legal road frontage and direct road access I have found myself with no choice but to cut my property off from The Municipality and declare it:

A Principality

On that night our property ceased to exist,

Today is created the artistic Principality of Wy

This painful decision was born out of a profound sense of alienation It at first appeared that my family and myself faced the appalling prospect of becoming persons of no fixed address.

The gypsies of Balmoral!

The Municipality of Mosman may not be spontaneously responsive but We believe We detect a longing and a readiness in the hearts of the Australian people, faced with the seeming inevitability of The Republic for the courageous creative inspiration of an entity born out of individual adversity in the face of bureaucracy and politics Accordingly We secede and declare Our Property to be;

The Principality of Wy

(The name is drawn from neighbouring Wyargine Point)

We find it hard to forgive this dastardly deed of alienation from a suburb for whom we have done so much but are prepared to make our lonely path which may hopefully lead us into possible integration with a more friendly suburb.

Perhaps Manly would like us – or Botany.

We will be ready when required to tender to Mosman Council the required diplomatic documents.

My wife who spoke with great courage at the Council meeting will make an articulate and worthy Princess. Denmark has its Mary and Wy will have Princess Susan Mary.

We feel it would be fair to pay rates to Mosman Council for the collection of garbage only as we will be receiving no other services from Council but doubt if Council will see it that way.

We emphasize that we are symbolically seceding solely from Mosman and will remain subject to the wonderful State of NSW and Commonwealth of Australia and will naturally continue to pay all State and Federal taxes.

We will continue to recognise

Her Majesty the Queen as our Sovereign Lady.

By Decree this day the 16th of November 2004

Prince Paul of Wy

We may be able to return to the bosom of Mosman if we receive proper road access

This is a creative installation and a work of art



The Great Green Snake Dreaming

My first acquaintance with the great green snake of Wyargine was when I was about 5 years old. I was being carried on my father's shoulders through my grandfathers garden anticipating the delights of swimming at the beach. This prospect was suddenly eclipsed by the sight of what to my young eyes appeared to be an enormous green snake. A veritable python slithering down an angophora - shiny sinuous against the velvety pink trunk. My father reassured me that the green tree snake is harmless to humans. It vanished. We travelled on. I have never forgotten that moment. On the summer night that I am writing this I can hear the call of the mopoke, an owl, who is a long time denizon of Wyargine. Is it a love call or is he telling me that he too remembers the great green tree snake but possibly not with my relaxed nostalgia.

The idea for the Greensnake / Angophora sculpture came to me as I was looking at the plan of my driveway as viewed from above. It reminded me of something and I can only describe what followed as presence of mind. I saw superimposed on the plan the image of the great green snake on the angophora. I realized then that the natural curve and contour of the driveway provided a perfect frame for me to express the full wonder of that childhood experience in a sculpture. I see the sculpted snake itself as comprised of native grasses - its shape being defined by cobblestones of varying tone and colour to suggest the quality of the trunk of an angophora.

The grasses being stirred by the gentle breezes will form undulating currents to suggest the snake in motion. It will be viewable by passers by from all directions and indeed participated in by those passing over it.

The adjacent wooden staircase leading will form a splendid viewing platform to enjoy the sculpture in its entirety.

Green snake dreaming will become in time a part of the spirit of Wyargine.

The Principality of Wy

Created Nov 15 2004



A Symbolic Work of Art
In the state of New South Wales,
Commonwealth of Australia