

Committee for Melbourne 2017 Annual Dinner Scott Tanner speech

Formalities

Thank you Russel and good evening.

I'd first like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin nation.

And pay my respects to elders, past and present.

It's an honour to once again welcome you to Committee for Melbourne's Annual Dinner.

- A particular welcome to:
 - The Honourable John Eren
 - The Honourable Luke Donnellan
 - The Honourable Natalie Hutchins
 - The Honourable Bruce Atkinson
 - Former Premier of Victoria John Cain
 - Shadow Ministers
 - Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood
 - City of Melbourne CEO Ben Rimmer
- From the Committee:
 - Our founders – Pamela Warrender, Hugh Morgan and Gary Morgan
 - Former Chair and Life member– George Pappas
 - Former Chair of the Committee and current Chair of our Future Focus Group - Jack Smorgon
 - Former Director and Life Member Roger Poole
 - Former Director – Pru Sanderson
- Premier Andrews and Governor Dessau couldn't join us tonight, but send their best wishes for the evening
- I'd also like to acknowledge:

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- My fellow Committee for Melbourne Board Directors
- Recently retired Board Director Tom Fricke
- Members of the MELBOURNE 4.0 Steering group
- Our current Future Focus Group and alumni
 - Our Future Focus Group turns 21 this year
 - It's an investment in some of the brightest young minds in the city

Later tonight, we look forward to sharing the outcomes of our MELBOURNE 4.0 Taskforce with you.

I welcome the partner of the taskforce and our foundation member, PwC.

In particular, my thanks to Melbourne Managing Partner Peter Konidaris for sharing our vision about a blueprint for the city that will underpin our continued prosperity.

After dinner, PwC's Partner in Global Government Digital Transformation Chris Vein will share his insights from the highest levels of US government and the World Bank.

Thank you also to our principal sponsor the Grollo Group. They've been a terrific supporter of the Committee and our annual dinners over the years.

Grollo Group is represented here tonight by their CEO and Committee Director, Lorenz Grollo. Thank you once again Lorenz.

I'd like to thank my fellow Committee Directors. They are generous with their time and knowledge, and together with our members. They help shape this special organisation, and the future of our city.

Finally, a special thank you to our CEO Martine Letts and her secretariat, who work tirelessly to champion both the Committee and our city.

We're pleased to host you tonight as we celebrate Melbourne, and our role in shaping its future.

More than ever before, our success as a city of international significance will depend on our contribution.

It's fitting that we're gathered in a space that promotes understanding of our past, to help us prepare for our future.

As we have over decades, the Committee seeks to LEAD MELBOURNE into its next phase of growth.

As we head into the Committee's fourth decade, Melbourne is in an enviable position:

- Our cities are the engines of our national prosperity
 - Melbourne produces 80% of Victoria's economic activity, and
 - The 7km² that is the Melbourne and Sydney CBDs combined produce 10% of GDP
- We've been the World's Most Liveable City for 6 years running
- We're Australia's technology hub, home of realestate.com, carsales.com, seek.com, attracting multinationals like Alibaba
- Our outstanding arts precinct has made us an internationally recognised city of culture – it's a credit to Tony Ellwood and his team that the NGV is one of the world's most attended galleries

We're in this enviable position partly because a group of passionate Melburnians created this Committee 3 decades ago.

A lot has changed in 30 years.

Today, we need to plan and invest in a global environment characterized by extraordinary levels of uncertainty.

So what's the role of the Committee and what's the responsibility of all of us?

I mentioned last year that I felt that if an individual had the capability and the opportunity to make a difference, then I believe they have the moral obligation to contribute for the benefit of others / future generations.

With half the nation's population and economic activity sitting in Melbourne and Sydney, we have an obligation to contribute to setting the national agenda.

To do so we must understand the social and technological changes sweeping the world:

- People are living longer - a baby born today is likely to live beyond 100
- We're more connected than ever
- Most of us can access the luxuries that were reserved for the privileged few in the past

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- With a few swipes of our thumb we can have a luxury holiday or a chauffeured ride
- Uber has made every car into a taxi
- Spotify lets us stream any song by any artist
- AirBnB has made every home into a hotel
- MOOCS can turn anyone with a computer into an Ivy League student
- And with Freelancer, everyone with a skill set and a few extra hours is an instant contractor

Thriving in this new world depends on Melbourne attracting more Alibabas.

So how is the committee tackling this challenge?

We framed this challenge as the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

It's the next period in humanity's progress.

Advances in artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, energy storage and quantum computing will disrupt every industry.

These will disrupt systems and policies, and change the natural order of things. For our city, our country, our region – and indeed the world .

We must consider the geopolitical landscape as well.

The balance of power between East and West, the rise of the East and the movement towards isolationism in the West.

The inequitable distribution of wealth, the loss of jobs, and the rise of extremism throw up new challenges.

Some of the most profound reactions have been in advanced democracies.

Public opinion today is being shaped by the demise of traditional media and the rise of social media means that we can curate our own content – to select the "reality" that suits our biases.

These are profound forces of change.

How do we, and our governments, plan and invest in these extraordinary times?

That was our challenge with our MELBOURNE 4.0 Taskforce.

We wanted to uncover what it is our city needs next, to thrive.

Later tonight, we'll share our findings.

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And show you how we're leading Melbourne through these uncertain and unprecedented times.

On behalf of the Committee, I'd like to thank every member for their support and commitment.

We must create our own future.

If you aren't already, please get involved.

Melbourne's future prosperity depends on civic minded individuals like you making a contribution.

Later this evening I look forward to recognising outstanding leadership with the Melbourne Achiever Award.

In the meantime, please enjoy each other's company.

Thank you.