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Supported by the Community
Services Grants Program



CRA Events

Our AGM

On February 24th, CRA held its annual general meeting in the upstairs room of Di Mattina's Restaurant on Lygon Street. Over 60 people attended to celebrate another highly successful year for our organisation. The highlight of the evening was a very engaging presentation by Dr Sophie Sturup from the University of Melbourne. She provided a provocative analysis of the East-West Tunnel Project, which sparked some very lively debate during question time.

A summary of Sophie's talk will be published in the next edition of Newsflash and the website. (Also on the website, reports and minutes from the meeting) (www.carltonresidents.org.au)



*Dr Sophie Sturup and CRA president
Dr. George Janko*

Our Christmas Party

Our Christmas party was even more fabulous than in previous years. On a balmy December evening, CRA members, friends and guests celebrated in La Mama's unique forecourt where they danced into the early hours of the



No Strings Attached

morning to the ambient music of singer Mirko Angeli and his backing group, No Strings Attached. There was an abundance of delicious food, including scrumptious cakes generously donated, as usual, by Carlton icon, Brunetti. George Janko, our president and Cr Jackie Watts both spoke looking back on 2013 from the perspective of both CRA and the broader Carlton community.

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Reference groups

The Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre (KSC)

CRA Secures Library and Community Centre for Carlton

CRA spearheaded a successful campaign for the Kathleen Syme Centre (KSC) in Carlton to become a full service library and building to facilitate **social inclusion** among its diverse population - residents, business, public housing tenants, students, 16,000 workers and visitors.

This historically significant building was the first primary school in Carlton and is now named after Kathleen Syme, a prominent journalist and women's rights pioneer. The main driver of this initiative was Greta Bird, former president and the current secretary of CRA. She created an inspiring vision of what the centre could be and built community support to transform the dream into a reality.



(Then) Shadow Minister Matthew Guy addressing a CRA rally on Carlton's need for the Kathleen Syme Centre for Carlton's Community Centre / Library.

There is definitely a strong need for this project. Carlton, a culturally diverse community with over half of its population born overseas, has the second largest population in the City of Melbourne after the CBD and some of the lowest incomes in the municipality (Source: City of Melbourne Carlton Community Profile). Yet Carlton does not have a library or community hub to connect residents and build social capital.

Our lobbying campaign culminated in the Victorian Coalition government agreeing to sell KSC to the City of Melbourne for use as a community centre and library in July 2011. There was a formal on-site ceremony at which the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Matthew Guy, identified CRA as sole movers and shakers behind the project.

Attempts over years by both the So and Doyle Councils had failed to persuade the State Labor Government to release the building for community use. The City of Melbourne is now in the process of a \$7 million refurbishment of KSC; it

is scheduled to open as the Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre in 2015.



Planning Minister, Hon. Matthew Guy with Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and Carlton residents, at the official transfer of the Kathleen Syme building on 4 July 2012.

However, we are still concerned about some aspects of the City of Melbourne's plans for the building. Regardless of intense community need and lobbying, there will not be a large multi-purpose room for a wide range of events and functions. The current auditorium near the entrance on the ground floor would be perfect for this purpose. However, it is being divided into two rooms separated by a folding wall and a centrally located bathroom and office despite the presence of offices and toilet facilities in the immediate vicinity. In addition, approximately two-thirds of the building has been specifically designed for service provision, which will substantially limit its availability for local residents. This decision precludes a wide range of community-building activities for the broader Carlton community, including community education such as CAE, RTOs, U3A.

Notwithstanding these issues, which we are currently discussing with CoM, we still believe that the new library and community facility will be a significant asset for the Carlton community. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Greta and her supporters who made this happen.

Public housing

Housing Estate Redevelopment Outcomes, Stage 1.

The sell-off of public land for private development on the Carlton Public Housing Estates (despite the dire housing needs of the most vulnerable members of society), was justified on the grounds of social inclusion. The rationale was that privatisation would assimilate public housing tenants, who are isolated on the estates and alienated from the wider Carlton community. Such social mixing would 'break down the public housing ghetto' (Bronwyn Pike, Member for Melbourne, 2006).

Redevelopment Project Investigation*: This recent study by Flinders University documented key changes in the lives of relocated residents and impacts on social inclusion, well-being and public housing tenants' rights to access local spaces and to participate in decision-making processes. The investigation included public tenants and private residents who moved to the new development, community stakeholders and service providers.

The stated aims of the mixed tenure project were to break down social barriers through a mix of public and private housing. Tenants, service providers and agencies envisaged a blend of private/public units in the same buildings.

Instead, the 4-storey walk-up flats on Rathdowne St were replaced with one public building and two private buildings.

The Experience of Relocation: Many tenants, relocated when the walk-up flats on Rathdowne St were demolished in 2006, did not return. Some said they had been offered very small replacement apartments, and required a spare bedroom for when their children come to stay. Others did not want to relocate again after the seven years' interval. Some had been moved further away from the Carlton estate and could not be located. Some felt locked in and found this stressful. Others were very happy living in a house with a backyard in a small housing estate nearby.

Most tenants who now occupy the new building rated its quality highly in comparison with the old walk-ups. They like the newness of the housing and the improved landscape surrounds, but they regretted the absence of public laundries or clothes drying areas. Some tenants reported positive changes in how people from outside the estate perceived those in the new building. Others said any lessening of the stigma was minimal.

Safety and Security: Tenants' perceptions varied. Some emphasised the concentration of tenants with multiple problems. They contended that they had been promised a family-oriented building but instead many occupants had mental health problems and substance abuse issues.

Office of Housing relocation consultation processes:

Tenants and service providers felt there had been no real consultation. Tenants reported that they had been denied the right to participate in decision-making processes, and were simply told what would happen.

Mixed tenure and social interaction: The Carlton Estate's mixed tenure project has adopted mechanisms which prevent integration of public housing tenants with private residents. Instead of building an inclusive development which promotes access for all residents, a complex of three segregated buildings with separate entrances and car parks was developed. Private housing is surrounded with a 2.5 metre wall. Public housing tenants are denied access to a garden within the wall but can view it through a locked gate. Private buyers complained about a lack of transparency regarding the fact that the units being sold were located within a public housing estate.

Tenants and private residents expressed frustration at the total lack of shared space where social interaction could

occur naturally, and regretted that the planned community space of 700 sq.m. was not provided. Some said that politicians and DHS (Dept. of Human Services) had yielded to developer pressure.



The private garden above viewed by public tenants through a locked gate at right



Conclusions:

- The redevelopment project design and management has not promoted the integration of public housing tenants.
- Public housing tenants' right to access some areas of the estate has been denied.
- The right of tenants to participate in decision-making processes appears to have been severely compromised.

'The researchers hope that the department will learn from the negative Carlton experience in future redevelopments.'

* The project was funded by the Australian Research Council with partners VicHealth and the Brotherhood of St Laurence. The research team based at Flinders University's Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity includes A/Prof Kathy Arthurson and A/Prof Anna Ziersch, and Dr Iris Levin who was hosted by the Brotherhood's Research and Policy Centre in Melbourne. Their report was presented on 11 December 2013 and is available in full on the VicHealth website : <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/>

PLEASE SEE ALSO:

Two articles detailing the Carlton experience of the redevelopment on the CRA website:

Go to Reference Groups, click on Public Housing Redevelopment, then on [Sell-off of Public Housing Land on the Carlton Housing Estates](#)

and [Another brick in the wall of public housing](#) *The Age*, 27 July 2010

Royal Exhibition Building (REB) World Heritage Community Celebrations,



*'The Opening, Commonwealth Parliament', Charles Nuttall
Images Courtesy of Museum Victoria*

May 2014

National Trust Heritage Festival Program Text:

The World Heritage Community Day:

Celebrating Democracy at the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens Precinct is Victoria's only World Heritage site. UNESCO declared the building and the surrounding gardens to be of world heritage significance in April 2004. The Royal Exhibition Building is historically significant as the only major extant nineteenth-century international exhibition building in the world. It has been the stage for highly significant and historic national events, including the Melbourne Exhibition of 1880, the opening of the Federal Parliament in May 1901 and as the venue for the Victorian State Parliament from 1901 until 1927.

The atmosphere was radiant and illuminated the vast spaces of the building and the great sea of faces with a bright Australian glow. A sight never to be forgotten was the assemblage which, in perfect order but with exalted feeling, awaited the arrival of the Duke and Duchess in the great avenues which branch out from beneath the vast dome of the Exhibition Building. (*Argus* 10 May 1901)

On 9 May 1901, the Royal Exhibition Building hosted the opening of the first Federal Parliament. The organisers were eager to make the occasion spectacular and memorable, while Prime Minister Barton wanted it to be as inclusive as possible, to which end 12,000 people were invited.

The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York visited Melbourne for the event, creating great excitement as they attended receptions, processions and other functions held in their honour. Melbourne's streets and buildings were elaborately decorated, and people from all over Australia visited for the opening celebrations.

Celebrate the First Federal Parliament with us on Sunday May 11, 2014.

Presented by Coalition of Resident and Business

Associations in City of Melbourne and Fitzroy in collaboration with Museum Victoria.

Location: Melbourne Museum lower ground floor and Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens

- A special initiative in 2014 is the local primary schools' participation program. Come along during the day to hear the stories and see the creations produced by the students.
- Public Forum on **Federation, Democracy and the World Heritage Royal Exhibition Building and Gardens**: 12:30 – 3:30 includes a tour of the Royal Exhibition Building. Limited places, bookings essential. <http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whatson/>
- DIY tours of the REB and Carlton Gardens – download the MV TOURS *Walking through History* app from: www.museumvictoria.com.au/apps

Museum Victoria booking office 131102 (Victoria only)

www.fitzroyresidents.org.au

www.residents3000.net.au

www.carltonresidents.org.au

www.carlton.vic.au

Help work towards the development of this world heritage site – join:

Friends of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens - www.frebcbg.com.au

The Friends of the Royal Exhibition Buildings and Carlton Gardens 'Your World Heritage Site' is dedicated to the promotion and protection of Victoria's world heritage listed REB&CG and environs and to stimulating and nurturing respect for our cultural heritage.

IT'S TIME TO JOIN CRA : DO IT TODAY!

Now Joining/rejoining CRA is even easier!

Do it online via the following link -

<http://www.trybooking.com/DXAZ>

OR, if you prefer to make an EFT payment -
CRA Direct Credit Details: Bendigo Bank, BSB: 633 000
Account No.: 146960570.

Please ensure all details are included for EFT membership payments.

If you love Carlton but do not reside or own property in postcode 3053,

Please join as a 'Friend of Carlton'.

VCAT

Update

CoM Reference TP 2013-736

152-154 Queensberry Street: listed in planning on page 5.

This is now with VCAT. A hearing scheduled for May.

VCAT reference: P83/2014

Planning and Development

Applications

At the beginning of each month, the CRA's planning sub-committee meets to consider the previous month's planning applications for the 3053 postcode area. The committee is particularly alert to the following:

- overlooking or any other loss of amenity to neighbouring properties
- loss of amenity to the wider surrounding area (bulk, aesthetics, car parking)
- whether the application complies with the council's heritage overlay and height restrictions
- internal amenity (chiefly in multi-dwelling developments)

The City of Melbourne has an easy to use online search facility for the Planning Register, which provides up-to-date information on the status of a Planning Permit or current application, searching by application number or address.

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/BuildingandPlanning/Planning/Pages/PlanningRegisterSearch.aspx>

If you are aware of developments needing attention, please contact the Planning Committee: planningcra@gmail.com

APP No./ADDRESS	DETAILS OF WORK/CRA INTEREST
Carried Forward - from May - October 2013	
TP-2013-317- 63 Nicholson St- Objection	4 storey residence at the rear of the shop on the corner of Faraday St - an overdevelopment of the site, unsympathetic to the Faraday Streetscape and heritage values. CoM still awaiting the submission of a redesign.
TP-2013-574- 138-150 Rathdowne St - Issued	Permit issued with comprehensive list of conditions, CRA's concern with east wall treatment addressed.
TP-2013-630- 15-31 Pelham St - Objection	Convert offices to residences and increase existing 4 storey building to 8. CRA's objections included – scale, height, bulk, surrounding heritage considerations including REB world heritage buffer zone, amenity issues for adjacent dwellings. CoM received 60 plus objections, still assessing.
TP-2013-709- 100 Drummond St - Issued	Applicant submitted a redesign, CRA's concerns addressed and withdrew objection.
TP-2013-736- 152 Queensberry St - Refused Appealed	Proposed 16 storey residential building. Applicant appealed CoM Decision. CoM to defend decision at VCAT with support of CRA & other objectors.
TP-2013-847- 350 Cardigan St – No Objection	CRA had been awaiting further information. No grounds for objection.
November – 15 Applications – 2 Objections	
TP-2013-893- 106 Queensberry St- Objection	6 storey apartment building. Virtually same building envelope as previously approved permit for an hotel. CRA objected to overlooking adjacent residence and bland treatment of north wall. Permit issued addressing overlooking, but not wall treatment. Decision appealed by another objector, on amenity grounds. Destined for VCAT unless settled by mediation.
TP-2013-947- 123-127 Bouverie St/ 116-128 Leicester St - Objection	15 Storey student accommodation. Proposed 49 metres exceeds the 40 metre control of DDO 61(adopted but not gazetted) CoM assessing.
December– 8 Applications – 0 Objections	
January 2014 - 5 Applications – 0 Objections	
February- 6 Applications – Monitoring 3	Insufficient information available for assessing 3 applications

Topical issues

Local Government Electoral Review

A letter to *The Age* regarding current considerations on municipal amalgamations:

Ditch dictatorial approach

If municipal amalgamations are once again on the agenda, could we ditch the Kennett dictatorial approach? Here's a radical thought: could constituents actually have a say? And could we first get the electoral basics right? Before tinkering with municipal boundaries, what about we first reinstate equitable representative democracy in the City of Melbourne? Its electoral system is a disgrace on many levels. Widely acknowledged as grossly inadequate and inequitable, the system delivers a pro-business gerrymander condoned over successive elections by all mainstream political parties. It evolved to deliver state government control of the capital and this involved prioritising business interests over residents' rights to equitable representation. The ever hopeful but generally cynical constituents of Melbourne now await the outcome of an independent local government electoral review. Let's hope justice and democracy prevail and that Minister Jeanette Powell has sufficient political will to restore local government democracy in Melbourne.

Jackie Watts, councillor, City of Melbourne
The Age, 5 January 2014

Community News

CRA members receive Order of Australia Medals (OAM)

Paul Mees

We're delighted that the outstanding contributions of the late Professor Paul Mees have been acknowledged with an OAM. Paul was transport academic extraordinaire, indefatigable campaigner of heroic proportions, and, we are proud to say, friend of CRA. Paul died on 19 June 2013 following a battle with cancer. Extensive obituaries were published in *The Age*, 22 June 2013 and in *Newsflash*, Winter 2013.

The OAM citation reads:

Dr Paul Andrew Mees (deceased) For service to public transport and urban planning as an academic and advocate for creating sustainable cities. (*The Age* 26 Jan 2014)

Paul's plaque has been installed at the Melbourne Cemetery, at tree number 6 on Entrance Avenue. A large photo of Paul hangs on a pillar over *his* table at The Clyde, where his family and friends continue to gather and celebrate Paul.

Terence Lane

Terry is a member of CRA and Coordinator of the Melbourne Cemetery Reference Group. We are of course

absolutely delighted, and heartily congratulate Terry on this acknowledgement of his contributions.

The citation reads:

Terence Frances Lane Carlton, Vic. For service to the arts, particularly fine and decorative art. (*The Age* 26 Jan 2014)

Si parla italiano

The documentary film about the history of Lygon Street *Si parla italiano* is just great. A DVD should be available from Readings in April/May.

TUESDAY 15 APRIL

private viewing of

LYGON STREET: SI PARLA ITALIANO

at the *Nova*,

followed by a glass of wine across the road

at the iconic *Jimmy Watson's*.

Even if you have already seen the film about this fascinating chapter in Melbourne's history, it more than warrants a second viewing, and you will be part of the conviviality and conversation that constitutes Lygon St.

DiMattina's Restaurant

In a former life, DiMattina's restaurant in Lygon Street was known as Princi's. The owner was Joe Princi, a local identity and card player, known affectionately as Black Joe. Eighteen years ago, under new ownership and management by the DiMattina family, Princi's received a face-lift and a new beginning.

Today's 'elder statesmen' in the restaurant are brother and sister Angela and Frank DiMattina. Their children - Frank's son Paul, and Angela's son Xavier - provide daily management, while Angela and Frank maintain a presence, keep the books and provide 'a general overview'. Their story, and that of the restaurant, involves the fruit and vegetable trade, the sporting world and community associations. Threaded through these connections are the given names of Frank and Angela.

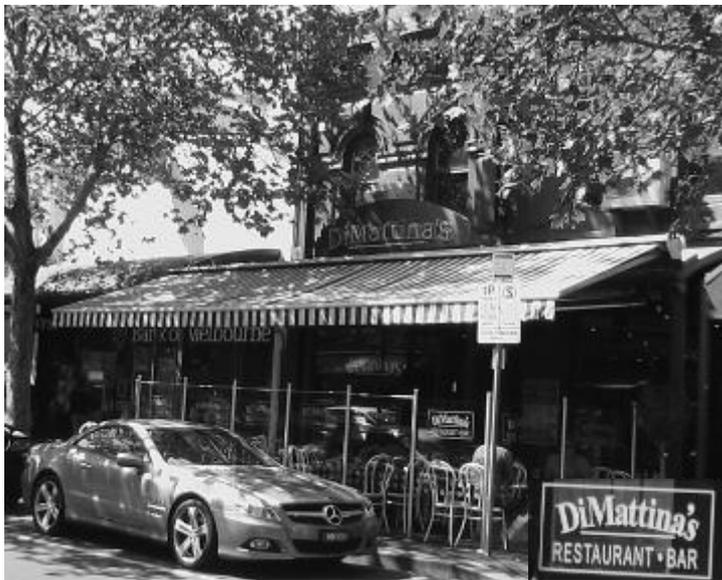
The father of the current 'elder statesmen', Frank and Angela, also known as Frank (his wife was Angelina and Frank junior's wife is Angela) ran a wholesale fruit and vegetable business in Peel Street, North Melbourne. His job involved visits to the growers who supplied the trade, many of them in the Italian communities around Mildura and Swan Hill. The social and business connections made by Frank senior continue to this day, with country visitors as frequent customers in the restaurant.

The sporting connection is provided by today's elder statesman, Frank junior, who played AFL football for Richmond in the 1960s. The association continues through his sons: Paul has played for the Western Bulldogs and Andrew for Collingwood. A number of AFL teams and personalities continue to meet in the restaurant. The

presence of these football identities in DiMattina's is a great attraction for local sports fans.

Angela is a former president of the Carlton Traders Association and has formed strong ties with its members. The Association has made representations to the Melbourne City Council on issues such as parking meters in Lygon Street and the activities of street spruikers. It felt the one hour parking meter limit was too short for people to eat and shop in a leisurely fashion, and that spruikers deterred visitors to Lygon Street. The Association also supported restrictions on further restaurant development, believing a range of shops and services attracts tourists and benefits locals. The restaurant currently supports community groups by hosting meetings of the Carlton Residents Association and of the Melbourne Market Lions Club. This club was founded by Angela and Frank's older brother Dom and by Pat La Manna. Dom is the current president, and Frank is the vice president.

DiMattina's is not the only restaurant run by the family in Lygon Street. Angela and Frank managed Il Gambero, a famous pizza and pasta restaurant for more than 20 years until it burned to the ground in August 2009. This event, says Angela, 'was like losing a member of the family', as Il Gambero 'had a particular ambience and homeliness'. Rebuilding on the site was not possible as the original building had been put together from two small shop fronts, rented from separate landlords. The previous Il Gambero has been revived as Il Gambero on the Park with Frank's son, Frankie, and Frankie's cousin, Mark, as the co-owner chefs. Todd Watson and Anthony Ierna are also co-owners, responsible for front-of-house management.



The central position of DiMattina's on Lygon Street between Grattan and Faraday Streets makes it a Carlton landmark. Today it has a contemporary, dark wood interior with low lighting. Whilst Il Gambero on the Park offers a more traditional Italian menu, DiMattina's menu is described as 'Italian with an international flavour'. It includes seafood and pasta, and dishes such as crispy skinned pork belly with a cherry reduction. Its elegant interior and interesting menu attract a range of tourists and passers-by.

The secret of the family's restaurants, according to Frank and Angela, is 'to get the social side right' - to remember names and to greet people when they arrive. It's also very important to offer quick service, especially for lunch, when people have limited time. The DiMattinas are able to offer this service in both restaurants as they have a stable staff and an efficient preparation system. They are proud of this, and of their friendly atmosphere, promising customers they will receive good food, good service, and a warm welcome.

DiMattina's Restaurant

360 Lygon Street
Carlton

Hours: 11.30 am – 11.00 pm every day of the week.

Function room available

Parking rates available

For a Sustainable Carlton Neighbourhood

Do you live, work or study in Carlton?
Are you interested in sustainable living?

You could transform Carlton into a more sustainable suburb by becoming an Eco-Champion and contributing to your community!

Yes you can!

Take part in **One Planet Carlton**

<http://www.carlton.vic.au/eco-carlton-what-is-on.htm>

and get free training with food provided and the opportunity to receive free products to try out at home.

Our December Raffle

We would like to thank all the community businesses that donated to our famous Christmas Raffle. They included: **Flinders Hotel** on the Mornington Peninsula, a luxurious night's stay and breakfast for two.

Taradale House, Taradale (near Kyneton), a wonderful weekend escape to 1870s French Provincial style accommodation and meals.

Cosi French Restaurant, 268 Toorak Road, South Yarra, a grand Dinner for Two.

Pickford Pharmacy, Elgin St, a parcel of exotic personal products.

Casa Del Gelato a magnificent ice cream cake, made and decorated to order.

Jimmy Watson's Lygon St, two bottles of excellent Jimmy Watson label wine.

Avia Hair, Faraday St, a special cut, shampoo and style.

The ARK, Australian Clothing Company in Rathdowne St, an exquisite hand-printed silk scarf.

La Mama Theatre, two double passes to a play of choice.

Bottega Tasca, three great bottles of wine.

Lygon Court Newsagent, an aromatic candle and a cute soft toy.

Carlton Gardens Tennis Club, a voucher for 2 hours of court hire, also 1 hour of professional tennis coaching.

Safeway a \$20 voucher

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