



RESIDENTS 3000 INC.

President's Report 2022/2023

Dear Members,

It has been an honour and pleasure to serve as President of Residents 3000 over the past 12 months and once again be part of this vibrant CBD community.

We Connected, Supported, and Informed our members and guests with a variety of topics, programs, and some very interesting people. We remain committed to advocating issues that matter most to our members and supporters to ensure that we are contributing to the enjoyment and wellbeing of city life.

During this year we engaged with different associations that support our members and residents of the postcode 3000, such as:

- 1) In April 2020 during lockdown, we start campaigning for a strong solution in terms of the homelessness issue. We saw the situation as an opportunity to pressure our governments to finally take a serious approach to this matter. At this stage:

Thanks to our Lord Mayor Sally Capp AO who also put in a huge effort to support us in battling this situation, we welcome the project "Make A Room" a partnership between City of Melbourne, Unison House, and the philanthropic and corporate sectors, and the State government. The fifty studio apartments will be delivered for use by 2023/24.

Unfortunately, this matter is still a big issue for our CBD and the City of Melbourne, and we all know that is not an easy task.

Please keep requesting that your local, state, and federal governments continue to work towards zero homelessness. Residents 3000 is suggesting that in addition to money being invested in social housing, the State Government needs to also introduce:

- (a) A medical team to assess those that are sleeping rough and are refusing help, some of them are in a serious medical condition and perhaps when their mental health conditions are serious the State Government should intervene, and permanent services should be provided. Early intervention is the key to better protect the individual and the well-being of the community.

- (b) We need more funds to be invested into the police force from the State Government for the CBD to have permanent staff to serve us 24/7, in other words it has become apparent that in cases of emergency the numbers of police can be reduced significantly to serve other areas of Melbourne, leaving the CBD often understaffed. Unfortunately, the current system of allocation of personnel is not working as the CBD presents a complex scenario with a high density of people, buildings, visitors, and workers demanding a constant walking patrol in our streets to prevent crime. The latest State Government budget in May 2022/23 delivered only 502 police and 50 protective service officers against 1500 recommended by the Police Association in Victoria.

We continued engaging with our social media platforms to better communicate with our members and supporters. The intention of this strategy is to facilitate the communication process between our organization, government bodies, the community, and our members. We constantly provide updates on Facebook and Instagram about relevant information from cultural, government bodies and other associations. On Instagram we also inform and support our community and promote our small local businesses and art venues as they are also a part of our community.

- 2) As President of Resident 3000, together with our Committee members, we participated in many informative sessions with many different levels of government and community groups and some of the updates were posted on our Facebook page, Instagram, website and by email to subscribers during the year. Please follow us to keep yourself informed.
 - (a) Since 2021, I have continued to be involved in many discussions related to injection rooms with a variety of local and state politicians. I'm critical of what has been proposed and my personal opinion is that rehabilitation centres should be built, and the State Government should urgently increase the number of patients receiving pharmacotherapy in the public system, (there were just 50 patients in Victoria compared with 8498 in NSW in 2021) and our police numbers are not enough to even keep up with the current demand to ensure the safety of the public. In conclusion, before we even start contemplating the possibility of another injection room, the above topics should be addressed first. To note, the previous location suggested was Flinders Street and the current one is The Salvation Army, Bourke Street (not officially announced by State Government but informed by the media), however the State Government still needs to make a decision after the Premier informed us that a decision would only be made after the 2022 election.
 - (b) We have also been advocating for a Safety Summit within the City of Melbourne and after months of discussions we are more than happy to inform you that the

first session of the Safety Summit happened at the Town Hall on the 19th August 2022 with all presidents of the community groups from the City of Melbourne area, Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor, general members of our community, Victoria Police and relevant State Government representatives in attendance.

- (c) We also have been advocating on keeping the freeze on the late-night liquor license (3:00am), in order to seek to maintain acceptable levels of amenities in the CBD. After extensive conversations and emails with Samantha Ratnam (Northern Metropolitan Region) and Ellen Sandell (MP for Melbourne), we managed at least to strike a compromise on the importance in keeping the freeze. Letters from both politicians on our behalf as the constituents were sent to the Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, Melissa Horne.

She responded with:

“Ministerial guidelines for the freeze on late-night liquor licences (the freeze) were first introduced in 2008 as one of a range of measures to respond to alcohol-related harm in inner Melbourne. On 29 June 2021, I issued new guidelines extending the freeze until 30 June 2023.

“In conjunction with the issuing of the new guidelines, I announced that an evaluation would be conducted into the effectiveness of the freeze. This work will be managed by the Department of Justice and Community Safety and commence in late-2022, with finalization prior to the guidelines lapsing on 30 June 2023.”

We hoped that the Minister would keep her word in addressing alcohol related harm, on keeping the freeze after 2023 and implementing measures to protect our CBD community. Unfortunately, the Premier decided not to engage in any consultation and a decision was made to scrap the freeze, having no consideration for those that would be harmed by the extended hours of alcohol consumption and putting even more pressure on our community and ambulance services.

- 3) During the year I also had several meetings with: Dean Robertson, Director of On-Street Compliance, Community and City Services, City of Melbourne; and Inspector Dale Huntington and Glenn McFarlane, Police East, and Dinah Tremain our Neighbourhood Policing Coordinator; and Wayne Gatt from the Police Association. I would like to thank them all for the continuous support of Residents 3000 and our community. We look forward to continuing to work with them in the near future and for their constant presence and participation at our events.

- 4) I acknowledge the combined work of our organization with CBD News local newspaper, all year around. We have participated in a variety of articles dealing with completely different issues and debates while always seeking only the best outcome for our city and its residents. I also would like to acknowledge and congratulate CBD News for their 100th edition celebration, what a milestone for the team at Hyperlocal News, for Sean Car and Shane Scanlan (in memoriam), and for our CBD community too.
- 5) The first Thursday of the month meetings, titled “Forum 3000”, continue to inform, entertain and at times raise some provoking ideas and concepts by in-person meetings at The Kelvin Club from October 2022 to present.

At our Forums we had:

Meet the candidates – Pre election Forum –State Government (October) - The forum provided the community with an opportunity to meet and hear from candidates ahead of the Victorian State Election – District of Melbourne: Ellen Sandell (Greens), Rebecca Thistleton (Labor), Collen Bolger (Victorian Socialists), Nicola Foxworthy (Reason). Furthermore, at the event we heard from the Upper House Candidates for Northern Metropolitan Region: Evan Mulholland (Liberals), Paul Silverberg (Liberal Democratic).

PS. We also had an **Active Citizenship – Residents 3000 Voter Awareness Workshop** on 10th November - This interactive workshop raised awareness about Australian democracy and active citizenship without any bias for political parties and/or candidates.

Owners Corporation and New tenancy laws (November) – Update event on new tenancy laws and latest news on owners corporation trends. Presented by Rick Deering, Director, FawknerMay; and Anton Block, Principal Lawyer, KCL Law. During the evening we also heard from representatives from the Strata Community Association (Vic).

Real Estate – Market Update with Donazzan Boutique Property (December) - Gina Donazzan, Kim Davey, and their team from Donazzan Boutique Property shared with us some updates on Melbourne’s property market for sales and rentals, and the buyers’ and renters’ sentiment, and new trends in the market. This end-of-year event was full of cheer with gifts distributed to our local community from our beloved local businesses (The Windsor Hotel, Brunetti Café, Becco Restaurant, Creelman’s Pharmacy, Mitty’s Newsagency, Vince and Dom, City of Melbourne, and CBD Facility Management).

Metro tunnel updates (February) - This event is our annual update on the Melbourne Metro Tunnel Project where we can find out what progress has been made in the previous year and what works are scheduled for the new year. Presenters of the night were: Petro Tsalkis and Raphael Symons from Rail Projects

Victoria (RPV); Melinda Kelly and Blythe Chidgey from the Cross Yarra Partnership (CYP); and Sarah Robins from the Metro Tunnel Creative Program. Unfortunately, early this year it was announced by the State Government that the much-promised rail-line to the airport was cancelled.

Evan Counsel, General Manager Strategy, Planning and Climate Change (March) – Our guest speaker for the evening was Evan Counsel. The event provided the opportunity to find out about City of Melbourne development plans, long term strategy and how the city is preparing for climate change and other planning matters.

Neighbourhood Marketplace (April) – This event is inspired by Australia’s Neighbour Day, which is held annually on the last Sunday in March. Neighbour Day is Australia’s annual celebration of communities and friendly streets; this event was cancelled in 2023 due to unforeseen circumstances.

Meet elected state politicians, discussion of unfreezing liquor licence curfew (May) – The forum was an opportunity to meet and hear from the newly elected politicians from the seat of Melbourne and Northern Metropolitan Regions. It was a great exercise of democracy providing a chance for our local residents to meet some of their elected representatives in person. It was the event with the highest attendance. Half of the event was devoted to discussing a very important topic which was the unfreezing of the 1:00 am liquor licence in postcode 3000 and its impacts on our local community with the Lord Mayor, Sally Capp AO, and Dr. Yvonne Singer also invited to the debate.

Police, VGCCC, and the City of Melbourne Street Safety annual meeting (June) – If you are a resident or business in the city and had some concerns or questions about citizen safety in the city, this was the event to put forward your questions. The event was a success and as a result we will be having an update every year in June. Thanks to Dean Robertson (City of Melbourne); Dinah Tremain, Glenn McFarlane, and Dale Huntington (Victoria Police); and Melanie Gitsos, Team Leader Compliance, VGCCC. We are hoping to add the EPA to next year’s meeting.

Meet our CBD Neighbourhood Partner for Community Development (July) – The event provided the opportunity to find out about the City of Melbourne community development plans. Presented by: Elliot Anderson, Acting Director, Community Development, City of Melbourne; and Michelle James, Manager, Neighbourhoods, Community Development, City of Melbourne. Elliot and Michelle provided an update on the activities of the Community Development branch, including the Neighbourhood Planning Framework, and the CBD Neighbourhood Portal. It was also an opportunity to discuss the progress on neighbourhood priorities within the CBD, and introduce our new Neighbourhood Partner for Community Development at the City of Melbourne, Rei Chin.

Annual Police Community Sentiment Survey results with our local Inspector, and Q&A session with Police association Victoria (August) – Finally the results were out, and Dale Huntington, Inspector, Melbourne East Local Area Commander (Melbourne East & Southbank) kindly presented the results to our community. If you live, work, or socialise in Victoria, you had your say about your safety concerns, preferences when engaging with police, and experiences of dealing with the police in your community, and had answered the sentiment survey. Victorian residents told the Police their top five safety concerns which were:

1. Safety in public places
2. Safety of my property and possessions
3. Road safety
4. Drugs and alcohol
5. Cybercrime or online safety

We also invited Wayne Gatt, Chief Executive Officer of The Police Association Victoria for a Q&A session with the public on how the community can better engage and support the police to oversee the current safety issues in our neighbourhood. The event became very heated once the topic switched to the proposed injection room with a majority of the audience not satisfied with the proposal of the State Government to have a second injection room in the CBD.

Keeping residents informed and up to date with the pulse of life in the city is a key objective of Residents 3000. Our monthly articles in the CBD News written and curated by our own Committee members Sherry Maddock and Julia Roberts provide us with the opportunity to convey our message to a broad audience. We are grateful to Sean Car for providing such a platform. Thanks as well to Dr. Sue Saunders, Dr. Arman Rashid, Dr. Stan Capp, Daniel Ong, and Jenny Eltham for also contributing with some very interesting articles this past year.

We continue to work closely with the City of Melbourne, and I would like to acknowledge their continued financial support which ensures some of our administration costs are covered and more importantly, for providing quality guest speakers throughout the year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Michelle James and Rei Chin from the City of Melbourne again for all the support they both have given to Residents 3000.

I wish to acknowledge the great contribution made by our entire Committee this year.

To Merle Willis, our Secretary, for her continued commitment to the association and great work ethic, for her Committee meeting minutes, and continuous work in maintaining our emailing lists and website, together with Artur Hajda, Daniel Ong, and co-opted member David Willis.

To Denise Reynolds, our Treasurer, for 9 years of devotion and accountability to this group. Unfortunately, Denise is saying goodbye to the Committee as she is no longer spending the same amount of time in Melbourne but will assist the group as a co-opted member.

To Dr. Stan Capp and Dr. Arman Rashid for their valued academic participation and support in various tasks, and to Sherry Maddock and Julia Roberts for their positive and enthusiastic input, and managing our monthly columns in the CBD News.

To Dr Sue Saunders, Dr Rita Ellul, and Toni Magor. I would like to thank them for their continued support and valued involvement, as interested past Committee and co-opted members.

And finally, I wish to acknowledge the contributions made by and thank our sponsors this year: Rick Deering of Fawkner May Owners Corporation Managers; Gina Donazzan and her team from Donazzan Boutique Property; Nick Nicolaidis, and his team from Kieser Collins Physiotherapy; and our newest sponsors, John and Luana Dall'Amico of CBD Facility Management.

It gives me great pleasure to report that the association is both well managed and, in a sound financial position, and with the new soon to be elected Committee, we look forward to another eventful and successful year.

As President, I wish to acknowledge all our members and supporters who have taken the time to attend our meetings and events and participate on our social media platforms. It has been a tough year for the Residents of the CBD with many important discussions taking place such as injection rooms, unfreezing of liquor licenses, street safety, and homelessness.

We should all be proud for speaking out and engaging with each other and keeping ourselves united and independent of any political parties, in our common interest in the wellbeing of our city and its residents, resulting in us together building a strong community for years to come.

Yours truly,

Rafael Henrique R. Camillo

President | Residents 3000 – August 2023