

Annual Dinner Address – 26 May 2016

Scott Tanner, Chair Committee for Melbourne

Good evening

Welcome to Committee for Melbourne's annual dinner for 2016.

To begin I'd like to acknowledge:

- Dignitaries
- Committee for Melbourne founders – Pamela Warrender, Hugh Morgan and Gary Morgan
- Former Chair of the Committee – George Pappas
- Former Chair of the Committee and current Chair of Future Focus Group – Jack Smorgon
- Former CEO and indeed longest-serving CEO of the Committee – Janine Kirk
- Current members and alumni of the Future Focus Group
- Our dinner sponsors:
 - Grollo Group and RACV
 - Lend Lease
- Fellow Committee for Melbourne directors
- A special welcome to our new CEO of Committee for Melbourne Martine Letts, whom you will hear from later tonight
- And the Committee secretariat

Tonight we celebrate Melbourne's past and focus our thoughts and energy on ensuring Melbourne's future is bright.

Our venue tonight

I'd 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, both past and present.

Laurens Hall is such a fitting venue for tonight's theme.

Like any great city around the world, Melbourne is constantly reinventing itself.

A stone's throw from the city, North Melbourne is being transformed. From an industrial and manufacturing heartland, to an urban inner city hub.

It's a powerful symbol of our changing city and its economy. Once made great by manufacturing, the economy is no longer driven by what we make, but by what we know and do.

Why Committee for Melbourne is important

We're a unique organisation with members from all facets of life – business, academia and not for profit.

That diversity helps us see Melbourne's challenges through a unique lens.

As we grow as a centre of commerce and trade, and our population grows beyond five million, our challenge is to preserve the essence that John Batman so brilliantly described as the most 'liveable riverbanks in the world' and a 'nice place for a village'.

The Committee for Melbourne's contribution to public policy debate helps protect our strong and competitive economy, and build services and infrastructure for our growing population.

We bring together members who are passionate about our city:

- Somewhere to do business
- A city of opportunity that attracts global talent that can enjoy one of the most appealing lifestyles in the world
- Somewhere to raise a family and create a legacy for the next generation.

With your support this past year, we've advocated for a clear vision for Melbourne, particularly in the areas of international students and independent infrastructure prioritisation and decision making.

Obligation and responsibility

I recently attended a business and society symposium with a group of leaders from business and the community organisations.

The discussion focused on leadership, with reflections on Western morality, and our role in today's society.

We concluded that if you have an ability to do something meaningful for your community, and the opportunity to have an impact, then you have an obligation to do so.