



MINUTES
Ordinary General Meeting, Tuesday 21 August 2018, 7.35pm

Present: Nicholas Atkins, Kevin Chamberlin, Mary Chapman, Emmy Chung, Bill Cook, Ray Cowling, Stephen Farrugia, Janet Graham, Michael Horscroft, Jane Poynter, Duncan Rouch, Lorraine Siska, Jacqueline Stevenson and John Widmer

Apologies: Peter Gerrand, Valerie Gerrand, Jan Lacey, Dan McDonnell, Bridget Macwhirter, Dick Standish, Jenny Standish and Geraldine Suter

The Chair, Kevin Chamberlin, welcomed attendees to the August meeting. The apologies were accepted.

1. Confirmation of minutes of previous meetings

Moved Stephen Farrugia, seconded Jane Poynter:

That the minutes of Ordinary General Meetings held on 19 June and 17 July 2018, having been posted on the website and taken as read, be confirmed.

Carried.

2. Committee report

(a) Spring Fling Street Festival, Sunday 21 October

Jane Poynter said the NWMA would again share the stall space with North West Patch. The Association hadn't been notified yet but we were assuming we would have our usual spot outside the library. There would be a recycle and reuse theme. Someone from the Council would be presenting on this topic at next month's meeting.

(b) NWMA administration and treasury

Jane reported that all was well with the above.

The Committee's report was noted.

3. Reports from affiliated organisations

(a) Melbourne North Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC)

Janet Graham reported on behalf of Jan Lacey. The PCCC had met on 10 August and the main topics were as follows:

(i) The crime statistics were still going down and there were no particular issues for North Melbourne.

(ii) Regarding the Melbourne North Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU), they had been pleased with local support in their campaign to keep the unit open. All the documentation had been submitted to Police Minister Lisa Neville and senior management. No response from either had been received by the CIU or the Police Association (whose support had been obtained). The CIU was hoping the lack of response was positive but it just didn't know.

There were no other issues of special note.

(b) NAC (North Melbourne Agency Collective)

Jane had attended the NAC meeting on a Tuesday morning. It was packed — everyone had turned up even though this was an inconvenient time for many.

(i) The biggest topic discussed was **Refuge 2018: Pandemic** at Arts House from 29 August to 1 September.

(ii) The NAC is **redeveloping its website**. One thing being promoted heavily is **Stories without Borders**, a community development project based at North Melbourne Language & Learning (NMLL). Check out the NMLL website. If you want to share a story, take an object of relevance with you to talk about.

(iii) **Night tours at PROV (Public Record Office Victoria) in the archives**. They are looking for street photographers and photographs for an upcoming exhibition.

(iv) **Local history grants** are opening again soon.

(v) **The Huddle** now runs homework clubs every weekday. It also focuses on community development programs for people aged 25 and under, reaching out into the local community. This year it has started **Active Boys & Girls** at Eagle Stadium in Werribee, a Friday evening program for 12–25-year-olds offering basketball, volleyball, netball, ultimate frisbee, badminton and table tennis.

(vi) The **Hotham History Project (HHP)** is starting a street-by-street, house-by-house, online history project that people can add to. Sue Scarfe and Stephen Hatcher have been working on this. Sue has recently updated the whole HHP website.

(vii) The City of Melbourne (CoM) has **emergency management plans**. On the website, you can click on situations, e.g. heatwave, to find out where to go that's cool. They are developing a plan for each community — North Melbourne is one of the trial areas. Lorraine Siska added that this was based on ideas from Carlton and East Melbourne.

(viii) Melbourne City Council plans to hold **community open days in West Melbourne's new open spaces** when the weather improves.

(c) Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FMPC)

John Widmer is our representative on FMPC. He said it was interesting that although not a powerful organisation it had accumulated a lot of shared stories over a long time. The new *Arden Vision* statement has 40 references to Moonee Ponds Creek (MPC). The North and West Melbourne section is about 3 km in length. The Friends come from every section.

John showed an onscreen presentation of slides and topics. One note was that NWMA had previously had no relationship with FMPC. One of the challenges facing the creek was the *Arden Vision* document, which had no strategy for enlarging open space to cope with densification and 15,000 new residents.

Management issues included: the characteristics of the area (long and narrow); Transurban's current viaduct and the future 'tunnel' development with more flyovers; the mixed freshwater and saltwater nature of the lower reaches (north of Macaulay Station the water is not salty); and conflicting management for the 3-km length shared by Kensington, North Melbourne and West Melbourne.

He said it was important that NWMA made this our brief, because this waterway will be our antidote to densification. We will see some large buildings in Stubbs Street. MPC is difficult to manage because most of it is privately owned or owned by VicTrack, with CoM owning only a small part on either side of the Arden Street bridge — a very complicated set-up.

Mary Chapman noted that the Chain of Ponds – Moonee Ponds Creek Plan, the guiding document for MPC, was up for a national award. Moreland and Moonee Valley councils jointly developed this draft action plan.

John said hundreds had turned up at the last planting day. The problems are upstream. If the pumping stations are maintained, lower MPC could be the model. He believes pulling up the channel is quite achievable. He had written his 600-word article for the *N&WM News*.

Stephen remarked that MPC was less well maintained than Darebin Creek, Merri Creek or the Maribyrnong River, but in some ways was more interesting because it was more rural and fewer people used the path. Lorraine added that the Arden Street and Macaulay Road bridges c1923 were designed by Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Co Pty Ltd and built with Monier concrete, significant because of the association with the company's principal, Sir John Monash.

(d) CoRBA (Coalition of Resident and Business Associations)

Bill Cook said CoRBA had met on Wednesday 8 August at the Kathleen Syme building in Carlton. The group wanted to go back to meeting at the main Council building, whose central location was easier for everyone, but their request had been refused. Attendees were Yolanda (administrator) and reps from East Melbourne, Melbourne South Yarra and NWMA (Bill). The main topics discussed were:

(i) The Air Services Amendment Bill put up by the Greens had been taken up by the Senate. This was about flight paths directly over East Melbourne and the MCG with noise, health and safety concerns. The latest development was that the Lord Mayor had taken the matter up and the question now was how to get mainstream organisations involved.

(ii) Council reform: Bill had raised this. He and Kevin have worked on the issue of Council reform, approved by the NWMA, with some success. But major reforms are required to restore democracy to our Council. Most of the other community groups have also been involved along with Councillor Jackie Watts and CoRBA. Many groups are considering action in the lead-up to the next Victorian state election this November. Michael Butcher (Melbourne South Yarra Residents Group) and Michael Kennedy (CBD Residents) have also been active and made approaches to various Members of Parliament from all sides.

(iii) Planning: Amendment C308 — ensuring better-looking buildings around the Royal Exhibition Building in particular had not been given enough priority.

(iv) Getting people to attend CoRBA meetings: Some groups were unhappy with the \$50 subscription fee, particularly the Yarra Park Association. The main cost is running the internet. They were looking at varying the rates according to groups' membership numbers. Feedback is welcome. Interest in CoRBA waxes and wanes.

Ray Cowling commented that CoRBA should possibly update its aims. For instance, we were unlikely to get wards reintroduced. He offered to prepare a draft for discussion at the next NWMA meeting.

Moved Ray Cowling, seconded Duncan Rouch:

That Ray Cowling produce a brief document on Council reform to assist discussion at the next NWMA meeting.

Carried.

4. Melbourne Metro Rail Project — incorporating industrial heritage in new North Melbourne station design

Janet said she felt not enough lobbying had been done to get Rail Projects Victoria (new name for MMRA) to incorporate historic local industrial and railway artefacts, materials and imagery in the design of the new North Melbourne station at Arden. She suggested the Association write a formal letter to RPV requesting this. For instance, the professional photographs taken of Laurens Hall and the flax seed grain store before they were demolished could be printed onto the station walls in a similar manner to the paintings on silos across Victoria.

Lorraine added that a Werribee group wanted the 1857 Geelong & Melbourne Railway foundation stone, which had long been cemented into a brick wall in Laurens Street, to be returned to its original site at Werribee Station. Our weighbridge had already gone to Daylesford for exhibition.

Hotham History Project (HHP) had requested that some of the photos of the railway buildings, which had been taken as a photographic record, be installed, along with their history, as part of the decorative element of the new station. HHP had also sent a letter to Planning Minister Richard Wynne, with the response that, in accordance with Heritage Victoria's specification, the Laurens Hall and flax seed grain store photographic archival was to be lodged with the La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria.

Kevin noted that the area represented a long social history for North and West Melbourne. Many who had worked there as teenagers were still working for the railways today. He suggested deferring the matter until the next meeting, when Peter Gerrand, our representative on the relevant RPV community reference group, would be present. We could ask him to get this item listed on the agenda of the group's next meeting.

Moved Janet Graham, seconded Lorraine Siska:

That Peter Gerrand be asked to raise this matter at the next meeting of the Kensington & Arden Community Reference Group and request that the industrial, social and Aboriginal history of the area be represented in some way in the design of the new North Melbourne station or placed on permanent exhibition.

Carried.

5. Discussion of correspondence circulated in the last month and received by hand

Only banking documentation had been received in hard copy.

6. General business

None.

7. Time, date and venue of next ordinary general meeting

Tuesday 18 September 2018, 7.30pm, at the Bastow Institute, 603–615 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.