

THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSFLASH

Winter 2008

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Next Dinner/Meeting
Monday 18 August at
 DiMattina's.



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Eddington Report

The controversial Eddington Report on East-West transport needs for Melbourne was released as our Autumn Newsflash went to press. Our comments at that time reflected press leaks which proved to be an accurate representation of the Report. Since that time, the CRA Transport and Traffic Reference Group (Ian Bird and Helen MacNamara) have been digesting Report contents and attending meetings and information sessions to gain insights into its implications for Carlton and beyond.

Whilst the report includes public transport proposals (rail, bus and cycling), the centrepiece project is a \$10 billion road tunnel extending from the Eastern Freeway through to Deer Park, with negative impacts on Carlton, Royal Park and Holland Park, Kensington and beyond. This has been a much favoured project of the roads lobby for many years as a "missing link" in the freeway network. It is a much sought after follow-on PPP (public-private partnership) project to *Eastlink* by the big end of town. The State Government and City of Melbourne (CoM) have been prominent proponents of the tunnel, despite its economic and environmental unsustainability.

Eddington's recommendations were debated at the CoM Planning Committee meeting on 3 June. In a landmark decision, the Committee formally opposed the road tunnel and directed Council officers to redraft their response to Eddington accordingly, so as "to make a well argued and disciplined case to the State Government". This historic decision potentially sets new directions for transport policy in Melbourne; however full Council support is required as confirmation. Lord Mayor So, absent from the meeting, has been a vocal supporter of the tunnel. The City of Yarra has opposed it since first mooted and has installed prominent street signage.



Eddington Report cont

Approximately 300 people from across CoM inner suburbs attended the Planning Meeting. Community representatives, including from the CRA, made impassioned pleas to the Council to listen to the community on transport issues. They called on the Council to reject the costly and unsustainable tunnel and instead, set new directions towards a revolution in public transport, cycling and walking. Issues of global warming, escalating fuel costs, air pollution and loss of public space were raised. The Kensington Association was particularly vocal and demonstrated how councillors can be influenced by the community, given sufficient numbers. Roads-based transport strategies of the past 50 years have failed, despite roads attracting a 90% share of the transport budget. Around 80% of road traffic in Melbourne consists of private motorists which causes major congestion of the road network. New roads soon fill with induced traffic and congestion remains.

It was an inspiring meeting to attend, with an historic feel that a new and sustainable direction for transport in Melbourne has at last begun. We will need to continue our lobbying efforts to ensure this new direction becomes a reality.

The State Government sets the transport agenda and we will need to redouble our lobbying efforts over the next 6 months to make our voice heard. CRA's Transport and Traffic Group is preparing a submission on the Eddington Report, due 15 July. Members' views on the diverse issues may be sent to our email address or submitted directly to the Department of Transport website www.doi.vic.gov.au. The Eddington Report may also be accessed at that website.

Postscript: Readers of 'The Age' will have read during the week beginning 9/6 that Lord Mayor So, on his return to Melbourne, again publicly expressed his support for the proposed tunnel. However, at a full Council meeting on 24 June, the majority of Councillors resolved to "oppose" the Eddington road tunnel, rather than to "abandon" east-west road tunnels as earlier resolved by the Planning Committee. This subtle play on words leaves the way open for the Council to agree to a modified tunnel with less destructive impacts on parkland, particularly Holland Park in Kensington. The controversial road tunnel proposal is still on the agenda.

Help Save La Mama

Following the death of Rose Del Monaco last October, the Del Monaco family put the heritage listed Carlton icon *La Mama* theatre on the market. After tense negotiations, La Mama directors signed a deal to purchase the building for \$1.7 million with only days to raise the \$170,000 deposit. Around 400 individuals, families and local businesses contributed this deposit with a 90 day settlement arrangement for the balance. The La Mama Trust now faces a major financial challenge. It is seeking support from Government and City Council as well as from corporate and philanthropic sources and the community to raise the necessary funds. La Mama management has been a good friend to CRA since our formation and has freely made the theatre available as a venue for our annual Christmas Party. In the words of Chief Executive and Artistic Director Liz Jones "*Please give whatever you feel is affordable. We do not wish to pressure or stress our devoted community....*"

CRA members are cordially invited to contribute to the **tax deductible fund**: directly to La Mama office (11am to 4pm) or PO Box 1009, Carlton 3053 or electronically Bendigo Bank, La Mama Inc., BSB 633000 Acc 112612551. More information is available at www.lamama.com.au

Lygon Street 40kph Speed Zone

In a Media Release on 16 May 08, Minister for Roads and Ports, Hon Tim Pallas, announced the long awaited 40kph speed zone for Lygon Street, between Elgin and Victoria Streets. He stated "reducing limits along streets with high pedestrian activity was an effective tool for reducing numbers and severity of injuries to pedestrians". Just as CRA has been arguing for a decade!

On the very day of this announcement, there was an horrendous car accident 100m north of Elgin Street, just outside the proposed 40kph zone. The 18 year old male driver and a passenger were killed; five others were injured, including a pedestrian. Police blamed the accident on "ridiculous hoon driving" at an estimated speed of 110kph. It is this type of accident which has concerned CRA for years: a speeding, out-of-control vehicle in the el-fresco restaurant area of Lygon Street would have unimaginable consequences.

CRA welcomes the new 40kph speed zone within the Lygon Street Precinct; however, disappointingly no time scale has been announced for its introduction. We urge the State Government to introduce the new zone promptly given the high level of hooning regularly evident. We have also called for a fixed speed camera at the Lygon-Elgin Streets intersection, where drivers regularly run red lights as they speed into the Precinct.

(Reports from the most recent PCCC meeting indicate that Vic Roads is still considering what kinds of signs should be erected.)

Melbourne 2030 Audit

The Audit Expert Group (AEG), established in 2007 by the State Government, recently released its audit report on implementation of the *Melbourne 2030 (M2030)*, introduced in 2002 to curb urban sprawl (see Summer 2008 Newsflash). The AEG largely ignored widespread disquiet among Councils and residents with *M2030* and Melbourne's escalating population growth (1500 per week). It conveniently provided the Government with the go-ahead it had sought for unconstrained development in 120 "Activity Centres". The audit report might be simply summarised as "don't think, just do".

In welcoming the report, the Government announced its plan to remove traditional planning controls from Councils and transfer them to planning panels. The aim is to expedite development. First off the rank will be five Activity Centres, including Camberwell, where controversial projects at the Junction and Railway Station will attract priority treatment, despite widespread opposition. Other Centres will follow, including we presume, Carlton.

Our existing rights to object, including appeals to VCAT, will be undermined or removed completely. We will likely see many more inappropriate developments along the lines CRA currently objects to (with limited success) on the grounds of height, heritage and streetscape. We will be even more powerless in the face of new planning arrangements.

In response to this challenge, the State-wide umbrella group, *PLANNING BACKLASH*, will host a public meeting in the near future, probably in the Hawthorn Town Hall (we will advise details when available). Its aim will be to advise and update the community on broad scale action. Members of the CRA believe that Melbourne's much vaunted 'liveability' is under direct assault in an attempt to squeeze an additional million people in by 2020, regardless of impacts on housing, transport and other infrastructure. Decentralisation of population is no longer a State priority.

During May, *The Age* featured many informative articles and commentaries on M2030 which canvassed the complex issues under debate. The 78 page AEG audit report may be accessed at www.dse.vic.gov.au

Vale Doug Fullerton

Rev. Dr Doug Fullerton lost his long battle with cancer on Friday 18 April, the day before his 90th birthday. Doug, Ethel and family arrived in Carlton in 1973 when he was appointed Principal of Queens College at Melbourne University. He was Professor of Christian Ethics from



1976 and served on many bioethics committees. Doug had earlier served as a Methodist Minister for 21 years in Fiji; he married Ethel there in 1945. Whilst in Fiji, he was deeply involved with rugby, as a coach

and principal commentator for the Fiji Broadcasting Commission. His ministerial duties included emotional and spiritual support to condemned men on the gallows during their final moments of life. He completed his PHD in USA in the late 1960's.

In Carlton, Doug became directly involved in a landmark battle with the Victorian Housing Commission over the legendary "Lee Street Block". The Commission planned to demolish the entire block and build more high-rise public housing; Trades Hall placed a black ban on further demolitions. The Methodist and Presbyterian Churches (now Uniting Church) refused to sell their properties in support of the Carlton Association (predecessor of CRA) which was leading the charge against the controversial "slum clearance" program of the State Government (see *Carlton: A History*). CRA member Mac Nicoll recalls a meeting at the Housing Commission involving Doug and himself: *Following a half-hour of intense debate on the issues, one of the Commissioners turned to Doug "Well Dr Fullerton, you have us over a barrel, don't you". "No" replied Doug "But we do have a strong bargaining chip"*. This was the final straw for the Housing Commission which was stopped in its tracks by community activism. The rest is history!

Australia has lost a great campaigner for social justice and ethical reform; CRA has lost a much valued and highly esteemed member. We will miss his wise counsel. Doug's life was celebrated at a large funeral service conducted at the Church of All Nations, his home church. Our sincere sympathy goes to Ethel and the Fullerton family.

Police, Community Consultative (PCCC) Committee

Since the Autumn 'Newsflash', two PCCC meetings have been held and the following issues were discussed. The next PCCC meeting is on the second Friday in August, at Tiamo Café at 10am.

A continuing issue is the proposed Driver Education program and whether PCCC should become involved with helping disadvantaged youth and others achieve their driver's licence. It is not an easy thing to resolve as there are big issues surrounding insurance. With respect to the Driver Education program proposal, it was noted that the City of Melbourne (CoM) could be a part of any endeavour but that it would not accept management of a project. It was also noted that the African Community is one that is disadvantaged with respect to Driver Training.

Senior Sergeant Frank Sells from the Carlton Police Station (see article on the CRA Dinner) presented a report on crime in our area. The general police view is that crime is "not too bad". He noted that robberies were up by 15% and assaults up by 5%. Property damage and burglaries were down by about 15%, but bicycle theft has increased by about 30%. He also indicated that drug detection appeared to be down, but more time is needed to assess the actual situation. Housing group representatives reported an apparent increase in the number of discarded syringes in their areas.

As well, there was discussion on the by-laws regarding alcohol consumption in the CBD. PCCC agreed to write to CoM asking that the ruling be extended beyond the CBD to include Carlton. Councillor David Wilson also agreed to present the matter to Council, and steps have been taken in this regard.

CoM officers reported that they are paying attention to the matter of street begging. They note that there are numerous factors underlying the practice and are considering ways/programs to address the matter. An 08/09 budget proposal is being submitted to Council to address begging, and a street count on homelessness in the CBD, Carlton North, and the Carlton Gardens is being undertaken. (It is noted that a high proportion of homeless are young people). A representative from a central police task force will speak at the August PCCC meeting.

Future projects for the PCCC include:

Carlton Police camp for kids

Confident living/elderly citizens program

Street parties project (which will be dealt with by the CoM events management team)

Carlton Police open day

Christmas food drive

Community safety seminars (to be organised by Carlton Police)

CRA Dinner

Twenty-one Carlton residents enjoyed good company, delicious food and a warm, cozy ambience at Café Italia on Monday 19th May. Senior Sergeant Frank Sells, from the Carlton Police Station, gave an informative talk and answered questions on local issues such as cyclists, cycling, neighbourhood and traffic noise, beggars, burglary, traffic speed and control. He also shared a brief history of the Carlton Police Station and what the move to North Melbourne means for local residents.

Many of the issues that were raised are also addressed in the PCCC Report. However, some interesting points discussed by Senior Sergeant Sells included: the Police bike

patrol offers free engraving as an anti-theft measure. Also, 000 is not just for emergency incidents; it is best to ring 000 when reporting *any* incident(s), rather than ringing the Carlton Police Station.

Thanks to all who supported the dinner and keep a watch out for the next social event.

The Second Horn of Africa Cross Cultural Forum

June 26, 2008

The second Horn of Africa Cross Cultural forum was held on Thursday 26 June at the Carlton Primary School.

On this occasion, Ibrahim Abdi addressed issues of African customs and courtesies. This included how people are named (a Horn of Africa person is named after one's grandfather and father), how one will greet a person and other practices such as funerals and marriages. Other speakers also addressed health issues (Mmaskepe Sejoe) and youth issues (Ajak Mayor) confronting the African community. A particular message that all the speakers wished to get across was that often an issue, say with regard to a particular young person, was presented as an African problem which applied to the whole Horn of African community. This was incorrect, and became particularly unfair for the whole community which was endeavouring to adapt to their very different life in Australia.

The Sorghum Sisters again catered for the Forum.

Altogether, about 100 people attended the two forums and further forums are planned in the future.

Planning Report

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)
- whether the proposed development threatens residential diversity (eg oversupply of student housing)

The following applications were a cause for concern during the last three months:

APP. NO.	ADDRESS	DETAILS	CONCERNS
TP-2008-204	40 Rathdowne Street	construction of new 3-storey building	privacy (overlooking) and height vis a vis neighbours
TP-2008-231	78-80 Elgin Street	business signage	far too big
TP-2008-274	323 Lygon Street	retrospective application for relocation of noisy extraction fan	retrospective permissions set a bad precedent; fan impinges on amenity of nearby residents
TP-2008-328	437-439 Cardigan Street	construction of 3-storey building for student accommodation	Gross over-development of site; overshadowing of neighbours; no car or cycle parking; oversupply of student accommodation in Carlton
TP-2008-389	60-66 Pelham /202 Lygon Streets	Façade work and verandah over footpath	heritage report needed

Liquor licences: *The CRA only receives notices of application for liquor licences and associated operating hours if there is a planning issue. For example, the recent application by the Intersection Café (corner Elgin and Lygon Streets) for 24/7 operation of a food and liquor licence only came to our attention because of the application notice posted in its window. Residents need to be alert to such notices. If you will be directly affected, you should submit an objection to the Director of Liquor Licensing, GPO Box 4304, Melbourne, VIC 3001.*

For more information: www.consumer.vic.gov.au (Business Licensing & Regulation)

Horn of Africa Cross Cultural Forums

On the Carlton Housing Estate, over a third of the residents are from the Horn of Africa. Most are refugees from this troubled area of the world. (The Horn of Africa consists of those countries which are on "the horn" of the African continent, and front the Red Sea. They include Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia.)

The Church of All Nations, Carlton, along with other community groups, hosted the first of two Cultural Exchange forums on 29 May at the community space in the Carlton Primary School. The purpose of the forum was to provide information about, and from the Horn of Africa community, and also provide an opportunity for an Australian response.

The forum was co-chaired by Rev Dr John Evans, the minister of Church of All Nations and Sheik Isse Muse, the imam of the Virgin Mary Mosque in Hoppers Crossing and spiritual leader of the Horn of Africa Muslim community. The first presenter was Omar Farah, a Multicultural Community development officer with the African

community. He spoke about the history of the region and why people were refugees from conflict there. The second presenter was Nasra Mohamud, a Somali woman. She has been in Australia since 1990, although her immediate family has been scattered on three continents since the civil war in Somalia. She spoke of the rights and responsibilities of women in Islam.

The Sorghum Sisters (A Horn of Africa catering service) provided the afternoon tea – explaining the traditional cuisine of the region.

About 35 people attended the forum. They came from community organisations (including the CRA), government departments and agencies, or were members of the general public. The next forum is scheduled for 3.00 pm 26 June, at the same venue. This time, the program includes information about African courtesies, practices and customs and the particular issues Horn of Africa people face with regard to health, the health system and their young people and youth.

Streetscape Greening, Faraday and Cardigan Streets

The City of Melbourne is to be congratulated for approving streetscape improvements in Faraday Street (Swanston to Lygon) and Cardigan Street (Faraday to Elgin), in its proposed 2008/9 Annual Plan and Budget. The sum of \$300,000 is for enlarged tree islands and kerbside plantings which currently lack trees, and includes 12 months' maintenance. An improvement plan for the roundabout at the corner of Cardigan and Faraday Streets has also been approved for completion by the end of the 2007/8 financial year. This entails an additional central tree, and planting and maintenance of low growth to cover the entire roundabout.

You will recall that the Autumn Newsflash reported our frustration at Council's rejection of increased median greening plans at this main pedestrian entrance to Carlton. This was despite overwhelming local support, because car-parking spaces would be lost. After we drew Council's attention to 12 unused car spaces previously dedicated to construction work, a compromise greening plan was passed. This includes a net gain of two on-street car parking spaces.

Update on Kathleen Syme Centre (KSC)

In this election year, the City of Melbourne has agreed to purchase KSC, and various arrangements have been suggested to provide for the continuing needs of the health services contracted to occupy the building until 2011. Council has struggled to gain traction with the State Government regarding the acquisition of KSC. (We trust the Government will be equally unbending against the University of Melbourne's push to purchase the building.) At a meeting on 25 March 2008, Council resolved to

immediately request a meeting with the Premier, Minister for Health, and the Member for Melbourne, to elevate the importance of the acquisition by the City of Melbourne of KSC, and of the entire Royal Women's Hospital site. To convert this to much needed, affordable housing would be preferable to yet more student housing.

We have requested an update of the status of Council's resolution, and have again urged Council to challenge the State Premier on this issue.

Councillor Wilson and Greta Bird recently asked Local Member Bronwyn Pike MP to become proactive on our behalf, to no avail. Minister Pike stated that government protocol must be followed and that CoM and CRA will themselves need to advance the matter. Cr Wilson agreed to lobby the Chair of the Hospital Board, Rhonda Galbally. We have written twice to Dr Galbally, asking to discuss the matter to ensure that when the building comes on the market, the local community is given first opportunity to purchase it. An appointment is also being sought with CEO Dale Fisher.

Despite this protracted process, we will continue with our goal to acquire KSC for community purposes in Carlton.

Silencing of Dr Paul Mees

Amid the furore of the transport debate, prominent transport academic from Melbourne University, Dr Paul Mees, was 'hauled over the coals' by the University because of his forthright comments on the state of our public transport system and those running it. The Government objected and the University responded by demoting him and making his position untenable. He ultimately resigned.

Dr Mees has been a thorn in the side of the transport bureaucracy for years. His well-informed debating and writing skills far outclass Government transport and roads lobby "experts", who regularly attempt to silence and ridicule him. Paul Mees has been a great supporter and inspiration to CRA and many other community groups.

CRA's views were expressed in a letter to Vice Chancellor, Prof. Glyn Davis, regarding our concerns over academic freedom and the need for informed debate on transport issues. We wish Paul well in his new position at RMIT and trust he will continue his role as a prominent and respected transport commentator.

Coming social events

CRA Dinner, guest speaker and meeting –
Monday 18 August
DiMattina's

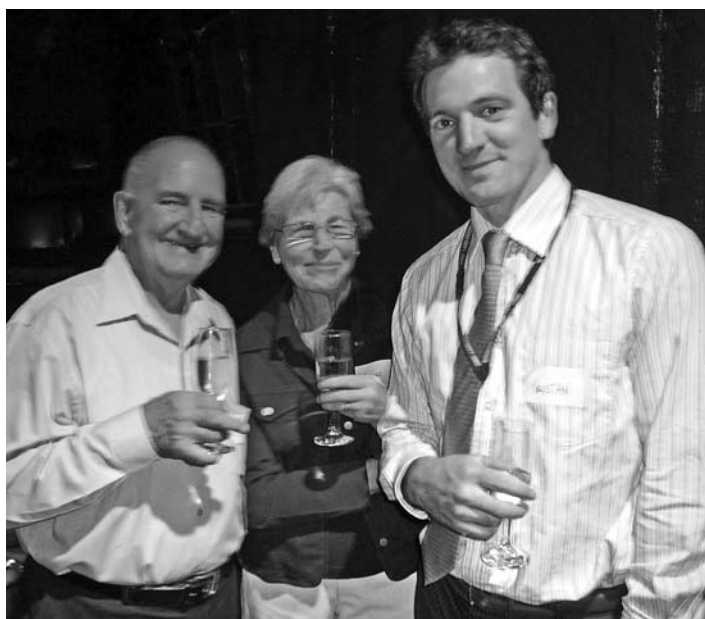
A movie and wine night is also being planned so
'watch this space' for details!

Schedule of Meeting Dates 2008

Listed below are the scheduled meeting dates for the remainder of 2008. Note that all are welcome to attend these meetings.

MEETING	DATE
PI Planning Committee	Monday July 7
Committee Meeting	Tuesday July 15, DiMattina's, 8pm
PI Planning Committee	Monday August 4
G General Meeting	Monday August 18
PI Planning Committee	Monday September 1
Committee Meeting	Tuesday September 16
PI Planning Committee	Monday October 6
Committee Meeting	Tuesday October 21
PI Planning Committee	Monday November 3
Committee Meeting	Tuesday November 18
PI Planning Committee	Monday December 1
Christmas Party	Monday December 8

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



POSITIONS VACANT

Volunteer positions exist for willing, enthusiastic and interested people to help on the CRA reference groups.

'Understudy' secretary and treasurer also required!

Benefits of the positions include: gaining greater awareness / information about issues affecting CRA residents; being part of a team to plan, discuss and advocate for your community.

For more information, email the CRA on secretarycra@gmail.com, or speak to any Committee member.



CRA 2008 Membership

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

**Concession Fee entitlement: Pension recipients and students*

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

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

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