



**MINUTES**  
**Ordinary General Meeting, Tuesday 19 March 2019, 7.35pm**

**Present:** Kevin Chamberlin, Bill Cook, Cecilia Gason, Peter Gerrand, Janet Graham, Stephen Hatcher, Michael Horscroft, Jan Lacey, Jane Poynter, Duncan Rouch, Sue Scarfe and John Widmer

**Apologies:** Nicholas Atkins, Mary Chapman, Emmy Chung, Stephen Farrugia, Valerie Gerrand, Rosemary John, Jacques Péril, Margaret Péril, Jacqueline Stevenson and Geraldine Suter

Chair Kevin Chamberlin welcomed members to the meeting and the apologies were read out.

**1. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

*Moved Sue Scarfe, seconded Jane Poynter:*

That the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 19 February 2019, having been circulated by email, be taken as read and confirmed.

*Carried.*

**2. Committee report**

**(a) Media and NWMA members' conduct**

Secretary Jane Poynter read out the following statement regarding circulated media releases and expected behaviour of members and friends responding to these.

“With the Chair’s indulgence, I’d like to take a few moments to remember the victims of the massacre in Christchurch on Friday and condemn the thoughts and actions that led to it.

“As a community organisation, we welcome everyone to participate, however we do not condone the use of language on any of our platforms, including these meetings, that could be interpreted as racist, sexist or hate speech. Free speech comes with the responsibility to speak up against unacceptable actions and words, and the Association reserves the right to block, remove, censure or bar comments and members who use such inappropriate rhetoric.

“Last year we made changes to the newsletter list because of some inappropriate comments. The distribution settings of the list have been changed and the people who made those comments have been removed. Our news list is primarily a platform for the dissemination of information and not a forum for discussion, as the Association does not have the resources to effectively moderate such a forum.

“I attempt to pass on all relevant correspondence sent to the Association without fear or favour including material I receive from our elected officials at all levels of government. If you believe we have sent you something that you find to be offensive, reply to the [news@nwma.org.au](mailto:news@nwma.org.au) email with your concerns and we will investigate.”

There was a comment that it was more timely to receive items throughout the month rather than in a pile of correspondence at meetings. The e-Melbourne emails were mentioned. Described as “a weekly review of what matters to business in the CBD and surrounds”, these come from a private sender. Kevin noted that some email-shots were clearly from commercial enterprises. Jane said her main concern was the tenor of people’s speech or writing.

*Moved Jan Lacey, seconded Peter Gerrand:*

That this meeting endorse the Secretary's statement and agrees that it be circulated to the NWMA members and friends list.

*Carried.*

**(b) Metro Tunnel Project correspondence**

The motion carried at NWMA's February meeting [item 5(a)] was summarised. The first point was a request to Rail Projects Victoria that recognition of the industrial history of the area be incorporated in the artwork for the new Arden station and a request that Chris Lovell, chair of the Arden & Parkville Community Reference Group, meet with the Association. The second was a request that the *History of Transport* mural be relocated from the TK Maxx retail outlet in the Spencer Outlet Centre to the Arden precinct.

The mural, commissioned by the State Government in 1973, painted by State Artist Harold Freedman and two assistants, completed in 1978, is heritage-listed. Kevin said he had telephoned Planning Minister Richard Wynne, who said he would raise the matter with the Heritage Council.

**(c) North and West Melbourne traffic correspondence**

Refer item 4 of the February 2019 minutes. Sue Scarfe said she had heard nothing more regarding the proposed bicycle lanes in Hawke Street and reduced speed limits. The day after the previous meeting the Association had sent a letter to Council in support of speed limit reduction to 40 km/h across North and West Melbourne. Members will be kept updated on both matters.

**3. Nominations for Committee positions for 2019–2020**

All members were urged to consider nominating themselves or others for positions on the Committee. A number of members have been on the Committee for a long time and new blood is needed to ensure a flow of fresh ideas and skills.

**4. Nominees to meet with Ellen Sandell, State Member for Melbourne, and topics for discussion**

Ellen wanted to speak to every local community organisation about what they wanted for the next four years. However, NWMA meetings clash with Parliament sitting hours, so Ellen would prefer to meet during the day. Members nominated to attend a meeting with Ellen were: Kevin Chamberlin, Peter Gerrand, Sue Scarfe and John Widmer. Discussions would be on a 'without prejudice' basis. North West Patch had already met with Ellen and had had a good run. The following topics were suggested as key points to raise:

**(i) Electoral reform for City of Melbourne**

- voting rules
- deeming provisions
- CoM system is different from every other local government area

**(ii) Protection of green spaces**

- most small parks are only temporary reserves and need permanent reservation
- small parks are currently zoned GRZ, not as parks
- open spaces created by converting roadways belong to State Government
- failure to protect Royal Park

**(iii) Strategic planning**

- standards needed
- flammable cladding

**(iv) Traffic management and traffic-calming measures**

- has gone well with Council but stalled with VicRoads
- measures have to be approved by VicRoads
- 40 km/h zones need to be in place before West Gate Tunnel

**(v) Motorcycle noise and growth in noise generally**

- particularly bad at Grand Prix weekend and during Motocross event
- helicopter noise
- noise from construction site trucks (notably Arden — all night)

(vi) **Need for more and higher-capacity No 57 trams**

(vii) **Waste management**

- deposit on bottles and cans
- recyclables going to landfill
- green waste bins (Council's trial was rolled out to fewer than 200 households and did not include West Melbourne)

The representatives should also ask Ellen if she had any points she wanted to raise with NWMA.

*Moved Michael Horscroft, seconded Jane Poynter:*

That the meeting endorse the above issues for discussion with Ellen Sandell MP on a 'without prejudice' basis and the attendees nominated.

*Carried.*

## 5. Reports from affiliated organisations

### (a) Rail Projects Victoria (RPV) — Arden & Parkville Community Reference Group (CRG)

Peter Gerrand reported on the 15 March meeting of the CRG. **Rat-running** by cars along Degraves Street, Parkville (caused by congestion on Gatehouse Street and blocking of Grattan Street west), was a major concern. The CoM's Karen Snyders was following up on this. CoM and RPV were costing measures that might help. Cross Yarra Partnership (CYP) is seeking to have Gatehouse Street temporarily classified by VicRoads as a priority road to move more traffic down it. Peter said Rob Moore, the Parkville Association rep, was doing a good job taking photos.

The **Legacy Art Program** seemed to be at the level of State Government, which would be making a formal announcement in the next few weeks.

**Parkville Station:** From 16 March, Royal Parade's southbound service lane is partially closed while new drainage is installed to prevent flooding of the Metro site. Night deliveries of oversized steel beams (11.00pm – 5.00am) have started. Gantry cranes will be delivered in March–May.

**New North Melbourne station at Arden:** The western section of the station box was nearly complete. Out-of-hours work is ongoing for the next 3–4 months, including road cleaning on Arden and Laurens streets to minimise spread of dirt. After 6.00pm, vehicles are required to enter the site from Arden Street whenever possible.

**Tunnelling:** Assembly of the tunnel boring machines (TBMs) at Arden was nearing completion. Boring from Arden to the western portal in South Kensington will take place in the third and fourth quarters 2019. The dismantled TBMs will be transported back to Arden in Q4 2019 and Q1 2020, with tunnelling towards Parkville to begin in Q2.

A chart had been tabled showing **depth of tunnel** between Arden and Parkville. CYP was working on a clearer version, which would be posted on their website when ready. The average depth is about 18 metres. The shallowest point, beneath Errol Street, is now 14 metres, not 12.5 as before, and the depth approaching Parkville is 32 metres. The differences are caused by variation in surface depth; the tunnel runs close to horizontally.

**Environmental impact: Doorknock consultations** had taken place on 13–18 March with residents in Arden and Laurens streets and Munster Terrace. The amount of dust generated and contractor vehicles being parked in local streets were top concerns. **Property condition surveys** will take place about three months before TBMs pass beneath properties and again after tunnel construction.

**Traffic management:** To assist with utility service infrastructure relocation, there will be localised closures of the northbound (western) service lane in Royal Parade between the Haymarket roundabout and Melbourne Private Hospital for about three months from May 2019. Peter noted that internet connections to hospitals had been severed for two to three hours.

The **next meeting of the CRG** will be a site visit to Arden on Friday 10 May at 7.30am.

John Widmer commented that the relationship between residents and the authorities was much more fraught in Kensington because the tunnel portal is close to houses.

### **(b) Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FMPC)**

John Widmer reported on FMPC's 18 February meeting at which there had been a good turnout. There had been an interesting presentation on the geological history of the creek including Dudley Flats 30 million years ago.

John had also represented FMPC at a Draft Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan meeting arranged by the CoM for the Kensington Association. He showed on a slide the same graphic of 'Macaulay Terraces' displayed at the equivalent North Melbourne meeting on 5 February. This drawing was commissioned by Melbourne City Council in response to the 'Chain of Ponds' initiative of Moreland and Moonee Valley councils. It featured in a *Herald Sun* article on 14.3.19 by John Masanauskas, 'City of Melbourne considers plan to revitalise Moonee Ponds Creek', which quoted Councillor Cathy Oke.

What concerned John was that the Council has no responsibility for the creek — it is all under Melbourne Water's authority. The drawings are not done by Council in-house either. The above MPC Strategic Opportunities Plan meetings are part of CoM's community engagement on Council proposals being held between 20 March and 28 April and include the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA). Review of feedback and refinement of the plan will take place from April to August 2019, followed by submission of a report to the government.

As John's slides recorded: "The VPA is working with the CoM, Melbourne Water and state agencies to identify projects to improve the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor between Mount Alexander Road and the confluence of the creek with the Yarra River. These initiatives would seek to build upon work being planned by the CoM to improve access, public enjoyment and the environmental conditions of Moonee Ponds Creek."

When John met with the Melbourne Water representative last year, replanting had been done on the artificial levees. However, none of the replanting seems to have survived the dry summer.

In March, FMPC wrote a letter requesting a change in the cleaning routine of litter traps. Today (19 March) the traps were empty, possibly as a result of this letter and pressure by Ellen Sandell's office.

The next meeting of FMPC is on 15 April 2019.

John's report was noted.

### **(c) CoRBA (Coalition of Resident and Business Associations)**

In delivering his report, Bill Cook said CoRBA's last meeting had taken place before NWMA's February meeting, from which he had been absent. Margaret Rode was a presenter on behalf of the CoM's **Safe City Cameras Program Audit Committee** (SCCP), whose role is to monitor and review the location and privacy of cameras around the CBD. The SCCP's report was in progress but the Audit Committee felt it needed to consult a wider audience to inform its findings. The meeting suggested that the instigation for such a meeting/s should come from the Council and not from the resident associations.

The East Melbourne Group reported that the Melbourne Football Club **proposal for a new training ground in Yarra Park** was not proceeding.

A Council proposal for the development of a lot of **facilities in Fawkner Park** was currently before Heritage Victoria. This includes, in conjunction with some new courts, a mix of areas for skateboarders, scooters, cyclists, pedestrians and dogs off leash. It is also close to South Yarra Primary School, which makes use of the park. In terms of the school use, the meeting felt that the State Government should be making a contribution to the cost.

The University of Melbourne Student Union was lobbying for an **extension of the free tram zone** to the hospitals and Melbourne University. CoRBA had decided to support them. (At the NWMA meeting, some members commented that the free tram zone had been disastrous, as trams were now so crowded that local people couldn't get on them.)

A number of groups were still opposing the **Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show**. CoRBA had agreed to join with the Friends of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens to make a submission to Heritage Victoria.

Two planning/heritage matters were highlighted. The proposal for 60 storeys on the tiny triangular **Royal Society weather station site** at the intersection of Victoria and La Trobe streets was noted, as was Heritage Victoria's refusal to allow a high-rise development over the Tea House in Clarendon Street opposite Crown Casino.

## **6. Discussion of correspondence circulated in the past month**

No items were discussed other than as minuted above.

## **7. General business**

Some members had noticed Council workers installing metal hoops along the flowerbeds and doing other work at the north end of the Hawke–Miller Street reserve. The rubbish bin was to be removed. They were concerned that the intention was to construct a footpath between the front door of the new community room at 4 Miller Street and the grassed area, over part of the planting bed. Sue Scarfe and Stephen Hatcher had emailed all councillors about this but had received only one response, from Jackie Watts, even though she was overseas at the time. Councillor Watts said the works should be subject to a planning permit.

Kevin reminded everyone that the Association's Annual General Meeting would take place next month, on 16 April.

## **8. Times, date and venue of next NWMA meetings**

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16 April 2019 at the Bastow Institute, 603–615 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, followed by the Ordinary General Meeting at 8.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.