



# NWMA Monthly General Meeting

16<sup>th</sup> September 2009

7:30 PM

Meeting Room 1

North Melbourne Library

66 Errol

North Melbourne

**Type of meeting:** General  
**Secretary:** Wendy Cook/ Alba Gatto

**Chair:** Wendy Cook  
**Minutes:** Bill Cook

## ----- Minutes -----

Attendance: Alba Gatto, Alan Ashley, Bill Cook, Nancy Nankervis, Kevin Chamberlin, Michael Horscroft, Wendy Cook, Roger and Virginia Nairn, Richard Standish, Jan Lacey, Kevin Wong Hoy, Denys Harraway, Janet Graham and Brian Walters.

Apologies: Madeleine Scully, Elizabeth English, Conrad Cunningham, Verena Augusti, Patricia Patterson, Mary Kehoe, Lorraine Siska, Valerie Gerrand

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2009 were accepted as a correct record, after the following alterations:

1. p4 par3: should begin "Mary Kehoe and Lorraine Siska (not Alba Gatto) reported on the plans for this site". (Apologies to Lorraine from Alba and Wendy)
2. p2 par5: "Sport and Recreation" should read "Sport and Recreation Victoria",

Kevin Chamberlin introduced our guest speaker.

**Brian Walters,**

**Barrister and Greens candidate for the MLA seat of Melbourne.**

Brian briefly introduced himself and indicated that the election which is due in 14 months allowed time for him to get to know the community. He is a founding member of the Greens and has been involved since early nineties. Environmental issues have been important to him as has been his interest in human rights. He is currently President of PPL. He sees his base as in the community and not in business or unions.

A question was asked about our problems with the City of Melbourne. He acknowledged that he does not live in the electorate but does have a vote in the City of Melbourne. He

agrees on the lack of grass roots representation. He is aware of the CoRBA agenda and that Minister Wynne has been approached and will not respond. He has been Involved in Royal Park with both the issues of the Children's Hospital and Parkville Gardens. He argues that we need proper planning. Royal Park needs protection. Proposals for high rise along tram routes is a problem. Eg Swanson Street in South Carlton. Planning must be responsive to needs of the community.

In response to a question on the increasing expansion of the area of Melbourne, Brian responded in terms of the climate being hotter and drier than ever before. The Thompson Dam is one sixth full. The desalination plant is being built at enormous cost. We are sucking the state dry. What are the six million occupants of Melbourne going to drink? Other issues covered included Green Wedges and the new tax, and the lack of infrastructure. He concluded that greater densities are not inevitable. Population policy needs to be debated. Regionalisation policy has not even been mentioned. Both big picture and local issues need to be addressed.

We need new policies.

Other issues raised by the members included

- The Yarra Park handover to State Government.
- VCAT was seen as a problem. All sorts of things get over the line. We need height limits. Planning issues are big. Problems include the fact that every dollar is tax deductible to the developer while it is mooted that objectors will have to pay. Plans change between Council and VCAT. Procedures alienate members of the community.

A question relating to industry development and innovation, such as the production of electric cars. Blade Electrics in Castlemaine are cutting edge for passenger vehicles. Initial costs are high but they are cheap to run. Recharge 97c in 6 hours. Big orders will lower prices. Members questioned the cleanliness of the electricity source.

The Chair thanked Brian for his contribution to the meeting.

## **Committee Report**

Website developments

We have been meeting with Andrew Macdermid and looking at model websites in order to try to make it more immediate and newsworthy. We are concerned at the poor coverage for MCC decisions, activities etc in the local press - no reps from Sun, Age, Leader, TMT etc at City of Melbourne meetings. So community has no idea what the Council has been doing.

Issues re how we might do it, attending meetings and following up etc, but there is sufficient material that we glean from meetings we do attend, which should be written up. The NWMN is produced only 4 times per year, so the question remains as to how we need to relate website to the newspaper content.

Budget for next year: items to spend on eg banner, website, revised brochure, business cards.

Bill attended meeting at MCC today re funding - usually \$5000, but emphasis now on project-based funding, so cut back from next year to \$3000, with option to apply for another \$2000 for specific projects. (Consultants had recommended recurrent funds only \$1000). Suggested optional amount might be more flexible, depending on quality of projects.

The Council staff approached the meeting as a consultation with resident groups as to how the funding arrangements might be developed.

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## **Correspondence**

Arden lodge

Agreed to support Arden lodge request for extension of time for their VCAT hearing. 79-89 Leveson Street - change of number. We need to update our objection to ensure that it conforms and encourage more interested people to become involved to support our presentation.

Martin Brennan - fighting proposal for 3 storey hotel at 171-173 Melrose Street. It was agreed that we should submit an objection.

Royal Park Master Plan - Ombudsman has responded to letter regarding Council activity in Royal Park, but no commitment at this point to address the breach of the Master Plan. Lothian Street - 39 Lothian scheduled to go to Council in October. Councillors have been contacted and we await an outcome. Do we accept 24 hour business in mixed use area that is mostly residential? There seem to be no guidelines.

Draft letter proposing relocation of bike lanes from Arden Street into O'Shannassy Street was tabled.

## **Social Secretary**

The Social Secretary reported on the success of the dinner at Tong Kin Restaurant (Victoria Street North Melbourne). It was attended by 31, including both lapsed members and new residents. This new social venture for members and friends would appear to augment the existing community based endeavours of the Association. Highlights included

- Association support for liquid refreshments
- The delicious fusion food and amiable table service
- Helene Chung's highly entertaining, dramatically delivered after-dinner speech – *China girl comes north* – that encompassed both personal and topical comment.

As this was also a fund-raising event for the Association's Spring Fling activities for 2010, it is pleasing to report that the Association is not out of pocket as a result of its generosity.

Plans for the Christmas get together were discussed. Fish would add \$2 to the cost at the Metropolitan, raising it to \$47. It was suggested that other options may need to be looked at. Oasis Oz could be looked at. Nan is the contact for bookings.

## **Environment**

Successful planting at Royal Park at the weekend. Sustainability Street was successful in obtaining a \$5000 grant for 2010, under the auspice of the NWMA

## **Graffiti**

Not sure about outcome of the summons for the spray painting proprietor.

A graffiti report spreadsheet has been sent by the Council for spotters as part of our cooperation with them to address the issue. Alba to arrange meeting with COM graffiti people.

## **CoRBA**

Progressing on strategy for the State election next year. East Melbourne Group is outraged at the Yarra park alienation. Letters and reports have provided good coverage in the newspapers. Business groups on CoRBA are concerned about the city and precincts and cost of both kerbside parking and marketing of the city.

## **New Business**

110 Capel Street

Student housing, occupied with no door between kitchen and toilet. The matter has been raised with Council. No response. No reply either from Melbourne University. The Association was requested to write to Council. The Building Control Commission was suggested as a better alternative to investigate and report on this situation. Kevin Chamberlin volunteered to do this (?). The question remains as to how premises in such a state were allowed to be occupied.

North Melbourne Railway Station

A meeting was held between Bronwyn Pike and the Bicycle User's Group re the footbridge on the 1st of September. It was agreed to take the matter to Tim Pallas. There has been talk of a demonstration at the opening of the station in November  
Bill to contact Beth Bennett.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm