

*Greetings all*

Here comes the warmer weather and that will be perfect for springing into **action to protect our suburb, in particular the precinct of our beloved JJ Holland Park**. Yes, it looks like we will have to move into full fighting mode about the Metro tunnel works in South Kensington. We have demanded **soil toxicity** data by mid-week. Remember the area was a decades-old dump. We want to know what's in the dirt that will be coming out (thousands of tonnes of it being dug up and driven through our streets) and what measures will be taken to **protect us and our kids** from the poisons that are stirred up.

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### **Metro Tunnel impact on Kensington approaches boiling point**

After months of talks with representatives of the Metro Tunnel project the Kensington Association and local residents have made progress on a number of key issues, but major areas of disagreement still exist. We want a comprehensive agreement over management of tunnel works and final outcomes.

- If site and hazard management is as good as the constructors say it will be, why won't they agree to a comprehensive regime of sound, vibration and air quality monitoring and real time public reporting? At the time of writing, the Cross Yarra Partnership (CYP) -- responsible for digging the tunnel and building a large, 3 storey services "bunker" next to South Kensington -- categorically rejected allowing residents access to real time monitoring and is requiring residents with concerns to lodge a formal complaint and then await a profoundly opaque process of review.
- We have demanded the release of soil and ground water toxicity testing. This is pivotal to risk and site management as the equivalent of 5,000 large dump trucks will be required to remove excavated soil.  
In an act of high farce, our request to see the full 140 report on testing (or at least the executive summary) saw resident reps instead provided with 2 pages of cut and pasted text an hour before the negotiations!
- In a good win, the CYP has agreed to pay for dilapidation studies for all houses near South Kensington station. Such studies provide the basis for compensation (and legal action) if homes are damaged by construction works.
- But the criteria for relocation of residents effected by construction remains deplorable.
- And, in terms of the legacy, we do not have agreement on an integrated design approach for the works.

[Read more](#) about the background Metro tunnel impact on us and what has been done

### **Fundraising initiative**

The war chest needs topping up, a number of locals have already made generous donations to the Association to ensure the immediate campaign has the resources it needs. More on the Kensington Community Fund in a separate email SOON.

### **Meet the Candidates BIG event Thursday November 1 at Kensington Town Hall**

Doors open at 6pm and as many candidates as we can muster will be doing their thing from 7pm. Come along to Kensington Town Hall and eat and drink with us beforehand (cash only) or just make your gold coin donation to our fighting fund.

Both Ellen Sandell, current Greens MP, and Jennifer Kanis, returning to the fray for the ALP, will be there and we will be recruiting the 'good, bad and ugly' as candidates reveal themselves. This is a traditional opportunity for the Kensington community to get together to be up close and personal with the people who want to represent us in State Parliament for the next term.

### **Ellen Sandell speaking on Tuesday**

The next general meeting of the Association is this Tuesday, 9 October, starting at 7:30pm at Kensington Town Hall. The meeting will start with Ellen Sandell MP talking to us. This is a chance to discuss issues with her in more depth than the larger forum will allow, giving you an extra good reason to come out this week.

### **Kensington Neighbourhood House wants just 5 minutes of your time**

The Kensington Neighbourhood House team is currently developing its next three-year strategic plan. To engage with as many people as possible in this process, they are seeking feedback from people who do not currently attend an activity or program at the House by way of a short survey that should only take 5 minutes to complete. Your answers will be treated confidentially. Come back to [this link](#) after reading the rest of our Newsletter.

### **Upcoming events include**

Two new festivals:

**The Flem-Ken Festival of Arts and Ideas**, presented by the Rotary Club of Flemington kicks off in a big way on Thursday night (11 October) with a [gala opening](#) at the Kensington Town Hall (6:30-8:30pm). The Festival runs from 11 to 21 October and aims to *connect* the artists and creatives in the Flemington and Kensington precincts; *create* opportunities for collaboration between artists and the community; and *celebrate and showcase* our rich and diverse creative culture. Wow! It combines and extends a wide range of activities and events in our sister communities, too many to list here.

Drop into the festival hub (the old Bendigo Bank spot at 325 Racecourse Road) or visit the website for an eye-ful of options. [http://www.rotaryflemington.org.au/01-Arts\\_Festival.html](http://www.rotaryflemington.org.au/01-Arts_Festival.html)

**The Kensington Garden Festival** – over the weekend of 20, 21 October. What a great initiative to celebrate our gardens in full bloom. Thanks to organisers and all those involved. I look forward to doing the self-guided walking tour see it all at [www.kensingtongardenfestival.com](http://www.kensingtongardenfestival.com)

Other events, including the next **Asylum seeker benefit concert this upcoming Saturday** and the popular **Monthly Sunday Market** are listed under events on our [website](#)

**We need a full leadership team**

Nobody has come forward to take the position of Chair of the Association and, for pressing and stressful family reasons, I cannot continue to try to fill in the gap. In fact, I will need to resign if nobody comes forward to share the load by the end of this month. Don't be scared, it is a rewarding role and there is a great team to help. The community needs the Association to flourish. Without a full leadership team it won't. Please, just till next August ....

*And please check that none of your garden is hanging over or through the fence, creating a hazard for those with a disability, especially our visually impaired. Thanks.*

Rilke Muir  
Vice Chair