

Walkerville Residents' Association Annual General Meeting 9 February 2026
Chairperson's Report from Mike Duigan

Good evening all

On behalf of the WRA Management Committee, I welcome you all to the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

2025 has been a very busy year for the Committee and associated members. Hopefully our newly designed website and regular Newsletters have brought an increased awareness of activities associated with Association, to assist in fulfilling our aims to preserve, protect and promote the living environment of the Walkerville Council Area.

The main issues we have been involved in over the past 12 Months have included activity associated with:

BUCKINGHAM ARMS SITE

Much of the early part of the year was associated with continuing saga of the Buckingham Arms redevelopment and in particular the final State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP) decision made in January 2025 to approve the latest design for the 10-story apartment build by the developer Citify.

The WRA contracted Planning Consultant Phil Brunning to present a strong argument about the impact of the size and design of the 'redesigned' development application, and several residents and interested parties also were allowed 5 minutes to present their own arguments against plans. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in having this second 10-story application refused.

Since that time, a supplementary application from the developer (yet to be determined) has since been submitted to the SCAP to vary the number and type of apartments as well as to increase the height of the build caused by adjustments in the building profile. In a separate variation, the Developer has also requested removal of the first of the street Jacaranda trees from outside the Walkerville Tce entrance to the site.

The Management Committee has also raised with Council:

- specific issues associated with car parking from the site workers vehicles associated with the development
- the significant environmental impact of large amounts of dust generated by the excavation of the site for underground parking
- the traffic effect of trucks entering and exiting the site for the underground car parking, and the impact of trucks bringing concrete and steel girders to the site
- the impact of increased construction activity on the queuing of traffic on the Buckingham Arms intersection.

- The damage caused to the road surface from heavy trucks entering and exiting the site and the need for the developer to rectify damage to the road surface

We have brought our concerns to the attention of the Council the developers and the State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP) and have not been impressed by the lack of responses or the lack of interest by CITIFY the developers.

The Walkerville Council's formal response to many of these issues has been positive but it, too, appears to be blindsided by the developers.

The disruption and inconvenience to residents and motorists will continue and your association will continue to bring your concerns to the attention of all the relevant agencies and companies.

Please continue to let us know what further actions we can take.

PARKING MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WALKERVILLE TERRACE

The Management Committee has made our views known to the council about the desirability of introducing time-limited parking on Walkerville Terrace west in an attempt to reduce the impact of 'park and ride' commuters, as well as the doubling and tripling up of permanent parking. We support the recent decision of council to further consult affected residential properties in the full western side of Walkerville Terrace length from Northcote Terrace to Stephen Terrace We will keep you informed as this matter progresses.

BENTZEN COURT

The WRA has been actively involved in lobbying the state government to rehabilitate and re development the units in BENTZEN court following the tragic homicide and home invasion. We were invited to join the Gilberton Residents Group convened by Lucy Hood and made a number of representations to the Minister of Housing and Planning. It now appears that there will be a significant allocation in the next state budget to effect long overdue changes.

OTHER ISSUES

The Management Committee has also discussed:

- tree planting and protection policy;
- issues associated with vacant residences and what is known as "land banking"; and
- the escalator at the Woolworths that ceased working. WRA advocated on behalf of residents who were inconvenienced by the failure and let both the Council and the centre managers know that it was unsatisfactory. While ultimately the escalator was fixed, it has continued to be an issue and WRA will monitor this situation.

ROLE OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- The Management Committee works on behalf of the Association and meets about every 6 -8 weeks.
- The MC has 8 members and for 2026 there are two vacancies which can be filled by residents nominating later in this meeting. We are especially anxious to have more members from Walkerville and Vale Park, so if you are interested please put your hand up for nomination before we leave tonight.
If you are unsure we suggest you check out the web site to get a better understanding of our activities .
- Membership is open to all residents and the annual joining fee is \$5.00.
- The office holders are chosen by election at the first meeting following the AGM. The current MC is Elizabeth Fricker who is the Treasurer, Cathryn Hamilton who is the Secretary, and Solange Kabbaz, Rhonda Avard, Richard Oliver who are all continuing members. Mark Cescato and Karen Grob are not continuing and we thank them for their commitment and contribution over that last 3 years. I am the Current Chairperson and Public Officer and will be continuing as a member of the Committee for a further 12 months.
- The elected members of the Committee will determine the roles for members in 2026 at their first meeting due to be held in March.
- **Membership**
Our secretary has streamlined our membership list and the web site and she will make a short presentation in a moment.
- **Funding**
The treasurer will present her report and the audit for the past two years.

We are pleased that Mayor Jones will address us in a moment and that Local resident, and architect Phil Harris will also reflect on the challenges facing inner city suburbs.

Thank you for coming to our AGM tonight and for your interest in the Association. I encourage you to keep in touch and raise issues with the Management Committee

I now move that my report be accepted and invite Mayor Melissa Jones to present her report.