



MELBOURNE SOUTH YARRA RESIDENTS GROUP INC.

Established by the residents of South Yarra in 1969

AGM Bulletin

A summary of the AGM held at 5.30 pm on Sunday 20th October 2024

The AGM was held with a good quorum of attendees and proxies.

1. **Office Bearers.** No new nominations were received. One resignation was received: Anne Roso. All other Office Bearers were re-elected unopposed.

President: James Syme

Vice President: Phil Lukies

Treasurer: Pam Dethridge

Secretary: Jan Armstrong-Conn

Committee: Michael Butcher, Andrew Bennett, Gayle Gledhill, David Parker

2. A Motion was passed

a. Resolved that the MSYRG Committee request the PTV to convene a public consultation meeting with MSYRG residents as soon as possible to discuss the following:

(i) MSYRG residents urge PTV to immediately reopen a tram service along Park Street (South Yarra) and Domain Road to St Kilda Road; and

(ii) MSYRG residents, while supporting the continuation of the no.58 tram service, urge PTV to reconsider its refusal, as recently indicated to MSYRG representatives, to also restore the original route of the no.8 tram (namely to the centre of the City and Carlton, along Park Street (South Yarra), Domain Road, St Kilda Road and Swanston Street), as an additional service.

b. Further resolved that the MSYRG Committee urge the PTV to:

(i) immediately disclose the proposed re-routing of the no. 605 bus; and

(ii) hold a public consultation meeting as soon as possible at which MSYRG residents are informed of, and given the opportunity to review and comment upon the hitherto undisclosed details of that re-routing, including the proposed location of bus stops and timetabling

3 Guest Speaker was MS Alison Leighton, the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Melbourne. Ms Leighton is responsible for leading a team of almost 2000 people to deliver the City's \$800M budget including an infrastructure program of approximately \$280M per annum. Ms Leighton has more than 18 years of leadership experience in infrastructure, planning, operations, and public sector business transformation. She is a qualified engineer, an alumnus of Harvard Business School, a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds a Masters in Business Administration.

Ms Leighton addressed issues previously raised by members about rubbish, roads and parking, and focused on what the city is proposing for South Yarra. In the recently concluded City of Melbourne Neighbourhood Survey, South Yarra residents indicated their top 3 priorities were housing affordability and homelessness, better roads, paths and public transport and parking, and, creative and cultural events to connect the community. In regards to affordable housing and homelessness, Ms Leighton reflected how the State Government future housing plans and the City 'Spatial Plan' address the issue of population increases and how it will affect South Yarra. This area is categorized as an 'established

area' which means it will only attract infill development, and the aim is to protect the character of South Yarra. The City is focusing on the Arden area for big development. The City is in the unique position that it is not holding up Building Permits and noted over 16,000 Permits have been granted across the municipality recently, but many are not progressed due to a number of factors. In discussing safety, Ms Leighton indicated the City of Melbourne had heard concerns about pedestrian and scooter safety. As the City of Melbourne was in caretaker mode ahead of the recent Local Council elections, Ms Leighton was limited on discussing specific plans which would require council approval. Ms Leighton also highlighted that there are several initiatives underway to improve community and cultural connections. Acknowledging the Senior Citizens Club venue is not accessible to the community on evenings and weekends, the City of Melbourne are exploring if resourcing can be changed to extend community usage of the venue. Additionally, the City of Melbourne was pleased to see the development of the Friends of Fawkner Park social events including coffee mornings and Sunday brunches. Other more formal events in the area over coming months include concerts in the Botanic Gardens, Myer Music Bowl and a free concert on the 10th of November to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Shrine of Remembrance. As a motion regarding public transport was discussed extensively prior to the address, Ms Leighton also focused on the metro rail project, specifically around the newly completed Anzac Station. The Cross Yarra Partnership are in the process of handing back some areas to City of Melbourne through the remainder of 2024 and into 2025, which have been impacted by construction. The most significant being the Edmond Herring oval. The City of Melbourne will be making checks over the coming weeks to ensure that the oval is returned by the end of the year in the state required for community use in 2025. In regards to the Number 8 tram, Ms Leighton was unable to provide any insights into the Department of Transport and Planning strategy, other than she would undertake to raise with the Deputy Secretary for Network Design and Integration that she had attended a residents meeting that the community was in need of updated information about the integrated public transport strategy for the area and how it would impact the MSYRG area in particular.

On the Monday following the AGM Mr Leighton emailed MSYRG with answers to many questions posed at the AGM that she agreed to follow up on:

1. *No 8 Tram - I have contacted William Tieppo, Deputy Secretary for Network Design & Integration, Department of Transport & Planning, to advise that this issue was raised at the MSYRG AGM and to request that an update be provided to MSYRG as a priority.*
2. *Fawkner Park - heritage status acknowledgement. I have requested that the relevant Director here at the City of Melbourne, Anthony Neale, Director Recreation and Waterways, review the Recreation Prioritization Framework to confirm that the heritage status of Fawkner Park is referenced adequately.*
3. *St Kilda Road Bike Lanes – business case. I have requested that our Transport Planning team provide me with confirmation as to the existence of a business case for this project and will revert back to the association if this does exist.*
4. *The CoM South Yarra Neighbourhood Partner is Kimberley Pierzchalski. She can be always contacted via kimberley.pierzchalski@melbourne.vic.gov.au or on Ph: 0438 242 205. Kimberley is also present at the South Yarra Senior Citizens Centre at Fawkner Park on Wednesday's if any community members would like to drop in to say hello.*

4. **The meeting closed** with an informal gathering in the Foyer to celebrate another year for MSYRG

**** At a MSYRG committee meeting the following week a MOTION was passed 'that the Resolutions that were unanimously passed at the AGM, will now be acted on'. Further updates to come**

23 November 2024

MSYRG Inc