

THE **ABBOTSFORD** CONVENT FOUNDATION

June 10, 2011

Media Release

ACF WILL NOT PURSUE STEINER BUILDING IN PADDOCK

The Abbotsford Convent Foundation will not challenge the decision by Heritage Victoria to reject an application to build five classrooms in the Convent's Goat's Paddock.

The ACF Board last night decided that it would accept the umpire's decision on the Steiner buildings. "From the beginning, our purpose was to allow the heritage umpire to decide and the umpire has made its decision," said ACF acting co-chair Mr Michael Smith.

Mr Smith said the ACF would seek advice on whether there were any wider implications in the Heritage Victoria ruling for the Convent site as a whole, but there would be no revival of the plan to build Steiner classrooms in the Convent's paddock.

The ACF has offered to continue to work with the school to try to find an alternative solution for Steiner at the Convent.

"Heritage and open space are vital issues for the Convent. We also have important obligations to make sure that all of our tenants and the wider community have the maximum possible access to the spaces in the Convent," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said the Convent's progress was igniting strong passions because it is such a precious community asset. "The ACF welcomes informed debate on all its activities," Mr Smith said. The ACF will soon be holding community consultations on its draft five-year Business Plan. These consultations would allow everyone to have a say on the Convent's directions for the public benefit.

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