



# THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSFLASH

Spring 2008

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## *General Meeting Report*

Our August General Meeting and Dinner was held at DiMattina's. Twenty five members and friends attended this convivial social get-together. Dr Paul Mees (RMIT Planning Dept) was our after dinner speaker on the topic 'Proposed East-West Tunnel'.

Paul regaled us with his insightful knowledge of Melbourne's transport system, its current woes and proposals by Sir Rod Eddington to spend \$18 billion on new roads and tunnels. He highlighted the fact that no new suburban rail lines have been built since 1930; the rail network now carries fewer trains than 50 years ago. Eddington's costly road and rail tunnels cannot be justified by rational analysis of current transport needs or priorities. Paul suggested the State Government is attracted to 'grand' infrastructure projects, funded by Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), because of the immediate political return without near term financial implications for Government coffers. He argued that as 'political' considerations dominate transport planning, community groups (such as CRA) need to get politically active so that local ALP politicians feel some heat on transport issues. A lively discussion and question time followed Paul's informative and entertaining talk. The evening concluded over tea and coffee and Brunetti's usual array of tasty offerings.

*General Meeting Report continued on back page*



## CoRBA

CoRBA- Melbourne is outraged that the Brumby government has chosen to ignore the clear need for a sweeping overhaul of the City of Melbourne Act BEFORE the November election. It is clear, that against the express wishes of the 14 resident and business groups within CoRBA, neither the Brumby government nor Lord Mayor So is prepared to take appropriate corrective action.

CoRBA has consistently argued that another election under the current flawed system will inevitably deliver another dysfunctional Council. Voters are without adequate representation and without the protection of a compulsory electoral review. We are the ONLY municipality without this protection. Although CoRBA successfully persuaded Minister Richard Wynne to address multiple minor amendments to the legislation, he failed to tackle the central flaws which relate to representation, transparency and due process. This omission constitutes a disgraceful disregard for local democracy.

What can be done now that our elected representatives ignore us?

CoRBA is currently working on strategies to ensure that the voters have access to accurate information on the electoral processes and on the intentions of the candidates before the election. CoRBA is adamant that the newly elected Lord Mayor and Councillors immediately call on the State Government to review the City of Melbourne Act so that the voters of this municipality are granted the same rights as those in the rest of Victoria. Nominations close at the end of this month. One huge difficulty with the current system is the vast amount of money and PR expertise required to campaign. Campaign 'marketing' on this uneven municipal playing field is a nightmare. The richest candidates are likely to have the obvious edge in reaching voters and gaining media attention. How can the voters hope to assess the merit of candidates? The fear is that good candidates are reluctant to step forward when costs of competing are prohibitive.

CoRBA is attempting to provide all candidates with opportunities to disseminate information to voters on a free and level playing field through its website.

Take a look and stay-tuned: [corba-melbourne.com](http://corba-melbourne.com)

Thursday 2 Oct. CoRBA finds it regrettable that Premier Brumby continues to heap praise upon the current Council and John So. The Age (2/10) argues that the City of Melbourne is utterly controlled and constrained by the State Government ! Hence the State Government's apparent disregard for resident representation and its consistent support for ever more grandiose developments projects. No wonder CoRBA failed to achieve review of the Council structure. The State Government likes things just the way they are.

## Cultural Precinct Development Fund

Newsflash Spring 2007 detailed CRA submissions to the above fund. Our thoughtfully developed proposals were designed to enhance cultural, commercial and human imperatives of our precinct. All were rejected, largely in favour of City of Melbourne \$2 million funding proposals mainly for "activation of Piazza Italia", including a permanent stage and a power generator. The recently created mound at the western end with its flourishing lawn and trees will be remodelled and a bocce court created (to induce older Italians to visit Carlton and dine in Lygon St. Argyle Sq South will be 'upgraded' with a rotunda in its centre and paths upgraded. Pelham St will be upgraded to encourage visitors from the Museum to the Lygon St restaurants. University St and La Mama Lane will be upgraded, and markers placed at the Elgin and Victoria St ends of Lygon St. to delineate the precinct.

Co.As.It was granted funding towards an Italian Cultural Heritage Centre, and RMIT for Public Arts display at the southern end of the precinct. The primary aim of the fund appears to be to support business activities rather than cultural development.

### **CARLTON POLICE STATION COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM**

An opportunity for the local community to hear from police, covering the following topics

- General Policing Issues in Carlton
- Crime Prevention Strategies
- Community Engagement Programs
- Road Trauma and Traffic Law
- Crime Scene Investigation

There will also be the opportunity to ask questions as well as raise any concerns with police in attendance.

**WEDNESDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2008**

**7:00P.M—9:00P.M**

CO.AS.IT CONFERENCE AND RECEPTION CENTRE  
199 FARADAY STREET CARLTON

Refreshments Provided

Proudly Supported by the Carlton Police Community Consultative Committee

**Please contact** Leading Senior Constable Nick Parissis at Carlton Police Station on 93471377 with any queries.

*The forum will be attended by Assistant Commissioner Gary Jamieson who is the senior police member responsible for the City of Melbourne. The forum will allow the Carlton Community to raise any concerns they may have with force command in respect to policing.*

## Update on Kathleen Syme Centre (KSC)

We continue with our goal to acquire KSC for community purposes in Carlton.

Following Melbourne City Council unanimous vote to purchase the Kathleen Syme building for use as a Carlton Community Centre when RWH assets are sold, Council formally expressed interest with the State Government. Lord Mayor John So and Dr Kathy Alexander, CEO of the City of Melbourne, personally appealed to Health Minister Andrews. The Minister acknowledged Council's interest in acquiring the Centre, but reiterated advice given previously: the services which occupy the KSC are under commercial leasehold with the RWH until 2011. On its expiry protocol for the disposal of public assets will be followed. This is a 'transparent process' which entails the building being offered to other Government Departments. Should none require KSC, the building will be valued by the State Valuer and sold to the highest bidder.

Our appeals to Minister Hon Bronwyn Pike as our local member to use her influence with Minister Andrews in the interests of our community have been unsuccessful.

Several matters deeply concern CRA:

The CoM will not be regarded on a par with other State Government departments in relation to this building. The Minister appears to have no understanding of the particular, site-specific and urgent needs of the Carlton Community for this building.

Others, especially the University of Melbourne, want to buy the building and may deal directly with the State Government. This unique opportunity could be lost to Carlton forever.

The services occupying KSC (e.g. Offices and NICA Neo-natal lecture rooms) are under commercial leasehold arrangements with the RWH until 2011. This does not prevent the building being acquired by the CoM immediately:

Buildings with existing tenancies often change hands. The CoM could acquire the KSC now, with a contract that the health services retain occupation until 2011.

The services currently located at the KSC are not site-specific. Neither Minister Andrews nor RWH management appear to have considered re-locating the tenants to a more appropriate site closer to the relocated RWH or the RCH.

At very least there could be a provisional arrangement in which the Carlton Community has partial or interim use of the KSC. Community access to the building was withdrawn in 2006 on the grounds that the RWH would no longer provide 'security services' for evening meetings. Our request for a meeting with Minister Andrews to present our case has attracted no response to date.

## La Mama Theatre

Monday 15 September saw a full house at the Athenaeum Theatre for the La Mama Benefit Bash, a concert to raise funds to save the La Mama Theatre. The concert, which finished in the early hours of Tuesday morning, was ably and amusingly compered by Rod Quantock and Judy Lucy, and included an amazing array of performers for whom La Mama was an important part of their lives. It raised \$40 000 and the next day, the Federal Government announced a grant of \$175 000, the shortfall required to save the theatre. And so La Mama lives on, to continue to preserve 'its role in the development of emerging young artists'

### What's on at La Mama during October?

<b>Alchemy</b>	Oct 6-8
<b>Simone (!)</b>	Oct 9-11
<b>Confession files</b> 'A night of monologues, poetry, passion and lyrical confession of crimes'	Oct 12-14
<b>Coming soon</b> The end – a light and dark satire of the Mayan Calendar, end time prophecies, Global consciousness and the Global Elite set aboard the World's largest luxury liner	Oct 15-17
<b>Sacred Stage</b>	Oct 18-20
<b>Status Update</b>	Oct 21-23
<b>Where the LAND lies BETWIXT</b> 'An installation-for-performance work'	Oct 24-26
<b>The Watch</b>	Oct 30 – Nov 1

**For further information,**  
go to [www.lamama.com.au](http://www.lamama.com.au)





## *Opportunities for Carlton Network*

The City of Melbourne is sponsoring, through a series of public consultations, the Opportunities for Carlton Network. Its goal is to discern a project or projects which would enhance the life of the community of Carlton – and to which the City of Melbourne would be committed.

The first consultation took place on Wednesday 10 September, 2008 at CO AS IT.

Fifty one people attended – representing a broad cross section of the Carlton Community, from the Residents' Association, government agencies and departments (such as the police and Education Department), community agencies and community groups and the City of Melbourne. The meeting looked at all the issues facing Carlton and began the process of suggesting solutions for these perceived problems.

Many issues were raised. Some were general in nature, such as a concern for personal safety, while others affected the various sub groupings of the suburb, such as the needs of international students or residents of the housing estates and generally how these different “tribes” may relate. Other concerns were about the nature and delivery of community services, while other issues related to the fact that Carlton is important not just for its residents, but also those who visit (the tourists) and those who work in the various institutions within its bounds.

Further consultations and work are planned for later in the year.

## *Vale George Tibbits*

Long time Carlton resident and activist, George Tibbits, died of cancer on 6 July 2008. George was a man of unusually diverse interests and talents: architect, historian and composer. Much of his professional life was at Melbourne University where he was Associate Dean of Architecture; he retired in 1995. He was a leading figure in the Carlton Association during its battles with the Victorian Housing Commission over ‘slum’ reclamation and the development of the Public Housing Estates, in the 1960’s and 70’s. In *Carlton: A History*, his chapter on ‘Slums and Urban Renewal’, is a passionate and personal record of this critical era in our history. George was a founding member of CRA in 1996. His professional skills and long experience as an architectural historian and heritage expert made him an invaluable advisor during our many high profile planning confrontations with developers eg. College Square on Swanston. George generously shared his encyclopaedic knowledge with members during Historic Walks around Carlton and Melbourne University. He will be sorely missed. Our sincere sympathies go to Di and the Tibbits family.

## *Carlton Local Agencies Network (CLAN)*

The Network provides a forum for communication between local agencies and groups.

*Its aims are to:*

- Share information in order to maximise the potential for residents to access local services
- Identify local issues including lobbying and advocacy
- Develop responses to local issues
- Provide opportunities for developing partnerships for specific projects.
- Enable coordination of services and avoiding duplication
- Provide collegiate support to other members and agencies

A recent review saw the development of a new structure of subgroups which meet independently and then report back to CLAN.

*Current sub-groups are:*

- OoH Redevelopment
- Homework/Youth
- African support network (Youth, Men, Women, Camp)
- Ross Trust HOA Men’s project
- Harmony Day celebrations
- L2P – teaching young people and single mothers from the African families to learn to drive
- CHAMP – men’s group – supportive environment for men to meet, possibly a ‘men’s shed’

*Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 1.30pm, rotating agenda and minute taker and chair and host agency. There are regular guest speakers to the meeting and many issues are covered.*

*Current issues being discussed by CLAN include:*

- Possible installation of cross-over pedestrian crossing on Princes Street
- Participation in the Opportunities for Carlton Network
- L2P – Project to support Horn of Africa women and young people to learn to drive
- End of Ramadan Celebrations
- Men’s Health Group
- Community Safety Forum

***For further information about CLAN,***  
*visit the CLAN page on the CRA website, or contact Mary Palfrey, Manager of the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre on [maryp@cnlc.org.au](mailto:maryp@cnlc.org.au)*

## *Student Housing Action Co-operative*

Four houses in Faraday St are currently occupied by a student co-operative ('squat'). A spokesperson for the group, Ohad, writes:

'Given the current housing crisis, we were staggered by the absurdity of four empty and functional interconnected terraces which sat metres from the main campus of the University of Melbourne. They have been left empty by the University for the past three years (ever since the University counselling service was relocated to Cardigan St).

On the evening of Tuesday 19th August, twenty of us moved into the space. We informed the university and proceeded to create a home. We are a collection of students and activists who share the desire to intervene directly into the housing crisis which affects us. We call ourselves SHAC. Before we moved in, this stood for 'Student Housing Action Collective.' Now we are the 'Student Housing Action Cooperative.'

Our ambitions for the property involve strongly encouraging the establishment of further student housing co-ops; sites whose central concerns are community, self-management, accessibility and affordability.

### *The current situation*

The private market is inaccessible, especially for non-local students (by which we mean international students, students from interstate, students not from the city – in short, all students who need to find a home near university but have no local support networks or communities, no knowledge of whether the amounts asked of them are reasonable or not and – often – no 'references'). The private market also dictates prices without reference to the incomes of students. Large scale corporate housing projects are not much better. These projects exploit international students by charging above and beyond the already ridiculous 'market rates' (we need to overturn the ridiculous notion that all 'international students are rich' – in order to afford such accommodation, many are driven exploitative casualised labour). Further, these buildings can exacerbate the sense of isolation often experienced by international students, especially upon their arrival in Melbourne. Finally, residential colleges are often only accessible to those students from privileged backgrounds. None of these options provides an opportunity for us to achieve our goals: community, self-management, accessibility and affordability.

### *Why the co-op model?*

The co-operative model and the community reachout/creation strategy it employs represent possible elements of a long term plan for the real reduction of housing vulnerability, isolation and, of course, homelessness.

We are already putting this into practice. We have made a conscious effort to open up the space to the local community – we are open for visits and tours every day of the week from 12 to 6 and we host regular community dinners, film screenings, skillshares and forums. We welcome everyone to attend our meetings and join the campaign. As well, we have opened up the space for other groups to use for their own campaigns and events.

***If you wish to become involved in our campaign, or find out more information about us,***  
*please email us at [hachouse@gmail.com](mailto:hachouse@gmail.com) or visit our blog at [shacmelbourne.blogspot.com](http://shacmelbourne.blogspot.com)*



## *Carlton Uni Squat Talks Stall*

Negotiations have stalled between the University of Melbourne and students squatting in the terrace houses, reported Annie Lawson in *The Age*, Oct 9. Although vice-chancellor Glyn Davis has publicly lamented the student housing shortage, nothing has been done, according to the squatters. The students have installed fire alarms, repaired holes in the floors and patched leaking pipes. The not-for-profit organisation Architects for Peace has agreed to plan a renovation so the terraces can accommodate 40 students.

## *Lord Mayoral Elections*

The CRA has been receiving regular calls from candidates seeking our electoral support and an opportunity to address us. However, it is not our policy to endorse particular candidates, and indeed, the full list of nominees is still unknown as nominations do not close until the end of October. CoRBA is planning to interview mayoral candidates individually, with a list of carefully formulated questions. While a debate or 'Meet the Candidates' event involving all candidates could be beneficial, it is difficult to host such an event in Carlton as there is no appropriate public building, compared with facilities at both Melbourne or North Melbourne Town Halls.

## Planning Committee Report

At the beginning of each month, the CRA's planning reference group 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)
- Whether the proposed development threatens residential diversity (e.g. oversupply of student housing)

The economic downturn has been reflected in a sharp decrease in applications to build in the third quarter of 2008. Most applications were for small-scale alterations to existing buildings and there was only one larger project that caught our eye. Once again it is an application to turn terraced housing into cramped student accommodation with no off-street parking. The property concerned is on the north-east corner of Elgin and Cardigan Streets. We were also struck by the speed with which this application was processed – advertising commenced within a week of it being lodged.

CRA objects to the proliferation of speculative student housing in Carlton for several reasons:

- It does nothing to solve the shortage of affordable student housing (see the SHAC article elsewhere in this newsletter)
- It puts added pressure on on-street parking because

it always entails a waiver of normal car parking requirements (the assumption that the category of students who can afford these apartments do not have cars is mistaken)

- The internal amenity is generally woeful and such that it could never be adapted to another purpose, say housing units for the elderly. Any change of use would entail substantial reconstruction which is the very opposite of sustainable architecture.

The planning group has also noted an increase in the number of applications for an extension of operating hours by premises with a liquor licence and of applications for new liquor licences. We believe that new liquor licences should be restricted to the Lygon Street precinct and that there should be no extension of operating hours for premises that are in the middle of largely residential areas (like the Clare Castle Hotel on the corner of Rathdowne and Palmerston Streets).

***Liquor licences:*** *If you will be directly affected, you should submit an objection to Director of Liquor Licensing, GPO Box 4304, Melbourne VIC 3001.*

***For more information:***

*[www.consumer.vic.gov.au](http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au) (Business Licensing & Regulation).*

*In light of our recent success with Intersection Café it is also probably worth contacting the CoM's Planning Enforcement department. Intersection Café applied to extend its liquor licence hours to 24/7. The council's planning enforcement officer contacted the owner who was unaware of his tenant's plans and quashed the whole deal.*

## Schedule of Meeting Dates 2008

Committee Meeting	Tuesday October 21
Planning Committee	Monday November 3
Committee Meeting	Tuesday November 18
Planning Committee may be changed	Monday December 1
Christmas Party	Monday December 1

### Venues

Committee and General meetings to be advised
Planning sub-committee meets at 170 Cardigan St
Christmas Party at La Mama

# Carlton Residents Association Membership 2008

New / Renewal Membership Application Tax Invoice: ABN 87716923898

Annual membership runs from January to December each year. Please complete the form below.

- ☐ I/We would like to apply to become a member/renew membership of the Carlton Residents Association Inc.
- ☐ I/We agree to comply with Rules of the Association.

Name/s (please print): .....

Home Address: .....

Postal Address: .....

Phone/s: ..... Mobile/s: .....

Email/s (please print): .....

Signature/s: .....

Date: .....

## Membership Costs Rates include GST.

Membership type: (please tick)	Annual Fee	Concession Fee*
Single:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$26	<input type="checkbox"/> \$13
Family:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$26
Friend of Carlton:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

*\*Concession Fee entitlement: Pension recipients and students*

*\*\* Family membership: Please include names of all adult members for family membership*

*\*\*\* Friends of Carlton are persons who support the Rules of Association of The Carlton Residents Association but do not reside or own property in postcode 3053.*

Payment Options (please tick): ☐ Cheque (enclosed) ☐ E.F.T. ☐ Cash

Amount: \$ .....

*If making EFT payment - CRA Direct Credit Details: ANZ Bank BSB 083-170 Account Number: 55-706-0596*

*Send form by post, fax or email: Secretary The Carlton Residents Association Inc. PO Box 1140, Carlton 3053*

*FAX: 9347 1411 Email: secretarycra@gmail.com*



## General Meeting Report Continued

Since the General Meeting, we learned of a Transport Task Force established within Premier Brumby's office, to confidentially develop Victoria's Transport Plan, under the direction of political advisors. Invitation only Transport Forums were staged around the State, prior to the Premier's Transport Summit at Telstra Dome on 5 September. CRA attended one such Forum hosted by Member for Melbourne, Hon Bronwyn Pike. However many community groups and concerned residents have been excluded from the process. The Forum was a very stage managed affair with the likely minimal impact on transport policies now being drafted.

Of major concern to community groups is the dominant role of the roads lobby and infrastructure bankers on long-term transport policy directions for Melbourne. Strategic leaks from the Task Force suggest additional rolling stock (rail, tram and bus) might eventuate, however the controversial \$9 billion East-West Road Tunnel is still very much on the agenda. A plan to expand public transport infrastructure by just 10% over the next 30 years seems woefully inadequate, given the challenges of global warming and peak oil.

Community groups believe the urgent need is to address public transport short-falls now rather than committing yet more \$billions to unsustainable roads infrastructure, as recommended by the Eddington Report. Turmoil in global financial markets will most likely make it difficult for the Government to find a commercial partner, at least in the near term, to fund the Road Tunnel with its appalling benefit-cost ratio of 0.45 ie. there is twice the financial benefit by not building it. We believe Premier Brumby needs to hear the community message loud and clear 'we want better public transport, not more roads and tunnels'.



### *In brief:*

#### **Lygon Street 40kph Speed Zone**

CRA has been at the forefront over the past decade in lobbying for a 40kph speed zone through the Precinct. Following protracted debate with VicRoads, the long-sought speed zone has at last been implemented by the installation of fixed speed signs. We now await erection of regulation red flashing warning signs at the Elgin and Victoria Streets ends of the Precinct (said to be 2 months away). Hooning is still evident; a police speed blitz will probably be needed to finally rein it in.

#### **Bike Racks at Lygon Court**

The previous dangerous jumble of parked bikes around the entrance to Lygon Court has now been tidied up with twelve new bike racks (24 bike capacity), including six installed in two on-street car parking spaces. This much improved bike parking facility, argued for by CRA, should encourage more cyclists to visit the area.

#### **Streetscape Enhancements**

Median tree planting work, lobbied for by CRA to enhance our streetscapes under Carlton 2010, has commenced in Faraday and Cardigan Streets. The roundabout has been tidied up and replanted; other important work will be undertaken later this year.

### **Coming Events**

#### **CRA Christmas Party**

The CRA Christmas Party will again be at La Mama, on Monday 1st December at 6pm. As usual this will be a fantastic social occasion and a chance to celebrate that La Mama lives on. Plan to join us. Please RSVP by Friday 28th November: 9347 1411 or carltonresident@gmail.com

#### **Lygon Street Celebrates**

**Jayco Herald Sun Cycling Tour Final Stage**  
Saturday 18th October

**Lygon Street Festa**  
Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th November