



Autumn 2012

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Community News

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Supported by the Community
Services Grants Program



A Library and Community Centre for Carlton at KSC is now a reality!



New chapter opens

*Carlton community representatives, with Cr Jackie Watts, outside KS
(photo courtesy Melbourne Leader)*

Years of campaigning by CRA, together with Carlton Arts, Business and Schools communities, has finally borne fruit. On 8 May, Melbourne Council voted unanimously to redevelop the Kathleen Syme Centre as a full-service library with social programs, and shared areas for training, learning and community services.

May we express our deep appreciation to the Council, and most sincere thanks to CRA members, La Mama, Readings, Carlton Gardens Primary School and the broader Carlton community, for staying with the long-term vision of a Library/Community Centre for the entire community.

Considerable flexible space will be available throughout each day and evening for a range of different activities and services. This will be of huge benefit to the many service providers who would not otherwise have access to this community space

The next stage is for Council management to present a concept design and management options for KSC to the Future Melbourne Committee in August 2012. The project will be overseen by the Major Projects Advisory Committee, which includes Councillors.

JOIN CRA TODAY

Reference Group Reports

Corba: see www.carltonresidents.org.au

Streetscapes

Neill Street Reserve

A draft concept plan has been released by the Council for the degraded Neill Street Reserve near the Rathdowne St. Public Housing Estate. A community square, new trees, park furniture, new pathways and recreation facilities are included. This is a major makeover for this important public park in Carlton.

For more information please refer to:
www.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Tree planting

The Council is currently planting 3000 trees across the city. Tree diversity strategy ensures no more than 5% of one tree species is planted within a particular municipality. (see http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Sustainability/UrbanForest/Documents/Draft_Urban_Forest_Strategy.pdf p.36). In Carlton, 85 new trees will be planted in Leicester Street. Residents will be advised before tree planting commences. Plantings are also planned for Queensberry Street.

Because of decay and damage, one mature elm tree was removed from Royal Parade, Parkville.

An 'Exceptional Tree' register has been developed by the Council with the assistance of a consultant arborist and expert panel. Recommendations that 166 individual trees be registered, together with four tree groups, on both public and private property, are scheduled to be endorsed by Council on July 12. Tree nominations will remain open right up until the formal planning scheme amendment is sought – and beyond in later versions of the register. http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Sustainability/UrbanForest/Documents/Exceptional_Tree_Register_FAQs.pdf



Apple Myrtles planned for Queensberry Street

Carlton Gardens and REB

Federal funding for Royal Exhibition Building

CRA, together with the Fitzroy Residents Association, have campaigned for years to restore and protect the REB and Carlton Gardens, with a particular interest in re-opening the observation deck at the base of the Dome as a visitor attraction.



Adam Bandt, Federal Member for Melbourne, at the funding announcement 15 May 2012

Federal Member for Melbourne, Adam Bandt MHR, liaised with Prime Minister Julia Gillard's office to obtain \$20m in this year's federal budget for the restoration and maintenance of the Royal Exhibition Building. The funding boost will enable Melbournians to fully honour our political history, recognize the building's World Heritage value, protect the restored gardens, and celebrate this great icon of democracy in Melbourne. Visitors will again be able to stand on the rooftop of this remarkable building and take in the city's much-changed skyline.

Federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke MHR, who is responsible for heritage, said that, whilst there were many worthy heritage buildings, the Royal Exhibition Building had a unique social and political history.

Adam Bandt pointed out that it is the 111th anniversary of the first sitting of the Australian Parliament in the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton Gardens. As well as recognition of the birthplace of the Australian Parliament, with appropriate signage and information for visitors, Mr Bandt would like to see appropriate acknowledgement and interpretation of our Indigenous history, restoration of the external dome walkway, protection of the heritage gardens and a democracy education centre.

PCCC - Police Community Consultative Committee **Crime statistics for Melbourne**

Inspector Paul Ross from Melbourne West police reports that the latest crime statistics see a slight increase in total crime for the Melbourne Local Area Command. However, this is largely attributed to the increase in detected drug offences as a result of police operations conducted in this area. The assault rates per 100,000 continue to lower, but robbery offences have increased. This has been monitored for some time and in early May Operation North Bank was launched. Officers in this unit are experienced plain clothes police specifically targeting robbery. Although too early to provide a thorough evaluation, results so far have been very pleasing, with known offenders arrested and offences reduced.

Safe Streets Taskforce patrols continue to work with our community partners and stakeholders. We are also committed to ensuring that vulnerable people in our community are referred to the appropriate agencies so that they receive the best chance of intervention and eventually move away from crime or anti-social behaviour.

Melbourne remains the major public event capital of Australia, continuing to draw record numbers of people to sporting and public events. Victoria Police continues to work to retain Melbourne's coveted reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities.

Traffic, Transport and Parking

Public Transport Development Authority

One of the more innovative promises of the Baillieu Government was the establishment of a Public Transport Development Authority, named Public Transport Victoria (PTV), to take over *Metlink* and most functions of the Public Transport Dept. PTV was finally established on 2 April 2012; its CEO Mr Ian Dobbs was appointed in August 2011. He oversaw the Kennett Government's public transport bureaucracy from 1993, including privatisation of the train and tram systems in 1999.

Will we see a new era in public transport policy and performance? As senior appointments within the PTV are largely from the State transport bureaucracy, responsible for the current system, expectations are not high. New ideas and directions are desperately needed in public transport; community expectations for change must be addressed by PTV. According to Dr Paul Mees (RMIT transport expert) the rail system operates at just half capacity even at peak times, 'there is enormous scope to increase services'.

One of Mr Dobbs' immediate tasks was to confront delays in major rail and bus projects through a 'review of project delivery'. Transport Minister, Terry Mulder, was vocal

about 'Labor's incompetence' on project delivery (*myki*, radio system, signalling, rolling stock, time tables) when he was Opposition Transport spokesman, however the entrenched problems have continued under his administration. Major job cuts of up to 40% have been foreshadowed for the 665 strong Transport Department. The impact of this on public transport planning, management and project delivery is unclear.

Also announced was a *myki* card for visitors, which would include access to key tourist attractions at a cost of \$14 per day. This will counter some of the criticisms regarding public transport accessibility for visitors when *Metcard* is phased out later this year. *Myki* will then be the sole ticketing system. For the first time ever, it will be impossible to purchase tickets on-board trams and buses. Apparently we will all need a stock of cashed up *myki* cards for use by visiting family and friends. Overseas visitors will be familiar with ticketing systems elsewhere around the globe, which operate with a fraction of the hassle the costly \$1.4 billion *myki* system now promises.

In other transport news, the Baillieu Government announced that bike networks would not attract further funding support at this time.

High-tech parking meter failure

Council plans to automate the monitoring of the city's thousands of car parking meters, have run into major technical problems. Glitches with the \$5.5 million vehicle number plate recognition technology and in-ground sensors means parking tickets could be questionable in the Courts. It is estimated \$8.3 million revenue has been lost to the Council during the 2011-12 period. The new technology aimed to substantially reduce the need for inspectors to monitor parking compliance, however current technical problems have required the appointment of 13 additional inspectors.

Parking meter revenue and fines are a lucrative source of Council income. Currently the council is owed a total of \$27 million in long standing unpaid fines.

Traffic signal upgrades

The Council has undertaken significant safety enhancements at two busy Carlton intersections:

- Traffic lights at the Elgin-Cardigan Streets intersection, a regular site for accidents, will be installed. This intersection will shortly handle much more traffic because of the new *Lume Carlton* housing development at the northern end of Cardigan Street.
- Traffic signals at the Queensberry-Rathdowne Streets intersection will be re-modelled to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety from turning vehicles.

We are very grateful for this important work.

Reference Group Reports

Traffic, Transport and Parking (cont)

East-West Roads Link: first sod turned

In a surprise announcement on 1 May 2012, the Baillieu Government approved the controversial East-West Road Link from the Eastern Freeway (tunnel proposed by Sir Rod Eddington in 2007), as its top priority transport project. This project was soundly rejected by the community in 2008. On 17 May this year, Premier Baillieu officiated at a ceremony in Alexandra Parade marking commencement of geotechnical drilling of 50 boreholes in preparation for construction of the \$10 billion Link. Around 50 protesters with banners attracted extensive media publicity by picketing the drilling site. These preliminary \$15 million works are being funded by the State Treasury; the Federal Government refused to fund the project (*Protectors of Public Lands* and *Public Transport Users Association* members had earlier visited Canberra to lobby against Federal funding support). The Premier claims the Link will be attractive to the PPP (Public Private Partnership) infrastructure industry. However in the current stressed financial climate, meaningful progress on it is unlikely, even if commercial partners can be found.



Pro-train Rally, Alexandra Parade, drill rig in background (YCAT photo)

Despite pre-election rhetoric favoring public transport, and a current options study on the long-deferred rail line to Doncaster, the Baillieu Government has now fully embraced the failed road-centric policies of the Brumby Government, which it ridiculed when in Opposition. The East-West Road

Link has been a pet project of the roads and infrastructure lobby for years, despite its failure to address the priority transport needs of Melbourne. It is unclear if the tunnel is to be a bypass for the 15% of freeway traffic destined east-west, or as a feeder for the 70% of traffic destined for the CBD. This proposal would require massively destructive on-off ramps at many intersections along Alexandra Parade and Princes Street. Whatever the outcome, this project will not solve traffic congestion and will further degrade parkland and the environment. Its benefit-cost ratio, of 50 cents per dollar spent, had earlier condemned it as financially unviable. The Link decision ignores local air pollution, global warming and peak oil implications; it will further entrench Melbourne's unsustainable car-dominated transport culture.

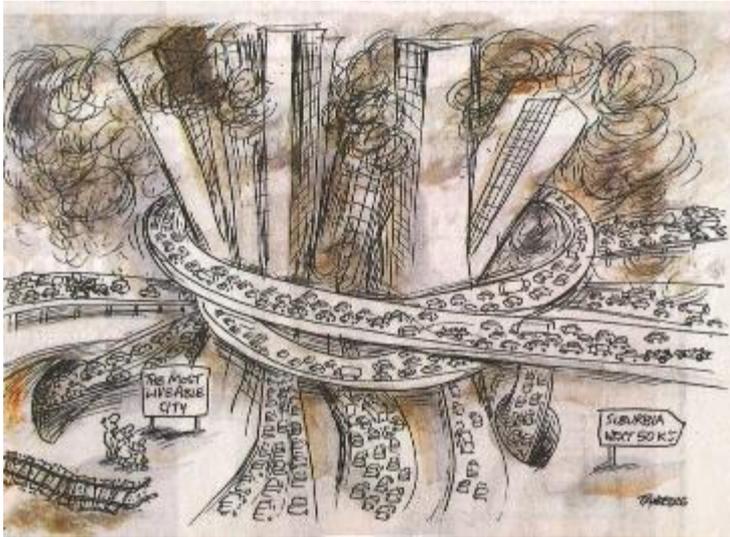
Commencement of the Link spells a death knell for the long-discussed Doncaster rail proposal. Recent lobbying for increased road capacity on the Eastern Freeway will likely see the rail reservation converted to freeway lanes. Improved bus services to the eastern suburbs are now the priority, not a rail service to provide an efficient public transport option for the thousands of driver-only commuters who dominate freeway traffic.

Many CRA members attended an overflowing public meeting at the Dan O'Connell Hotel on 2 May, hosted by the Federal Member for Melbourne, Adam Bandt MP, to discuss the Link. Expert speakers provided details of the poorly conceived and costly project (Eddington Tunnel and/or flyover roads), fielded questions on it and the alternative cost-effective rail line to Doncaster (see many CRA *Newsflash* articles since 2008). The project will have massive impacts on Carlton and suburbs to the east and west. A campaign to oppose the Link, along the lines of successful actions of 2008, has been instituted by the Yarra Campaign Against the Tunnel (YCAT), together with wholehearted support for the rail line to Doncaster.

One of CRA's most immediate tasks was to address the Council on its draft Melbourne Transport Strategy update on 8 May, to encourage it to oppose the Link and fully support the rail line to Doncaster. Whilst the Council remains equivocal about the Road Link, it agreed to oppose road works which impacts parkland, and to actively support Doncaster rail. CRA will continue to collaborate with residents' groups along the length of the Road Link in a concerted effort to gain funding priority for public transport over roads, and to further expose the myth that more roads will solve traffic congestion. We plan to host a Public Meeting in Carlton when appropriate.

'TRAINS NOT TOLLWAYS'

For further information please see: www.ycat.org.au and www.ptua.org.au



*Is this our car dominated transport future? (court
(courtesy The Age)*

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT ON JULY 21

Planning and Development

Each month, the committee considers the current planning applications for the 3053 postcode, addressing issues that threaten 'loss of amenity', e.g. car parking, compliance with heritage overlay, and residential diversity. Access up-to-date information on the status of a Planning Permit or current application at:

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

If you are aware of developments which may need attention please contact the Planning Committee:

planningcra@gmail.com

Summary: Since the last Newsflash, the Planning Sub-Committee has reviewed 36 Planning Applications for Carlton, and submitted 3 objections to the City of Melbourne.

The number of applications and associated objections appear to reflect a reduced level of activity in the construction and development industry.

APP No./ADDRESS	DETAILS OF WORK/CRA INTEREST
February – 6 Applications; 3 objections TP-2011-46/A 22-128 Berkeley Street, Carlton	Amend condition 5 to extend trading hours until 10pm Monday to Saturday Objection on 1 ground: Amenity. residential properties will be affected by increased traffic and noise Status: Original permit conditions altered (hours were granted but new conditions added to stop the use of the rear lane at all times)
TP-2011-294 411-415 Cardigan Street	Demolition of the existing building and construction of a four storey building for the purposes of five apartments and associated car parking. Objection on 3 grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage – Clause 22.05 of MPS – new development should be respectful • Height and Street Setback – Clause 22.05 higher rear parts of building not concealed in Level 1 streetscape Amenity – visual bulk and overlooking Status: Under assessment – 3 objections
TP-2011-805 93 Barkly St	Partial demolition and construction of 3 storey addition to existing dwelling Objection on 2 grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overdevelopment and Visual bulk • Development not respectful of streetscape Status: Advertising (13 objections)
March – 9 Applications; 0 objection	
April – 10 Applications; 0 objection	
May – 11 Applications; 0 objections	

The full details of these objections can be accessed on the CRA website: www.carltonresidents.org.au

Planning and Development (cont)

Yet another planning regime

Over the past 20 years of State planning policy we've seen *The good design guide* (Kennett), *melbourne2030* (Bracks), *melbourne@5million* (Brumby) and now *planmelbourne* (Baillieu).

The common theme in all these planning policies has been to expedite development, increase urban densities, undermine heritage protection and provide 'certainty' to the planning process. CRA has had to deal with all these policies and their implications. Although former planning regimes were claimed to be for the 'long-term', each lasted only a few years.

On 11 May 2012, Planning Minister Matthew Guy announced in a media release 'Government declares war on planning red tape'. Mr Guy was responding to recommendations on planning by his *Victorian Planning System Ministerial Advisory Committee*. In essence, the Government has agreed to:

- Reduce the complexity and time for rezoning
- Introduce 'Code Assessment', called *VicSmart*, for simple, low impact applications (yet to be fully defined)
- Simplify complex and lengthy planning regulations
- Provide 'flexibility' to farmers and rural communities
- Require improved planning performance by Councils and State Government authorities.

Much of this new 'fast track' planning regime was already in the pipeline during the Brumby administration. It takes away many traditional notification and appeal rights and introduces codified planning, including for some multi-unit developments. CRA's ability to challenge inappropriate development could be seriously compromised under Code Assessment. Professor Michael Buxton, RMIT planning expert, suggests 'mandated height limits' would be a simple and much more effective solution to current planning conflicts than Code Assessment. Development debate and Council workload could be significantly reduced through mandated heights.

Interestingly, the ALP, now in opposition, is very critical of planning processes it proposed and was implementing when in government.

CRA representatives attended a recent meeting of the State-wide Group 'Planning Backlash' which is responding to the new planning regime with an alternative, residents' based viewpoint 'Planning Melbourne 2012'. It includes the need for a sustainable population policy and appropriate infrastructure development. To simply cram more people into Melbourne in the name of economic development, regardless of impacts, is unacceptable to a broad cross-section of the community. Council planning authority will likely be emasculated under *planmelbourne*.

More information at : www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au

New Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) Update

The Panel appointed by the Minister for planning to consider the proposed Amendment C 162 and submissions relevant to it, has released its report which can be viewed online at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/futuregrowth.

CRA's submission to the panel was substantially the same as the earlier one lodged with the CoM during the consultative process in 2010. www.carltonresidents.org.au

The panel acknowledged the concern, expressed by CRA and another submitter, relating to the designation of "on-going change" and "stable" areas. It commented that it was unclear as to the differentiation between the terms and cited examples of inconsistency / ambiguity. (refer page 44 of the report).

The panel subsequently recommended:

"On the Growth Framework Plan delete the designations of 'on going change' and 'stable'. Retain the existing directions of the local area plans for Carlton and North and West Melbourne."

VCAT Presentations

Saved at VCAT:



Heritage terrace house, 69-71 Drummond Street

Public Housing

The current State Government has finally acknowledged that the current model of providing public housing for the most vulnerable in our society is unsustainable. As a result, two discussion papers were commissioned. The first by the Government, which is titled "**Pathways to a Fair and Sustainable Social Housing System**" and the second paper by consultants KPMG titled "**A Discussion Paper on the Options to Improve the Supply of Quality Housing**"

These papers have been released for public consultation,

with submissions due in late July. The inevitable changes to the way social housing is provided are likely to be dramatic and controversial. The discussion papers are informative, even if verbose. The content of these papers can be viewed at.

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/plans,-programs-and-projects/plans-and-strategies/housing-and-community-building/Pathways-to-a-new-Victorian-social-housing-framework/public-housing-tenant-consultation2

The issue has serious ramifications for both the social housing tenants and the public in general, the latter, from both the compassionate viewpoint and as taxpayers funding whatever program is deemed to be the solution.

Topical issues

By-election for Melbourne, Saturday 21 July 2012

We face a tightly contested by-election on Saturday July 21 because of the unexpected resignation by long-standing State member for Melbourne, Bronwyn Pike. Ms Pike was elected in 1999 and held several senior ministerial positions until the State Election in 2010; she has been a 'backbencher' since that time. Her decision to quit and force a by-election has drawn criticism from senior ALP figures. Ms Pike says she resigned to give the ALP an opportunity to 'renew itself'. It is hoped that CRA can develop a genuinely productive relationship with the next member for Melbourne

With the probable Liberal Party decision not to run a candidate in Melbourne (the ALP has held Melbourne since the seat was established in 1908) the contest will be primarily between Ms Jennifer Kanis, ALP, and Ms Cathy Oke, Greens. Both women are current councillors for the City of Melbourne and are well known to CRA. We have had positive dealings with both of them. The Council vacancy likely to be created by the By-Election will not be filled prior to Council Elections scheduled for October 2012.

A 'Melbourne Cup' field of candidates is expected with interlinking preference deals. Manningham Cr Stephen Mayne, has nominated as an 'independent' Liberal, indicating he will preference the Greens. DLP and Family First candidates have also nominated. With the ALP and Greens enjoying similar electoral support in Melbourne, preferences will probably determine the outcome, though Labor strategists have promised to 'throw the kitchen sink' at the Greens to retain the long-held seat. Nominations close on 22 June.

Issues in the Melbourne Electorate include the East-West

Road Link, rail line to Doncaster, planning, population growth and density, public transport, traffic congestion, global warming, reunification of Carlton, health and safety, community resources, and sustainability matters.

CRA will again collaborate with Dr John Evans, Church of All Nations, to host a 'Meet the Candidates Forum', on Monday 9 July, 7.30pm. CRA members and friends are encouraged to attend and participate in this important community forum.

Community News

• **Graffiti vandals convicted**

Four male graffiti vandals, ranging in age from 22 to 39, have been convicted of defacing buildings and property across the city. Deputy Chief Magistrate, Mr Dan Muling, said each man had damaged and defaced property: 'What you have done is a blight on our society'. He sentenced the ringleader to 12 months jail with a bill of \$40,000 to clean up the graffiti he created. His three co-offenders were sentenced to unpaid community work of up to 400 hours each to clean up graffiti, plus substantial fines.

CRA regularly reports graffiti to the Council for cleaning. The cost of its removal in Melbourne now approaches an astronomical \$1 million per annum and offenders are very difficult to apprehend. Please phone 000 to report graffiti vandalism.

• **News from La Mama**

The La Mama Courthouse from June 5-17th was taken over by an eccentric misfit and his magical contraption. With daytime performances, *Squaring the Wheel* was a great one for the kids. The play brought together circus skills, puppetry, magic, wacky mechanisms, unexpected music and audience participation.

Don't miss out on the next holiday program for kids.

The Courthouse was transformed into a place of war time storytelling. Based on true events, *Of Words and War* followed four young German women who serve at an air force base in the dying days of WWII. They begin to write their memories and recover the youth that was torn away from them, but an unexpected occurrence forces them to examine beliefs never questioned before.

For session times and bookings please go to www.lamama.com.au or call the bookings line on 9347 6142: tickets \$25 Full | \$15 Concession. CRA members will receive the concession rate if they identify themselves as members when they book.

**Contact CRA
PO Box 1140 , Carlton, 3053
carltonresidents@gmail.com**

• **The Ian Potter Museum of Art**

(map ref 8-C) The University of Melbourne, Swanston Street (between Elgin and Faraday streets), Parkville, 3010. 03 8344 5148 fax 9349 3518. potter-info@unimelb.edu.au www.art-museum.unimelb.edu.au

Director: Dr Chris McAuliffe. Free entry. Tues–Fri 10.00 to 5.00, Sat–Sun 12.00 to 5.00.

We will be closed from 23 July to 2 August (inclusive) for installation.

EXHIBITIONS

Visions past and present: celebrating 40 years to 26 Aug

Visions: selected landscapes from the Russell and Mab Grimwade 'Miegunyah' Collection to 22 Jul 2012

Post-planning: Damiano Bertoli, Julian Hooper, Andrew Hurlle, Alex Martinis Roe, Michelle Nikou to 22 July

Inner worlds: portraits and psychology to 22 July

Classic art of ancient Cyprus to 17 Oct

August Basil Sellers Art Prize 2012 from the 3 August

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND LECTURES

40TH anniversary Tuesday Talks:

To coincide with its 40th anniversary the Potter will be presenting a series of nine talks on the third Tuesday of each month until November 2012. The talks will focus on a key work, presented by Potter curatorial staff, university academics and special guest speakers. Check our website for details.

Free Public lecture by Dr Giorgos Georgiou, Senior Archaeologist of the Cyprus Department of Antiquities.

New light on prehistoric Nicosia: evidence from recent excavations

Tuesday 10 July, 6 – 7.30pm

Theatre A, Elisabeth Murdoch Building,

University of Melbourne

RSVP essential: potter-events@unimelb.edu.au

<potter-events@unimelb.edu.au> or 03 8344 0327



Red polished ware juglet with incised decoration Vounous, Cyprus, Early Cypriot III to Middle Cypriot I, c. 2000–1800 BCE. The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Cypriot

• **Local Legends Honoured**

We are delighted that Liz Jones, CEO and Artistic Director of La Mama, received an Order of Australia (AO) in the Queen’s Birthday Honours, for her 40 years of ‘distinguished service to the performing arts’.

Ms Mary Parfrey, Manager, Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre, and Leading Senior Constable, Nick Parissis (our much loved local ‘copper’), have also been

honoured as *Outstanding Community Leaders* by the Carlton Rotary Club, in recognition of their wonderful contributions to our community. Hearty congratulations to Liz, Mary and Nick



Nick Parissis addressing a CRA Xmas Party at La Mama

• **The Poppy Shop**

A Poppy Shop customer says she’d like a puzzle for an elderly man with restricted hand movements. Pat Knox, the Poppy Shop’s owner, locates two suitable puzzles and the customer buys both. The next client says she has been coming to the shop since her daughter was born 40 years ago. She’s now buying a gift for a grandchild and would like a toy in multiple parts suitable for a treasure hunt. Pat suggests a threading toy, a three dimensional puzzle, and a set of glitter stickers. These customer requests are everyday ones for Pat and her staff, who have been finding ‘the right toy’ and ‘the right gift’ for Lygon Street shoppers for the last 40 years

The Poppy Shop is notable in Lygon Street because it is one of the few long-standing independent businesses in the area. Rising rents have now forced small retailers from the street in favour of restaurants and chain stores. Now that its window of bright toys is surrounded by brand names and standard displays, the Poppy Shop is an important reminder of the area’s retail past, in which Lygon Street shops were distinctive in appearance and individually owned.

