



Newsflash

Apr. 2006

CRA's first major event for the year was the *Annual General Meeting* held on Feb 20. The recently elected Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Professor Vijoleta Braach-Maksvytis (Innovation, Development & Community Partnerships) addressed us on the topic:

“Strange symbiosis: The University of Melbourne and the Carlton Community”.

Melbourne University is the largest and most influential institution in Carlton, and has a major impact - economic, social, political, and environmental. The management there has changed. What we can expect?

A major point made by Prof. Braach-Maksvytis was that the university now plans to specialize in a post graduate studies, which will entail a reduction in total student numbers by 10,000. This significant reduction in student numbers has long been foreseeable and argued as developers continue to construct minimal quality high-rise student housing, which the Melbourne City Council approves in Carlton. What will become of this substandard accommodation as student numbers fall away?

Elected CRA Committees and representation with local Community Groups:

Over the past nine months, our deeply committed membership has allowed the development and empowerment of sub-committees to broaden the intellectual input and to spread the workload, thereby reducing the emphasis on the office of President.

Committee: Greta Bird (President), Jackie Watts (Vice President), Warren Green (Treasurer), Colin Macnamara (Minutes Secretary) Anne Ritter (Membership Secretary), Murray Dovey and Robyn Dalziel

Planning and Heritage: Robyn Dalziel, Murray Dovey, Warren Green, Victoria Hamer, Dennis Toth.
A vacancy remains for someone with heritage knowledge.

Carlton Local Agencies Network (CLAN): Greta Bird, Jackie Watts

Carlton Gardens Group: Anne Ritter

Heritage Advisory Committee: Anne Ritter

Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC): Peter Allen

Public Housing Redevelopment: Jackie Watts, Greta Bird

Traffic and Transport: Ian Bird, Neil Poole

Liaison Officer between the University of Melbourne and CRA

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Vijoleta Braach-Maksvytis

Newsflash/Newsletter Editor: We are still looking to fill this position.

Website: Robyn Dalziel, Lyn Behenna

Many issues face the Carlton Community. Heritage, historic streetscapes and community are under constant challenge from developers and those with short-term profit motives. CRA members continue to play a vital role challenging this.

Planning & Heritage This sub-committee reviews planning applications for postcode 3053 – a vital task, as some developers push development envelopes without concern for community, heritage and streetscapes. Nevertheless, contrary to local perceptions, the Committee objects to less than a quarter of all planning applications. Objections are typically for extensions to existing dwellings which overlook neighbours, or are not respectful in form or materials to the heritage context, also to inappropriate signage and roof furniture. Recent examples of planning objections include:

- The application for Planning Permit: 262-276 Drummond St, (Residential Zone 1) for partial demolition and construction of a 4-storey complex of 60 residential apartments and partial waiver of car parking requirements. CRA was one of 22 objectors, on the basis of height, bulk, and waiving of parking requirements. The applicant argued that the building's hipped roof is already above the height restriction. Council's Planners proposal of a compromise 3-storey development was rejected by Councillors, who approved the original application. We intend to battle this one at VCAT.
- A red Coca Cola advertisement was recently installed on the entire Elgin St face of the Intersection Café (cr. Lygon & Elgin Sts). No planning permit had been sought. MCC has issued notice to have the sign removed and the previous heritage colour restored. There has been no response, and MCC staff report that court action is pending.
- redevelopment of Shakahari restaurant in Faraday St. The planning application was for an addition of two stories, four apartments, and waiving of parking requirements. CRA objected on heritage, streetscape, bulk and engineering grounds; MCC rejected the application, a decision which the developer is appealing at VCAT.
- The Lemon Tree Hotel: a VCAT appeal has been adjourned while an alternative application for a childcare facility is being assessed.

Traffic and Transport CRA's response to the Melbourne Transport Strategy's substantial draft document was compiled by Ian Bird and Neil Poole. The strategy was generally in line with CRA expectations. However, last August a pet project of the roads lobby, a \$10 billion "big idea" roads and tunnel project to extend the Eastern Freeway to Deer Park, was pushed onto the agenda by the Committee for Melbourne. Several members of the Melbourne Transport Committee, including the Coalition of Residents Associations, successfully turned around this unsustainable proposal. The strategy is now centred on public transport, cycling and walking, and was open for comment on the Council's website until 3 April. The State Government has funding responsibility for major transport projects and it remains very pro-roads.

Centrally located community meeting space/library CRA continues to lobby Melbourne City Council strongly for this much needed facility in central Carlton. Our request continues to be that this proposal be financed in the 2006-2009 budget period. Lord Mayor So and Councillors repeatedly assure that the proposal is high on their list of priorities.

Median plantations: CRA has long proposed median green space in Faraday St from Swanston to Cardigan Sts, and in Cardigan St from Elgin to Faraday Sts. Ample, accessible off-street car parking, high pedestrian traffic, "greening" of median areas as envisaged in the Carlton 2010 Study, and urban design advice justify the consequent removal of car parking from this small area. Additionally there is the foreshadowed availability of 628 additional parking spaces from the University of Melbourne's underground car park at 345-375 Cardigan Street. To "green" sections of Cardigan and Faraday Streets would soften the visual impact of the unsightly eleven storey student accommodation edifice now under construction by Becton on the Eastern Precinct Site (College Square on Swanston). Much of the median area is currently unmetred, and is of no economic benefit to the Council.

Lygon Street Plane Trees You will remember demands made last Spring by The Carlton Business Assn that the 180 plane trees in Lygon Street be removed because they drop pollen in spring and leaves in autumn. A meeting was arranged with Cr Fraser Brindley, Kate Wright (Place Manager) Ian Harris (Manager, Parks and Recreation) botanist Ian Shears, Joanna Pacé (Carlton Traders) and Connie Paglianiti (Carlton Business Assn) and myself, to seek a solution by which the problem of allergies can be alleviated while the trees are retained.

Community Forum Carlton and Parkville residents were invited to participate in a community forum chaired by Deputy Lord Mayor Cr Gary Singer, advertised as presenting an opportunity to talk to MCC Councillors and staff about issues of concern in Carlton. It was most disappointing to find the several submissions made in writing prior to the event were glibly dismissed. CRA continues to lobby the Council on important issues (see below).

C60 Planning Amendment for the revised Municipal Strategic Statement has received Ministerial approval, however without the disability access for which we had campaigned in conjunction with Coalition of Residents Associations.

Res3 Zone CRA submitted a response to this ministerial rezoning amendment whereby Councils define limited areas within established suburbs for rezoning to a 9-metre maximum height limit.

Greta Bird
President

Coming Events

Public Focus Group - Kerbside Café Code Review **Have your say!**

The City of Melbourne invites residents to comment on the draft consultation report, which will lay the foundations for the new Kerbside Café Code. A meeting for Carlton and Parkville residents will be held on Tuesday, 11th April 6:00pm-7:30pm. Venue: St. Jude's Anglican Church Carlton, 235 Palmerston Street, Carlton.

For further information or copies of the invitation contact the City of Melbourne hotline on 9658 9658, or contact Andrina Day or Jenafer Matthews on 9658 9940.

If you cannot attend the meeting, complete the questionnaire available at the City of Melbourne website www.melbourne.vic.gov.au.

Melbourne 2030 is causing widespread concern. A large number of residents associations throughout Victoria met to plan strategy and a rolling campaign prior to the forthcoming State election, to target marginal electorates. Associations websites will be linked through the website "melbourne2030" as a tool, including bulletin boards. The first event will be a gathering on the steps of Parliament House on Wednesday, May 5, at 1pm, one hour prior to Question Time.

PLEASE NOTE Wednesday, May 5 in your diaries and plan to be there!

CRA General Meeting Monday, May 22, 2006 Kathleen Syme Building, corner Faraday & Cardigan Sts, Carlton Time: Business 7.30pm, Guest Speaker 8.00pm

Publicity

In recent months CRA has had excellent and regular coverage in the media, particularly in *The Melbourne Times* and *Melbourne Leader*, on a range of issues, e.g. Carlton Gardens, Traffic, Lygon St trees, Public Housing Development. Our comments have drawn respondents such as Bronwyn Pyke and Catherine Ng. This coverage, as well as letters/e-mails to politicians and councillors, are highly effective, and all members are encouraged to contribute. Please, to maximize impact on issues, contact Members of Parliament, Local Councillors, the press and radio on important local issues. A list of contacts is on the following page:



Printed with the assistance of the Community Information Support Scheme of MCC

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CITY COUNCIL

Lord Mayor, The Hon John So Councillors: Catherine Ng (Planning); Fraser Brindley (Environment); David Wilson (Community & Culture); Gary Singer (Deputy Mayor); Peter Clarke; Carl Jetter; Fiona Snedden; Brian Shanahan

Phone: 9658 9658 – ditto for all City Services.

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NEWSPAPERS

The Age Letters: letters@theage.com.au Reporters: Royce Miller, Dan Silkstone,
Liz Minchin Ph: 9600 4211

Herald Sun Letters: hsletters@heraldsun.com.au Reporter: Ashley Gardiner Ph. 9292 1226

The Melbourne Times

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TALKBACK RADIO

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