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Working Groups

The Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre

A magnificent Carlton Asset

'I absolutely love it', 'it's amazing', 'a wonderful and much needed facility', 'the staff are so friendly and helpful', 'I borrowed 30 books' are typical exclamations when we interviewed people about how they are enjoying Carlton's very own library. A young woman who works at the Centre's café said she makes a point to enjoy the beautiful library before and after work. She quipped: 'Have you ever heard someone say they come to work early and leave late, for sheer pleasure?'

Just four months since opening, the Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre has been most warmly and enthusiastically embraced by Carlton's diverse community and by many who visit or work here. It enables people to come together to create, explore, connect, belong, learn and participate, and has opened up countless opportunities for contacts, relationships and social inclusion. Community Animator Natalie Warren and her multi-skilled staff are at all times most helpful, skilfully and unobtrusively realizing the CRA's vision and the goal of our extensive campaign - a centrally located Community Centre / Library to facilitate integrated activities; creating, developing and building well-being, where all Carlton can be community.



Enjoying a graphic novel: Photo: Meredith O'Shea

According to statistics provided by Natalie Warren, 81,951 people attended the magnificent, ultra-modern library between 4 July and 31 October. This averages over 700 people per day. The library features over 40,000 items in a wide range of formats and languages, and offers a collection of both

Working Groups

traditional and digital items to suit everyone, including books, DVDs, CDs, magazines, and eBooks. Children can join book talks, meet authors, read the latest releases, and attend story time sessions.



Story time: Photo: Meredith O'Shea

Among keen library attendees are Carlton Gardens PS pupils, and many of the school families who have become members. Principal Tina McDougall reminisced when, in support of the CRA campaign, their students collected 1,000 signatures petitioning for this facility at the Kathleen Syme building. Two of the school's pupils, Mimi and Rosie Gathercole, had accompanied CRA members to lobby Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, who discussed books with them. He mentioned that his favourite was *Iron Giant* by Ted Hughes. Rosie recently bought a copy, took it to the Lord Mayor for his inscription, and has donated it to the library.

The KSLCC is not only a brilliant library. Facilities include bookable multi-purpose meeting rooms, creative art spaces, a recording studio, training and technology rooms, free public Wi-Fi and a community lounge. There are facilities for people who want to watch a big screen TV, hear from authors, explore the world of 3D printing, or use a recording studio. A wide range of formal and informal events are offered, such as recently when biographer Dr Carolyn Rasmussen spoke most interestingly on Kathleen Syme the woman, and architect Robert Sands spoke on the heritage and architecture of the building.

Classes and activities cater for all ages and interests. Over the past four months there have been a total of 906 individual bookings of the various facilities by a diversity of people and groups. Community groups and not-for-profit agencies deliver a range of programs. These include CRA monthly meetings, Wednesday Book Club, History Lovers' Book Group, Council run book groups, U3A, Aged Care, community and not-for-profit organizations.

For example, a range of computer classes are conducted by the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre. The Church of all Nations Homework Club coach school children and at the same time offer their mothers assistance with literacy and numeracy. Participants, largely African children from the public housing estates, access computers, ipads and

whiteboards with amazing applications. They find the library a wonderland, and very much enjoy games designed to help children engage with resources. The children have formed a choir and will record songs to give to their mothers for Xmas.

Popular also is *Wild Timor Coffee Co* (see page 8), a social enterprise café near the entrance, which offers excellent coffee and delicious snacks.

The KSLCC is fulfilling a long defined need for Carlton. It is a most splendid outcome to CRA's long-held vision, and makes our long, arduous campaign to secure the building from the State Government for City of Melbourne (CoM) purchase so very worthwhile. **Without CRA it would not have happened.**

Planning

Plan Melbourne 'refresh'

Election of the Andrews ALP Government has led to a review of Plan Melbourne Metropolitan Strategy with its centrepiece project, the now disbanded EW Link. Upon release of a Discussion Paper: *Plan Melbourne refresh at a glance*, Planning Minister, Richard Wynne, said 'I want to see us build a city that sets an example to the world for environmental sustainability, social equity, enhanced liveability and economic strength'.

Community consultations were called to close on 18 December, 2015. Plan Melbourne 2016 will be released by mid 2016. Major aspects in the *Refresh* include considerations of climate change, housing affordability and the Melbourne Metro Rail Link.

The spate of highrise building approvals by former Napthine Government Planning Minister (now Opposition Leader), Matthew Guy, are being reined-in by interim planning controls to curb the excesses of developers. In an editorial *Making Melbourne even more marvellous*, *The Age* (14 September, 2015) observed 'We hope these changes will help set some more ambitious benchmarks in design and amenity, and improve dwelling spaces for tenants. That is essential if Melbourne wants to continue to rank as one of the world's most liveable cities'.

Further information and submissions may be made via the State Government website www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au



What kind of city do we want?

New Amendments to the Melbourne Planning Scheme

These affect parts of Carlton and North and West Melbourne.

[An initial Assessment]

On the 15th October, the Minister for Planning gazetted three Amendments:

- C196 The amendment implements the City North Structure Plan, February 2012.
- C198 The amendment implements the findings of the City North Heritage Review 2013 by applying the Heritage Overlay to new individual heritage places and heritage precincts, removing existing heritage overlays and altering a number of existing heritage overlays (i.e. adding to and deleting properties from a precinct, altering the description or property grading.
- C173 [The Carlton Connect Amendment] Rezones the land at 114-152 Grattan Street, Carlton from a Public Use Zone (PUZ3) to a Capital City Zone - Schedule 6 (CCZ6), removes the Design and Development Overlay - Schedule 45 (DDO45) from the subject land, introduces a new Schedule 10 to the Development Plan Overlay (DPO10) and applies it to the subject land, removes the Parking Overlay – Schedule 12 (PO12) and applies the Parking Overlay – Schedule 1 (PO1) to the subject site. References the new CCZ6 and DDO10 at Clause 22.01 – Urban Design within the Capital City Zone.

MELBOURNE PLANNING SCHEME
LOCAL PROVISION



A Key Issue: Scrapping of important Notice, Decision and Review [Appeal] Rights

With the exception of a limited number of land uses, the City of Melbourne will no longer be obliged to advertise applications for a change of use or for a new development even if it concludes that the application may cause significant detriment to the community. Although affected parties may still be able to object, they will not be able to initiate appeals if unhappy with the Council's determination.

These arrangements will apply in all the City North Area, unless the site of the application is covered by a Heritage Overlay. They will also apply, with a minor variation, to the Carlton Connect redevelopment site. In practical terms, groups like the Carlton Residents Association and the North and West Melbourne Association will have much more limited access to information about development proposals. Under the current arrangements, Associations are given access to digital versions of the plans and reports accompanying development applications [where these are advertised].

Other key changes affecting the City North Amendment

The Sunlight to Public Spaces Policy will no longer apply to the City North Area.

Key clauses of the Heritage Policy will no longer apply in the City North Area ... the Concealment of Higher Rear Parts [Including Additions] and the Façade Height and Setback [New Buildings].

The preferred maximum height in that part of South Carlton closest to the Haymarket Roundabout, has been increased considerably; it is now 60 metres. There are NO mandatory height limits established in the City North Area; [this results in a dramatic change for that part of North Melbourne included in the new Capital City Zone west of O'Connell Street].

Other key changes affecting the Carlton Connect site

The demolition controls that were included in the exhibited version of this amendment have been scrapped. These provisions were originally intended to address the "bomb site" problem.

Although the Explanatory Report accompanying this Amendment makes specific reference to student housing, there is nothing in the Amendment that will guarantee this outcome.

In contrast to the City North Area, the Urban Design **within** the Capital Zone Policy, WILL apply to this development site, even although this Policy was originally designed for the Hoddle Grid and Southbank when first introduced.

The new Development Plan Overlay will permit a development intensity comparable to the Haymarket area; more intense than the existing 13 level 3AW block [of the former RWH] and much more intense than would ever be permitted in the retail core of downtown Melbourne.

Planning (cont)

Capital City Zone extends to Carlton

Both Amendment C196, SW Carlton) and Amendment C173, former Royal Women's Hospital site, were opposed by CRA, including at a Planning Panels Hearing for *Carlton Connect*. CRA objected on the grounds of excessive discretionary maximum building heights up to 60m and removal of planning notices and appeal rights. The Council and State Government facilitated this new highrise development policy to help accommodate Melbourne's burgeoning population growth (currently around 2000 per week).



Carlton Connect' highrise building profile (former RWH site) featuring heights up to 59m with 25m on Swanston St.

Developers will profit from this new undemocratic rezoning decision which will apply to existing properties within the new *City North CCZ* area (bounded by Victoria-Elizabeth-Grattan-Swanston Streets and near the Haymarket Roundabout). Most of this area is currently subject to a preferred maximum height of 40m. Experience suggests the new 60m discretionary maximum height limit will become a minimum, with appeals to VCAT for even greater heights. CRA, The Greens (Council and State) and Crs Foster and Watts objected to the rezoning and loss of appeal rights.

Loss of appeal rights is particularly galling for CRA and residents negatively impacted by the rezoning. Council Planning Chair, Cr Ken Ong, claimed 'the move would prevent unnecessary holdups in the construction of new homes for people working in the University, hospital and technology precinct ... people appeal and object ... to slow down the process' (*The Age*, 25 October 2015).

For the record, CRA has never 'objected' without good reason and is in accord with City of Melbourne more often than not. CRA President, Dr George Janko, noted 'I think it is our civil liberty right to be informed... and to be able to object to an arbiter of some kind'. Mary Drost, Convenor Planning Backlash, added 'This is a scandalous situation where developers have a free go, to the detriment of the whole community...leaving developers and their greed in charge — we are seeing the demise of what was Marvellous Melbourne' (*The Age* letters, 1 November 2015).

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

Join online via the following link -

<http://trybooking.com/JLPE>

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

**Please ensure all details are included for EFT
membership payments.**

If you love Carlton but do not reside or own property in postcode 3053, please join as a 'Friend of Carlton'.

Planning Applications

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

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

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

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

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

A cause for concern—more multi-storey applications

A cause for concern is the number of applications being lodged for multi-storey developments which exceed the height limit for their respective locations. In addition to the Downtowner and 100 Bouverie Street above, there are six more to contend with, they are TP-2015-265 for 171-175 Grattan Street and TP-2015-440 for 23-31 Lincoln Square South, TP-2015-742 for 86-94 Pelham Street, TP-2015-983 for 4-12 Leicester Place, TP-2015-1057 for 558 Swanston St and to a lesser extent TP-2015-583 for 391-395 Rathdowne Street. More detail is being sought for the latter two applications and objections are anticipated.

| APP No./ADDRESS | DETAILS OF WORK/CRA INTEREST |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Previous Carried Forward - | |
| TP-2014-399 53 Queensberry St Objection | Alterations to existing church. VCAT hearing on 14 December, CRA will be represented. |
| TP-2014-734 66-88 Lygon St Objection | VCAT hearing concluded on 21 September, a decision was expected by early November, however the gazettal of C196 and the DDO44 amendment have created a procedural delay and a decision is now likely in late December or early next year. |
| TP-2014-1013 41 Macarthur Place Objection | CoM issued a NOD to grant a permit, which addresses most concerns. |
| TP-2015-273 100-102 Bouverie St Objection | A practice day hearing was held on 27 November. At the applicant's request, CRA was struck out and the MFB remained party to the hearing with restricted grounds of objection. All as a consequence of the gazettal of C196 and the amended DDO44. |
| TP-2015-295 176-178 Canning St Objection | 2 storey extension to dwelling, CRA concerned about over shadowing private open space of the adjoining property. Awaiting CoM decision. |
| TP-2015-384 101-103 Drummond St Objection | Use existing dwellings as student accommodation. CRA concerns relate to site management issues. Awaiting CoM decision. |
| TP-2015-440 23-33 Lincoln Sq Sth Objection | 16 Storey mixed use development. CRA concerns mainly height and heritage. The 3 day hearing concluded on 18 November. CRA and one other objector attended with CoM. Awaiting VCAT decision. |
| TP-2013-337/A 701-703 Swanston St Rydgcs Hotel Objection | Application to allow amplified music on the rooftop. This attracted 113 objections, CRA supported the resident objectors on the grounds of potential loss of amenity. CoM decision is being delayed as a result of complications arising from implementation of C196. |
| TP-2015-583 391-395 Rathdowne St Objection | 5 Storey mixed use. CRA concerns were height, inappropriate facade treatment, and diminished amenity for adjacent residents. CoM assessing. |
| TP-2015-694 79-87 Canning St Objection | Demolish existing building and construct 8 new town houses. CRA concerns were heritage, overlooking and overshadowing, amenity and setback issue. |
| Other Applications for which further information is still awaited. | |
| TP-2015-265 171-175 Grattan St | -Multi storey mixed use development. Anticipate issues. |
| TP-2015-279 107-109 Drummond St | -Upgrading external facade, unlikely to be contentious. |
| TP-2015-636 1-23 Rathdowne St | -Change of use, unlikely to be contentious. |
| TP-2015-742 86-94 Pelham St. | -8 Storey mixed use in a 4 storey preferred height DDO with heritage implications. We anticipate an objection being lodged against this application. |
| September - 8 Applications - No Objections Further information awaited on 3 TP-2015-821 | |
| October - 14 Applications - 1 Objection TP-2015-983 4-12 Leicester Place Further information awaited on 2 TP-2015-966, 988 | 20 storey mixed use . CRA concerns were related to heritage, parking, unloading, height and general over-development of the site. |
| November - 15 Applications (up to 26th) No Objections Further information awaited on 4 TP-2015-997, 1031,1057 | |

Traffic, Transport, Parking

Melbourne Metro Rail woes

Development processes associated with the Melbourne Metro Rail Project appear as fraught as those of the disbanded East West Link tollroad. 'When will they ever learn'?

Currently there is no Environment Effects Statement, no updated Business Case, 'sham' community consultations and controversial compulsory property acquisition processes around the five new underground rail station sites. Debate continues around Metro design, including the possible addition of the politically sensitive South Yarra station. Contracts totalling some \$70 million have been awarded to progress Metro planning and design. A decision to proceed with a deep rail tunnel under Swanston Street, rather than cut and cover construction will minimise central city surface disruptions, including tram-line re-routing.

The 'Parkville' station will be constructed 25m underground. Grattan Street (Barry Street to Royal Parade) in Carlton will likely be closed for an extended period during cut and cover construction activities. This new station will service Melbourne University, the hospitals and medical research centres.

Prime Minister Turnbull, unlike former PM Abbott, is supportive of Federal funding for public transport. Funds previously dedicated solely to the EW Link are now available for alternative transport projects. It is evident that roads projects, including the Westgate Distributor and widening of the Tullamarine Freeway and Monash Freeway, will attract priority funding and expedited planning.

According to the Public Transport Users Association, the State Government will need to be proactive in pursuit of Federal funding for Melbourne Metro, high capacity signalling which could double existing rail capacity, rail-road grade separations and other public transport upgrades. Gross overcrowding of public transport driven by rapid population growth requires urgent action. New roads never provide more than short-term congestion relief (*PTUA News*, October 2015).

Melbourne Metro Rail will be a critical addition to rail network capacity. It needs wholehearted political and financial support in the long-term interests of Melbourne's liveability.

East West Link debate continues

At a time when we hoped some political bipartisanship might emerge on transport policy, several prominent Federal Liberal Party politicians in marginal Eastern suburban electorates aim to resurrect the discredited and disbanded EW Link tollroad. They continue to peddle the politically opportune myth that the Link would 'unblock' the Eastern Freeway, which is contrary to traffic evidence in the now publically available Business Case.

In August, these politicians organised a rally on the steps of Parliament House which attracted around 100 supporters with banners proclaiming *Build the East West Link - Back the Liberals*. Some 60 supporters of improved public transport joined an opposition rally under the banner *Save Melbourne - Prioritise Public Transport*. Much generally good-natured banter was exchanged between the two groups, including *It's done - just get over it*.

The pro-EW Link rally appeared to be a 'last ditch' stand by disgruntled Liberals in support of their disbanded project. While this group enjoyed the support of former PM Abbott, PM Turnbull's decision to 'unlock the box' of EW Link Federal funding for alternative transport projects has undermined the thrust of their campaign.



Parliament House rally of pro and anti EW Link protesters

Under a headline *East West lost us the state election*, a scathing Liberal Party analysis of the State Election loss concluded there was too much focus on the EW Link and lack of a broad narrative for Government. Favouring the *Herald-Sun* over all other media was counter-productive. 'The conclusion is unavoidable that Labor out-campaigned the Liberal Party' (*The Age*, 3 November 2015).

Treasury Corporation Annual Report (10 Nov 2015) confirmed EW Link cancellation costs now total \$657 million. Much of this was due to the Napthine Government pre-emptively signing construction contracts and a 'side letter' just prior to the State Election. On-going 'interest swap' costs associated with the \$3 billion line of credit inherited from Link funding arrangements are included. The Opposition claims ultimate cancellation costs could be near \$850 million ie. less than half the amount taxpayers would have contributed annually for the next 25 years, had the Link proceeded.

Associated Groups

Melbourne North Community Consultation Committee

- **CCTV cameras:** This is an expensive installation at \$59000 per camera. City of Melbourne (CoM) is not prepared to do this.

It has been suggested that local businesses be encouraged to install these but that firstly Police could conduct an audit cameras already existing in the Carlton

- **CoM.** is looking at setting up more skate parks rather than fewer larger ones.
- **Activities:**
 - The Annual Spring Fling was held in North Melbourne on Sunday 18th October 2015.
 - A Toy/Food drive will operate again this year in December.
 - A Camp programme will be organised by Nick Parissis
- **Some Statistics:**
 - **Collision numbers for the local PCCC area.** e.g.; for North Melbourne there were 251 collisions with injuries reported but throughout the CoM. there has been a reduction in injury collisions. The 40 km/h zones are believed to have contributed to this reduction.
 - The most prevalent locations for collisions in the PCCC area are: Royal Pde; Flemington Rd; Victoria St; Macauley Rd; and Arden St.
 - Most are cases of rear end and cross traffic collisions.
 - More cyclists than pedestrians are involved in collisions.
 - There are approximately 81000 bicycle trips in the CoM per week day. This is expected to grow to over 122000 by 2016.
 - there is approximately 1 house entry burglary per day in the area. House owners are encouraged to ensure premises are secured.

Community News

2015 Paul Mees Debate

The denser we get the happier we are. This was the topic of an important and jovial debate held before a large enthusiastic audience at RMIT on 4 November 2015. This annual debate honours the memory of Australian transport advocate and planning scholar, the late Professor Paul Mees, AOM.

Planning, designing and managing our city is a key focus as Melbourne's population rapidly moves beyond four million. Two teams of planners, politicians and comedians, including Adam Bandt MHR and comedian Rod Quantock, debated the pros and cons of urban density and how good planning helps create vibrant and liveable communities. It was a memorable evening with much expert thoughtful debate on the future liveability of Melbourne. The pro-density team was judged the winner by a small margin.

Rod Quantock observed that unless Melbourne's population growth is constrained and the Government meaningfully responds to global warming, we are all 'stuffed'.

Paul Mees was a long-time 'friend' and transport policy advisor to CRA.

Check out the CRA website:

www.carltonresidents.org.au

An Evening with Ellen Sandell

On 21 September CRA members and friends enjoyed a most informative evening with our State Member for Melbourne, Ellen Sandell MP, held at the Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre.



Ellen Sandell meets with CRA members

Ellen described her considerable range of contributions and activities in the Legislative Assembly and responded to wide-ranging questions from attendees. Issues raised included weakness of environmental provisions of the Melbourne Planning Scheme, public housing in Carlton, the World Heritage Environs Area, developer and other corporate election campaign donations. She has taken up CRA planning concerns in Parliament.

The Planning Minister was also invited but unfortunately was unable to attend.



Have you heard of [GreenPower](#) accreditation but never really understood what it's about? The GreenPower Program allows you to voluntarily displace all, or some, of your electricity usage with renewable energy which is then added to the grid on your behalf. When you purchase GreenPower, this commits your provider to sourcing the renewable energy from accredited wind, solar, bioenergy and mini-hydro generators.

The great thing about GreenPower is it's additional to the [Commonwealth Government's Renewable Energy Target](#). This means GreenPower elevates the level of renewables in Australia's grids higher than they would otherwise be. The majority of the little extra you pay for GreenPower goes directly back to the accredited generators. Accredited GreenPower is identified by the GreenPower logo. For more information visit [GreenPower](#).

Wild Timor Coffee Co



This is the very popular social enterprise café near the Kathleen Syme Library entrance. It is also the brand name of its coffee. The single-origin bean, exclusive to Timor-Leste, is organic and pesticide free, and has an exceptionally special flavour: smooth, velvety Arabica, with the intense caffeine hit of a Robusta bean.

Cafe Carlton

The Kathleen Syme Library
281 Parade Street, opp of Carlton
Street, Carlton Victoria

OPEN 8 DAYS
Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm
Sunday, Closed



The history of the coffee is fascinating. Originally planted by the Portuguese some 200 years ago in Timor-Leste, the plants were neglected when farmers fled the 30 years Indonesian occupation. Rediscovered in remote villages by Australian peacekeepers, the plants were nurtured by local farmers and now thrive in specific mountainous regions.

A social enterprise, *Wild Timor Coffee Co.* operates on the principal of direct trade with local farmers in Timor-Leste, from whom coffee beans are sourced directly. This provides them with a fair and equitable price for both their product and their labour. Wild Timor Coffee also works with the farmers to constantly improve operations from jungle to the roaster. Projects are funded, such as the construction of sanitation facilities and also the university education of a young Timorese woman. Thus employees and customers of *Wild Timor Coffee Co* make a difference to the lives of the people of Timor-Leste, through the production, sale and purchase of a cup of coffee. This makes it extra special.

Wild Timor Coffee Programs

PROJECT STELLA

Estella Gomes is a young girl we met in 2000. She would hang around our patrol bases looking for security and friendship with the soldiers.

With no parents she taught herself English with a dictionary. Wild Timor Coffee was able to raise money through coffee sales and fund her tertiary education. She is now a Geologist and Engineer

PROJECT MACKINNON

This project we use in cafes to raise money to give communities coffee pulping machines that will help improve the quality of the coffee pulping to International standard as well as speeding up the initial pulping times so the coffee does not ferment, thus producing a better quality coffee.



The new Pulping machine in action at Belumahatu

PROJECT GREEN FUND



Project green Fund is a new initiative we are implementing. It will involve customers in planting coffee, cacao and shade trees in the community. Money from each Kilo purchased will be directed to this fund to grow sustainable resources and to provide work for community members.

