

# 'Swerve' a talking point

by Bill West

'SWERVE' is the name given to a distinctive nine-metre high entrance sculpture to the Mandalay at Beveridge residential/golf course development at Beveridge.

Mayor Bill Melbourne and sculpture creator, James Parrett, cut a ribbon to officially unveil the monumental structure on Tuesday.

Clearly visible from the northbound lane of the Hume Freeway, 'Swerve' is already a talking point.

From Coburg, James Parrett told the gathering he enjoys working in circles and rings. 'Swerve' is a three-circle design.

A sculptor for 11 years, Mr Parrett has worked full-time on sculptures for the past five years.

Will 'Swerve' create controversy like the famous Yellow Peril?

Mr Parrett was not going that far, but he said he is happy for people to think about 'Swerve' and what it means to them.

"Even if they decide they hate it, they will at least be thinking about it," he told *The Free Press*.

The corten steel sculpture took about a year to develop, from design through to installation.

Australian Art Resources was commissioned by Mandalay's major developer, Metricon, to find an artist, and James Parrett got the job.

Clayton-based fabrication company, J.K. Fasham, assembled 'Swerve'.

A group of Beveridge Primary School students was present at the unveiling ceremony.

Mandalay director, George Kline, made a presentation to Cr Melbourne to mark the occasion.

The mayor then cut a ribbon in conjunction with Mr Parrett, thanking the developer for providing the sculpture.

"Mitchell Shire is happy to see Metricon laying building blocks for the future in Beveridge. This new sculpture will act as a gateway to Beveridge, as a reference point for the town," he said later.

"By involving the local primary school in the project, Metricon is working to ensure that the community and the estate grow together, to



*Celebration: artist James Parrett and mayor Bill Melbourne cut the ribbon before an enthusiastic audience on Tuesday.*



*Distinctive: the 'Swerve' sculpture.*

form a bond for the years to come.

"It is important for everyone to work together in the coming years.

"Mitchell Shire Council is working side by side with Metricon to ensure that timely, proper planning is undertaken to achieve the best possible outcome for the area and the community."

Cr Melbourne said the Mandalay project has really set a benchmark for any future development in Beveridge.

"Metricon is working every step of the way to keep the community at the forefront of priorities," he said.

Mandalay project development manager,

ery of new projects such as Mandalay.

"Mandalay will draw thousands of people to its doors over the coming years, whether as residents, visitors or golfers, and we felt this work provided a striking introduction to the community."

Mr Binedell said it is expected the sculpture will become an iconic work within the community and stand as a true testament of the beauty and quality of the estate within.

The first stage (53 lots) of what is ultimately planned to provide for around 2000 homes was released for sale on May 2. Lot prices start from

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