

WEST ST KILDA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWS BULLETIN No 36

May 2019

PO Box 2022, St Kilda West LPO VIC 3182

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wskra.com (from 1 June)

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Put "COFFEE MORNING" in your diary for Sunday 2 June. Details on reverse

Traffic Congestion

Twelve months ago, a public meeting of residents called for a detailed, coherent set of measures to be trialled to reduce evening peak traffic congestion in minor West St Kilda streets. WSKRA followed up with a series of letters & meetings with local and State authorities. What results do you see in our streets? So, what's happening behind-the-scenes? A whole lot of finger pointing! The City of Port Phillip [CoPP], VicRoads and a range of other State transport authorities each explains its inaction by pointing to one or some of the others – and congestion continues growing in our minor streets unabated! WSKRA is trying to find a way out of a bureaucratic morass.

Flood Mitigation

After collating the results of its two surveys of residents' flood experiences, WSKRA has provided them to Melbourne Water. WSKRA also provided a detailed account of residents' attempts to initiate remedial action in response to the nine West St Kilda flooding events in 1998-2018. WSKRA now awaits word from Melbourne Water on what might be done when.

Safety on the street

Some residents have recently expressed concerns as to personal safety in West St Kilda. Some have highlighted poor lighting, bushes close to footpaths, trees obscuring street lighting, and they have referred to the Fraser Street tram stop and those on Park Street at Fraser & Cowderoy Streets. If you have any such concerns, you could discuss them with WSKRA at the coffee morning and / or email WSKRA at wskraassociation@gmail.com.

Fitzroy Street

Not long ago, CoPP embarked on a new strategy to revive the fortunes of Fitzroy Street. "Placemaking" involves ongoing, detailed community consultation; identifying & implementing short-term, doable remedial measures; simultaneously creating a big-picture of where we want to get to; and devising the steps to get there. WSKRA's been involved in three rounds of consultation. Lots on the agenda! The more involved, the better. Check it out at <https://fitzroystreet.com.au>.

Victorian Pride Centre

Fitzroy Street already has a different look – after 40 years, Monroe's is gone! The Victorian Pride Centre (VPC) is to rise in its place. Being a hub for many community organisations as well as providing a range of services and being a workplace, the VPC, due to open in 2020, will enliven Fitzroy Street. As a neighbour, WSKRA has been following progress with interest.

WSKRA website

We have been creating a new website with a new domain name: wskra.com. We expect the existing website to be de-commissioned in the next fortnight as we launch the new one.

WSKRA membership

Our coffee morning is an opportunity for you to join the Association at \$10.00 per person for the 2019-20 year (payment details on reverse). Membership fees cover our routine costs – statutory incorporation fee, PO Box rental, catering at the AGM and coffee morning, postage and other incidentals. Donations help with producing our newsletters and maintaining our website.

Middle Park Library

After an outcry from residents, CoPP back-pedalled on its decisions last year to remove the books from Middle Park Library and to stop the collection & return of books ordered on-line. After a series of community consultations some changes were to be made to the library's operations – implementation took at least nine months! – and a new plan was to be developed for all CoPP libraries. Although the plan was due in March this year, an external consultant who is to develop the plan has been only recently appointed. Meanwhile, the Middle Park Library Action Group (MPLAG) has been keeping CoPP staff aware of its concerns. It is also auditing 44 libraries of nine inner-urban municipalities and analysing the Libraries Victoria Network Annual Statistical Survey. CoPP performance seems to be relatively poor. The Action Group plans shortly to report on its work to Council. Middle Park Library is now open every weekday afternoon and on Saturdays until 2.00 pm – and it's just a pleasant stroll from West St Kilda.

Ratepayers of Port Phillip (RoPP)

RoPP is a new community organisation concerned at municipal rate increases and spending. RoPP is frustrated by "being gouged with continual and in many cases significant rate increases year-on-year and then seeing Council waste millions on frivolous projects, irrelevant spending, poor asset manage-

ment without apparent regard for fiscal accountability to ratepayers." RoPP aims to reduce rates while maintaining residential amenity; have Councillors cut wasteful spending by applying due diligence to decision-making; and to encourage Councillors to use revenue sources alternative to rates so as to reduce the tax burden on ratepayers. You can check out RoPP at <https://ropp.org.au>.

WSKRA's annual community get-together

**Sunday 2 June 2019
9.30 am to 11.00**

**West Beach Bathers Pavilion,
Beaconsfield Parade**



It's that time again. Join us for free coffee, tea and scones!

This event is an established favourite with many locals. Take the chance to catch up with old friends and to meet neighbours you don't know. Discuss local issues. There must be something that you think should be done differently – by the Council, by the State Government, by WSKRA. Talk it over with others, let us know about it, and get your message heard.

We look forward to seeing you there!



It's a great time to join WSKRA or to renew your membership for the 2019/2020 year

PAY YOUR \$10 AT THE COFFEE MORNING

YOU'LL BE REGISTERED AS A MEMBER FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2020

WSKRA MEMBERSHIP

Name(s): _____

Home address: _____ St Kilda West 3182

Phone(s): _____

Email address(es) _____

Subscription of \$10 per person: \$ _____

I've added a donation of \$ _____ to assist WSKRA in its work in the St Kilda West community.

Please pay:

by bank transfer (preferred) > BSB 033 082 A/c 135005 West St Kilda Residents Association or

by cash/cheque > mail to Box 2022 St Kilda West LPO VIC 3182 or hand deliver to 78 Park St St Kilda West