

WEST ST KILDA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Inc

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2017-2018

Membership

At 30 June, there were 169 members paid up for 2017-18, an increase on the 150 members at 30 June 2017. This was a good result but not quite the best ever. We had 177 members at 30 June 2014 and 179 at June 2015. It is important, as we deal with the City of Port Phillip and with other organisations, to be able to claim strong support from St Kilda West residents. Although we have maintained good membership levels, we would like these to increase. We had a large committee of nine members giving their time and using their skills to bring attention to the issues that we were addressing. In addition, a number of other members were involved as we dealt with City of Port Phillip staff and councillors on traffic issues and event management and some joined the committee members to assist with newsletter distribution. We continued to see generous financial donations from members, providing valuable support to our subscriptions.

Routine activities

We continued with our routine activities:

- a successful coffee morning in April;
- regular Committee meetings every two months; and
- distribution of two newsletters to every household in St Kilda West.

Key issues

As in past years, we have continued to deal with a large number of items and issues:

- Traffic Congestion: This continues to be a major concern of our residents and consequently our committee. A well-attended public meeting was held in April this year. A resolution was passed at this meeting and this became the basis for an extensive set of discussions with Councillors, VicRoads, and Council. Although there has been some recognition of resident concerns, we are yet to see any action to resolve the identified issues. We are continuing to push for implementation of changes and significant improvements for residents.
- Flooding in our Streets: WSKRA has collected input from residents on flooding in our neighbourhood over the past several years. This feedback is being passed on to Melbourne Water to highlight the known problems and to assist them in making improvements.
- CoPP's Integrated Transport Strategy - Move, Connect: Live: WSKRA provided input to the new transport strategy developed by Council. In particular, we focussed on the need to focus on the speed, cost, safety and ease of transport for residents and the need for community consultation as the strategy is developed and implemented.
- Middle Park Library: We have liaised with the Middle Park Library Action Group to ensure that residents' voices are heard before significant changes are made to the Library.
- Event Management and Related Noise Issues: This has been a growing concern of our members and other nearby residents. WSKRA is liaising with another group of concerned residents - the Resident Action St Kilda group. We will continue to monitor resident concerns and work to ensure these concerns are passed on to Council and recognised.

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- Master Plan for Albert Park: We have provided input and participated in a number of Government-led sessions to develop a master plan for the development of the park over the next decades.
- Rejuvenation of Fitzroy Street: There is ongoing concern over the condition of Fitzroy Street- its safety, its cleanliness, its amenity for locals, its attractiveness and its spirit. Consequently, we have continued to participate in a number of initiatives to rejuvenate Fitzroy Street throughout the year.

Other issues

We have also continued to monitor, or participate in, a wide variety of other local matters. These include: the renewal of the old Gatwick Hotel as the Block, development of the new Pride Centre, the significant redevelopment of the Victorian Cricket and Community Centre, new Powercor power facilities, residential zoning, pedestrian crossings, and recycling.

Matters for consideration

The committee continues to focus on providing support and good communication to our members. In addition to our traditional means such as newsletters, mail, telephone and email, we want to improve our web site processes to ensure the site provides ongoing updates for our members.

We continue to receive comments from residents on increases in property rates and related questions of the overall council budget and the efficient use by Council of these rates – a large topic.

We also continue to seek inputs on the history of West St Kilda – on our website we've labelled this "Stories from the past".

Thanks

I record our thanks to Councillors and staff of the City of Port Phillip. We appreciate their support and cooperation. And finally, I provide my personal thanks to committee members for their dedicated work and to all WSKRA members for their invaluable support.

Leigh Hardy, President
16 October 2018