

What do you think?

You will possibly remember the scene from the classic Vietnam War movie, “Apocalypse Now” when a helicopter ‘invasion’ of a rural village is undertaken with the aid of blaring music... “Ride of The Valkyries” ... and then the chaos of war is unleashed.

The ongoing saga of the Peregrine Corporation proposal to install a helipad above The Parade at the junction of Portrush Rd and The Parade is, in its own way, similar. There *will* be an “invasion” of sorts.

Picture :-

- students stopping their PE lessons on St Ignatius Junior School oval as a chopper lands
- students at Mary McKillop covering their ears as a chopper takes off
- pedestrians – with very young children in pushers - looking up and trying comforting disturbed babies
- pedestrians with dogs attempting to placate agitated animals
- vehicle operators looking up - or at least distracted by the noise and then having to brake suddenly
- vibrations and rotor-wash impacting on the structure of Clayton Church
- parents in vehicles collecting pre-occupied children near the crossing for St Josephs School in William St

Picture:-

- debris raining onto the junction of The Parade and Portrush Road similar to the fatal helicopter crash onto a New York building (10th June 2019)
- the rotor downwash impacting outdoor dining and coffee-drinking on eastern end of The Parade
- the absolute frustration of being a nearby resident having had a gathering with a couple of friends at home invaded by noise
- issues of attempting to land the helicopter if the wind is more than a mere zephyr
- flight patterns with different approach, landing and take-off directions – and the impact on local businesses
- residents in Bath Apartments or Nuova Apartments ‘attacked’ by noise for the duration of The Loop

Airservices Australia states that

....*“helicopter pilots should avoid hovering over populated areas. This includes ... over freeways, commercial areas and industrial precincts”*

....*“standard departure and arrival procedures ensure as far as it is possible, helicopters do not fly low over residential areas”*

.... Yet this would seem to be the antithesis of what could happen in this part of Norwood!

Imagine the chaos – the ‘invasion’ - of sound - and the possible ramifications were there to be a helicopter accident that corresponds to students exiting schools ...

... or perhaps a fuel tanker is travelling along Portrush Road and is hit by falling debris!

Whilst I acknowledge these examples *are* worst case scenarios the mere fact they *could* happen, should be reason enough to eliminate the problem.

We residents do not need to be ‘assaulted’ by helicopter movement and noise ... and Peregrine Corporation really have no need to ‘make war’ on residents for the sake of ‘presenting a corporate profile’.

I maintain the helicopter landing pad atop the proposed new Peregrine building is counter to what The Parade Precinct is all about.

Colin