

## Kensington Association Annual General meeting 5th August 2019

### Report of the Chairman

#### *Introduction*

A warm welcome to the Kensington Association's Annual General Meeting. As co-chairman – a position that has been shared by Rilke – it is my pleasure to present our report on the Association's business and activities for the year just past, Aug 2018- July 2019. As a preface, perhaps it is timely to remind you of the stated objectives of the Association which are to:

- (1) contribute to development of Kensington's social, cultural and community fabric*
- (2) contribute to the protection and enhancement of the built and natural environment.*
- (3) support the people of Kensington to become constructively involved in local matters*
- (4) provide representation for the Kensington community with Municipal, State and Federal governments*
- (5) promote the democratic process and the accountability of government, and*
- (6) to collaborate and cooperate with others for the common good of the Kensington community.*

#### *Review of activities and projects*

In 2018-19 we were actively engaged in a wide variety of ways to meet these objectives. This report will describe a range of the key projects the Association membership have been working on, as well as highlight other notable activities of year.

#### *Ongoing projects:*

##### **1. The Younghusband re-development in east Kensington**

Stage 1 of this redevelopment is now underway and the Kensington Association has been engaged with the building contractor BUILT in consultation on traffic management issues and the closure of Elizabeth Street. We have built on the very positive relationship established with *Impact Investments* for this long-term project. BUILT will continue to engage with us during the stage 1 build and we will also continue to be consulted in the Stage 2 and Stage 3 developments to follow. Special thanks to David Ettershank and Rilke Muir for their work.

##### **2. The Melbourne Metro Rail Project (MMRP) in south Kensington**

This major infrastructure project has been drawing down on a great deal of Kensington Association energy, time and patience. We are playing a critical role as a dogged and determined protector of residents' rights, safety, health and amenity, all the while supporting the construction of the Metro Rail. Through the Kensington Association's dedicated MMRP Working Group we have represented Kensington on the formal Community Consultation Group as well as independently and directly to the key contractors CYP and RIA, the City of Melbourne, the Victoria government minister and to our local MLA. Key ongoing issues are noise, vibrations, dust and toxicity, traffic management, monitoring, communication with residents and transparency. The work has been especially frustrating with CYP but collaboration with RIA has been more productive. A funding campaign launched late in 2018, led by Adam Murchie, has been successful in establishing some Kensington Association resources to mount any campaign if required later on, down the

track. Many thanks to Adam and all our Working Group, especially David Ettershank, Matt Hammond, Dennis Kennedy, Therese Fitzgerald and Geoff Cox.

**3. The Westgate Tunnel Project in Arden**

Fran Araneda has represented the Kensington Association on the Community Liaison Group for the West Gate Tunnel Project throughout 2018-19. As her monthly reports testify, it has been a less than satisfactory experience of so-called 'community consultation'.

In frustration, a number of community representatives have dropped out of the Group.

We have had direct correspondence with the CLG Chairman about the disappointing process. We will stay involved and work towards a better outcome.

Many thanks to Fran for her determined efforts here.

**4. The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek project**

The Kensington Association has been working over a number of years in collaboration with other community groups to clean up, rejuvenate and restore the natural health of the Moonee Ponds Creek. John Widmer has been our representative working with Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, and a consortium of other community groups, to further this objective. This year we had major input to the CoM Draft Strategic Opportunities Plan for Moonee Ponds Creek via several submissions. John – armed with his trusty truth-telling camera - has also made representations direct to CoM about the state of the creek litter traps. John has been well supported in this work by Fran, Liz Forbes and a number of other members. Liz has also been our rep on a larger collaboration project about the Creek. It is led by Melbourne Water with all the councils in the catchment area: Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Moreland and Hume. And working with us, our local MLA has raised direct questions in Parliament to the Minister for Water about the state of the creek. The long-term game is to see the Creek converted from a drain to a revitalized healthy waterway flowing at the centre of a new Linear Park, a public parkland and wetland. Our thanks to John and the Moonee Ponds Creek crew.

***Ongoing community representations***

In addition to these major projects Kensington Association members have represented and advocated for the local community interest in number of other forums:

**5. Planning permits**

The Association has responded and made submissions to a number of building development Planning Permits in the Kensington precinct. Chiefly these have been apartment block developments which we have scrutinized on their design, appropriacy, height, bulk, parking amenity, and open space provisions. Our thanks to members who have researched and written submissions in response these applications.

**6. Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC)**

Therese Fitzgerald has again represented the Kensington Association on this committee and kept us alert to developments and issues being addressed in this forum for consultation with police. Many thanks Therese.

**7. Kensington Community Network (KCN)**

This year we rejoined the KCN after an absence of some 18 months and Moira has taken on the role as Kensington Association representative. Through her work we have become involved in planning for a Flemington-Kensington Community Forum later this year to look

at ways to develop better connection and collaboration between the two neighbouring communities in areas of shared interest. It will be co-hosted by CoM and CoMV.

**Other 2018-19 highlights**

- **Kensington Festival** As part of our community support and engagement activity Liz has been the Kensington Association representative on the Kensington Community Festival Committee. We were participants in another successful festival at JJ Holland Park on 31 March. Many thanks especially to Liz and to the KA members who manned the stall.
- **Meet the Candidates Forums.** It was a big year for elections! As part of our commitment to foster our democracy and civic engagement, we conducted two very successful *Meet the Candidates Forums* – one for the State election in Nov 2018 and the other for the Federal election in May 2019. Both were well attended by candidates and local citizens and produced some interesting discussions. Many thanks to all the Kensington Association team who put them together and ran them so effectively.
- **Working with all levels of government.** Throughout the year we have worked closely with a range of Council and State government representatives. Kensington Association reps have also been visitors to Future Melbourne Committee meetings. We would like to express a special thanks to local CoM Councillor Rohan Leppert, and MLA Member for Melbourne, Ellen Sandell for their active support throughout the year.
- **Guest speakers.** This year we had a number of guest speakers at our general monthly meetings to discuss with us a number of local matters such as policy platforms for the seat of Melbourne in the State Election, the Kensington Community Recreation Centre upgrade, the Younghusband re-development, and the campaign to re-open the waiting room at Kensington Station. In the coming year we will try to expand this sort of engagement and aim to have a range of guest speakers and panel forums as part of our general meetings.
- **Fund raising.** This year has been especially productive in building a stronger financial position for the Association. Liz will present the Treasurer report shortly but I would like to mention here that we were successful with our 2018 application for a City of Melbourne grant of \$3000 and we are confident another application will also succeed later this year. We really appreciate the ongoing support of CoM. Most gratifying, were the generous donations received for our special purpose fund raised by the MMRP Working Group, and the uptake of memberships at the Meet the Candidate Forums. Our thanks to our grant application team, all our donors and new members.
- **Website and online communication.** I would like to make a special mention of the important presence of the Kensington Association website and its continuing role as a platform for community communication. Although we want to do more work with this asset, during the last year Rilke has maintained its function as both a notice board and a news source. Her regular Newsletters are well read in the community and much appreciated as a source of local knowledge. We totally support Rilke's request for some time-off this task. We wish her a relaxing break from the news desk and thank her for her wonderful contribution on the website. We also look forward to another member stepping up to the desk to take up the work of producing the online Newsletter.

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In the same vein, we would also like to acknowledge the great work done by Diana Pawluk who has taken us further into social-media land by making effective use of our Facebook presence in disseminating Kensington Association and local news and events. Thank you so much Diana and we hope you can provide some ongoing leadership for us in better and more consistent use of Facebook.

All this work – and other efforts not mentioned in this summary report – has been widely shared among the Association’s executive, steering committee and many members with a commitment to particular matters. Each contribute and volunteer their service generously according to their interests, time, skills and capacities. Common to the varieties of their contributions is their core belief in value of working for ‘the common good’ of the people and place of Kensington, and their belief that they can make a difference to the amenity, health, enjoyment of the community. Without them the Kensington Association would achieve nothing and this community would be much the poorer.

On behalf of the Executive please, all of you, accept our sincere and warm thanks for all your efforts and commitment.

### ***End of Report***

David Brown, Co-Chairman 2018-19

A special thanks to 2018-19 exec team: to co-chairman Rilke, to Comrade Secretary Fran; to our diligent Treasurer Tony and Treasury Secretary Liz, and to the Steering Committee for all your support and hard-work throughout the year of 2018-19.