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Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre (KSLCC) NOW OPEN



KSLCC Opening queue

A Brief History

1874: Opened as the Faraday Street Primary School SS 112.
(Architect Joseph Reed)

1972: School closed. Building transferred to Royal Women's Hospital (RWH) to establish the *Kathleen Syme Education Centre (KSC)*.

2000: CRA gained use of KSC Lecture Theatre & Auditorium for quarterly General Meetings, until 2005.

2005: Transfer of RWH to Parkville was announced by Bracks ALP Government. CRA initiated a six year-long intense community campaign: rallies, letterboxing, emails, lobbying etc., for the Council to acquire KSC to develop a Library & Community Centre. Carlton has no Town Hall or public meeting space.

2008: RWH transferred to new Parkville site. CRA stepped up its campaign to establish a Library & Community Centre at KSC. Melbourne University (MU) cites KSC as its *Knowledge Transfer Centre*.

2010: Brumby ALP Government favoured MU use of KSC. Coalition Opposition and Greens were supportive of the CRA proposal.

2011: Recently elected Baillieu Coalition Government agreed to sell KSC to the Council to establish the CRA proposed Library & Community Centre. Council began discussion, design and renovation work. CRA continued irregular use of KSC facilities in 2011 & 2012.

2015: Facility formally opened, 3 July; made available to the community, 4 July

Working Groups

Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre (KSLCC)

We rejoice in this magnificent outcome following years of arduous campaigning, the superbly restored and renovated Kathleen Syme building is now the KSLCC

For a long time, Carlton had no Town Hall and no public buildings. There was no library and nowhere to facilitate social inclusion of our diverse population of residents, business, public housing tenants, students, 16,000 workers and visitors. CRA had a long held united vision for a centrally located Community Centre/Library to facilitate a range of activities to develop, build and sustain community and maintain its well-being.

Both sides of Parliament long ignored our aspirations for community infrastructure. Then, in October 2006, (pre-election) Premier Bracks promised that if we found a suitable building, the State Government would fund it 50/50 with the City of Melbourne. A suitable building is rare indeed in Carlton. Learning that the Royal Women's Hospital was moving to Parkville, CRA together with La Mama and Readings, immediately lobbied Council and the ALP Government for the Kathleen Syme Centre (KSC) as the ideal building for a Community Centre/Library for Carlton. It was centrally located, large, vacant and iconic.

The historic building was constructed in 1874 and was the Carlton Primary School until 1972, when it was transferred to the Royal Women's Hospital. It continued to be used for teaching purposes, and as a community asset, provided a venue for CRA and other community groups to meet.

But from 2007, all community access was denied. The community was informed that Melbourne University needed this building, and this had precedence over the community. The University even went ahead to highlight the acquisition [of KSC] in its 2008 University Master Plan.

CRA, together with La Mama and Readings, continued to fight, appealing to councillors, relevant government departments and to the State ALP Government for the transferring of KSC to the council as a community building for Carlton. Endless appeals and submissions by the So and Doyle Councils, CRA and the wider community, to a range of Ministers, including Premier Brumby, were fobbed off. Despite Premier Bracks' promise in 2006, no progress was evident.

In 2010, we met with Shadow Planning Minister, Matthew Guy. He was very generous with his time, provided advice on how to run our campaign, addressed a rally, and even raised the matter in Parliament. On 4 July 2012, as Planning Minister, Hon. Matthew Guy transferred the building to the City of Melbourne for use as a Library/Community Centre for Carlton. He warmly praised CRA, stating categorically

that the State Government released KSC for council purchase only as a result of CRA's extensive and persistent efforts.



Matthew Guy addressing the CRA Rally - 2010

Council's restoration of the building is magnificent. It is a wonderful community asset, critical to Carlton's infrastructure. The extensive, modern library is outstanding, and already proving extremely popular.

At an exclusive, invitation-only opening on Friday 3 July, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle acknowledged CRA's decades long crusade for this essential facility, and its crucial role in achieving release of the iconic Kathleen Syme building from the State Government for the Carlton community. On behalf of CRA, Greta Bird extended heart-felt thanks to the Hon Matthew Guy for release of the building from the State Government for Council purchase, and to current and previous councils for supporting the tireless lobbying, petitions and submissions, over many years, for this essential facility. Thanks were also extended to council staff for the magnificent restoration and conversion of the building. In recognition of the momentous occasion, CRA presented to the Library, a copy of our critically acclaimed book *Carlton: A History*, published in 2004, and an archive of our quarterly Newsflash, published since 2005. These publications record the history of Carlton, which are now available for reference in the library.



Presentation of Carlton: A History—3 July 2015

Hearing earlier that the community would be excluded at the invitation-only official opening. CRA lobbied Council for a more inclusive celebration, and letterboxed Carlton accordingly. In response, the opening of KSLCC was celebrated by the community with fanfare on Saturday 4 July. CRA operated a publicity stall, which included displays of our campaign, and was granted a 15 minute slot for speakers to address the community.

State Government Opposition Leader Matthew Guy was unable to attend given the short notice, but he sent the CRA a congratulatory letter which was read out at the event.

...It has been a long road to deliver this Library and Community Centre, and the hard work and dedication of so many here has finally paid off.

It was as the Shadow Minister for Planning when the Carlton Residents Association first approached me, frustrated with the red-tape and bureaucracy it faced at every turn. It was a simple request; that a building within their community, be allowed to be bought by the council for their community.

Today you can be proud of your efforts, happy in the knowledge that this centre will be available for the residents of Carlton today, and for future generations.

Congratulations, [signed] Matthew Guy



CRA Stall 4 July 2015

A quote from Margaret Mead: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.'

If you've not yet done so, please visit KSLCC: check out its marvellous facilities, join the library and enjoy the café. You are sure to be impressed.

Check out the CRA website:

www.carltonresidents.org.au

Join on line: <http://www.trybooking.com/GJWM>

Thank You to Greta Bird



Greta Bird was instrumental in securing the Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre for Carlton. As a former President and long term member of CRA, Greta saw the need for a local library and community facility to build social connectedness and relentlessly led a ten year CRA campaign to realise this vision. She did not do it alone. Greta

built a broad coalition of support for the project which included local primary schools, Readings, La Mama, councillors and eventually the state government shadow minister for planning. Our new state of the art library and community facility is a tribute to both her leadership and tenacity.

Traffic, Transport, Parking *East West Link-the aftermath*

In *Newsflash*, Autumn 2015, we outlined the 'in-principle' financial arrangements between the Andrews Labor Government and the East West Connect consortium (EWC), to conclude cancellation of the controversial East West Link (EWL) contracts. In a Media Release, 15 June 2015, Treasurer, Hon Tim Pallas, announced the deal was finalised. The State has acquired the assets of EWC for \$1. The EWC banking group will make available a \$3.1 billion low-cost bond towards funding the Melbourne Metro Rail Project, approved by Infrastructure Australia and now in progress. This, together with the \$1.5 billion State Budget announcement, provides around half the projected Metro Rail funding.

The Abbott Federal Government remains firm in its commitment to the EW Link: 'We haven't given up on it, in fact we have locked \$3 billion into the budget for any government that chooses to build it'. Prime Minister Abbott has reconfirmed his refusal to contribute funding to urban rail projects (*The Age*, 15 June 2015).

The State Government is weighing up its options for the *Western Distributor* truck ramps onto the West Gate Bridge as it proposed pre-election, or the 12km Transurban tollway and tunnel proposal (*Newsflash*, Autumn 2015). A decision will be made by December 2015. This roads project will most likely attract Federal funding support.

The \$15 million year-long pre-election *Moving Victoria* advertising campaign by the Napthine Coalition Government has come under renewed scrutiny (*The Age*, 27 May 2015). A review of this costly exercise, which included an advertising blitz extolling EW Link merits, was ramped up during the final three months of the election campaign. However it failed to have much impact on the electorate, according to the report: *Moving Victoria Campaign Evaluation*. A problem was 'a pre-existing public sensitivity to spin'. Many people 'exposed to the ads didn't remember seeing or hearing them'. Special Minister of State, Hon Gavin Jennings, claimed the campaign was a failed attempt to 'fool the Victorian community', which Labor would not repeat.

At least for the time being, EW Link is off the transport agenda in favour of more sustainable and effective rail and roads projects.

Planning

Apartment design guidelines

With 1800 people per week streaming into Melbourne, the apartment construction 'boom' seems set to continue. A lack of adequate apartment design guidelines in Victoria encourages excessively small apartments, aimed at maximising developer yield at the expense of living amenity for residents. This is a problem for many highrise apartment proposals in Carlton.

New South Wales has mandated apartment guidelines to ensure reasonable floor area and build quality. Victoria is now playing catch-up. A Discussion Paper, *Better Apartments*, was released by Planning Minister, Hon. Richard Wynne, in May 2015, and community submissions were encouraged by 31 July. CRA circulated this information to members (www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/planning)

The Discussion Paper stated Melbourne's projected population will be 7.7 million by 2051 requiring 480,000 additional apartments: 'More and more people, including families and the elderly, are choosing to live in apartments'. It goes on to note: 'The right mechanisms must be put in place to promote sustainable, high quality apartment living opportunities. Now is the time for a discussion on what these apartments should look and feel like'.

A current proposal in Carlton, the 13 storey Z66 development (former *Downtowner Motel*, cnr Lygon & Queensberry Streets), is a product of inadequate apartment design guidelines. Minimum design standards applicable in NSW require 1BR apartments to be at least 50sqm and 2BR at least 70sqm. For Z66, all 1BR but just 57% of 2BR would comply in NSW. (2BR apartments as small as 58sqm are proposed). With substantial community objection, this development proposal is currently before VCAT, which has approved similar apartment designs in the past. However, a recent VCAT Decision took due account of the NSW

apartment design guidelines in rejecting a proposal in Prahran on these grounds. Maybe this will provide a precedent for Carlton?

From a CRA viewpoint, Victorian apartment design guidelines cannot come quickly enough.

A cause for concern

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 four 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 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.

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

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

Join online via the following link -

<http://www.trybooking.com/GJWM>

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'.

APP No./ADDRESS	DETAILS OF WORK/CRA INTEREST
<p>Previous Carried Forward -</p> <p>TP-2014-399 53 Queensberry St Objection</p> <p>TP-2014-734 66-88 Lygon St Objection</p> <p>TP-2014-1013 41 Macarthur Place Objection</p> <p>TP-2015-273 100-102 Bouverie St Objection</p> <p>TP-1998-476/A 193-197 Nicholson St Objection</p> <p>TP-2015-295 176-178 Canning St Objection</p> <p>TP- 2015-384 101-103 Drummond St Objection</p> <p>TP-2015-440 23-33 Lincoln Sq Sth Objection</p> <p>Other Applications for which further information is still required</p> <p>TP-2015-265 171-175 Grattan St</p> <p>TP-2015-279 107-109 Drummond St</p>	<p>Alterations to existing church. VCAT hearing scheduled for 24 September, CRA will be represented.</p> <p>The five day VCAT hearing, from 24 August. was insufficient to complete the case. VCAT will reconvene on the 21 September for one day to finalise. Submissions were presented by CRA, the Romanian Orthodox Church and eleven residents, several of whom are CRA members. CRA planning committee is grateful for the support offered by the individual objectors, many of whom attended for four or five days.</p> <p>Awaiting CoM decision.</p> <p>The applicant has appealed to VCAT on the grounds that CoM has not issued a decision within the prescribed 60 days. The hearing is scheduled for February 2016.</p> <p>‘Fernwood’ Gymnasium - Permit issued, conditions modified to allow extended trading hours but within limits generally acceptable to CRA and resident objectors.</p> <p>New 2 storey extension to existing dwelling, CRA concerned about over shadowing the private open space of the adjoining property.</p> <p>Use existing dwellings as student accommodation. CRA concerns relate to site management issues.</p> <p>16 Storey mixed use development. Ground floor retail with residential above, using existing heritage building as a 5-6 storey podium. Current preferred height control of 8 storeys. CRA concerns mainly height and heritage. Applicant has appealed to VCAT on the grounds that CoM has not issued a decision within the prescribed 60 days. The hearing is scheduled for 16 November. CoM does not support the application. CRA will be represented.</p> <p>Multi storey mixed use development. Anticipate issues.</p> <p>Upgrading external facade, unlikely to be contentious.</p>
<p>June - 11 Applications - 1 Objection</p> <p>TP-2013-337/A 701-703 Swanston St Objection</p> <p>Rydges Hotel</p>	<p>Amend previous permit to allow amplified music on the rooftop. This application attracted 113 objections, CRA supported the resident objectors on the grounds of potential loss of amenity.</p>
<p>July - 16 Applications -</p> <p>TP-2015- 583 & 636 & 663 & 667</p> <p>Further information required</p>	
<p>August - 15 Applications - 1 Objection</p> <p>TP-2015-694 79-87 Canning St Objection</p> <p>TP-2015-742 86-94 Pelham St - Further information required</p>	<p>Demolish existing building and construct 8 new town houses CTA currently drafting an objection to this proposal</p> <p>8 Storey mixed use in a 4 storey preferred height DDO with heritage implications. We anticipate an objection being lodged against this application.</p>

Community News

Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust

Dr Celestina Sagazio, Historian and Manager of Cultural Heritage of the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT), the administrator of Melbourne General Cemetery, spoke on the cemetery at the CRA meeting on 18 May 2015. Celestina has been the organiser and tour guide for the popular night tours of the cemetery for 18 years, 14 years with the National Trust and the last four with SMCT. Celestina spoke of the significance of the cemetery, pointing out that Melbourne was the premier city in the Australian colonies from the mid-nineteenth century until the early twentieth century. This prominence is reflected in the Melbourne General Cemetery in many ways - in the quality of materials and craftsmanship, the very high number of notable interments, the good range of historic buildings and structures, and the significant collection of plantings.

Opened in 1853, Melbourne General was the first modern style cemetery in Victoria in that it was designed and built like a public park. Before 1853, burial grounds were small, cramped and unsanitary, and a reform movement in Europe led to the construction of much larger cemeteries away from settled districts. The design for Melbourne General was inspired by the beautiful Père La Chaise Cemetery in Paris.

Melbourne General has more graves of Prime Ministers than any other cemetery in Australia and also more graves of Premiers than any other cemetery in Victoria. The Prime Ministers interred there are: James Scullin, Labor Prime Minister during the Great Depression; Sir Robert Menzies, Australia's longest serving Prime Minister; Sir John Gorton, considered a larrikin compared with other Prime Ministers; and Malcolm Fraser, who was buried recently. Malcolm Fraser had a connection to Carlton: he barracked for the football team, in emulation of his political hero, Sir Robert Menzies.

We have been reliably informed that Malcolm Fraser agreed to be buried in the Prime Ministers' Garden but insisted on a location where he could not see Sir John Gorton's grave and with a view directly across to Menzies. In the early 1970's Gorton and Fraser had a spectacular falling out when Fraser accused Gorton of interfering with his portfolio. Gorton soon lost his position as Prime Minister as a result. They never spoke again and could not even be in the same room together. Sometimes grudges never die and are taken to the grave. The cemetery also contains a symbolic memorial to Prime Minister Harold Holt, who was lost at sea near Portsea.

Significantly, Melbourne General Cemetery has the graves of seven Premiers of Victoria and the first Tasmanian Premier. The Victorian Premiers are: Sir John O'Shanassy, Richard Heales, James Goodall Francis, James Service,

Duncan Gillies, Sir James Brown Patterson, George Elmslie, the first Labor premier of Victoria, who ruled for only thirteen days. The first Tasmanian Premier, William Champ, came to Victoria as inspector-general of penal establishments in 1857-68, and was responsible for the building of Pentridge Prison.

Dr Sagazio also spoke about the restoration of the grave of legendary judge, Sir Redmond Barry, who lived in Carlton for some years, and the grave of John Pigdon, a prominent building contractor, businessman and Mayor of Melbourne. Pigdon Street in North Carlton was named in his honour in 1880.

*Right: John Pigdon
Below: Sir Redmond Barry*



Part of the presentation comprised humorous epitaphs in cemeteries around the world, and an informative discussion with members about cemetery issues followed. Some members were interested in reviving the CRA's cemetery committee, and Celestina agreed to discuss ways the CRA and SMCT could work together in completing conservation projects.

University Square

A draft concept plan has been prepared showing how University Square can be transformed into a larger, contemporary and innovative public space in the heart of Carlton.

The plan is informed by over 500 pieces of feedback collected from the first two phases of community

engagement and Council's strategic objectives. You can help shape the future of University Square by viewing and providing feedback on the interactive [University Square Draft Concept Plan](#).

You can also provide feedback in the following ways:

- Visit an information session at University House at the Woodward, Level 10, Law Building (opposite University Square), 185 Pelham Street, Carlton:
- 6:00pm to 8:00pm Monday 7 September - [RSVP](#)
- 12 noon to 2:00pm Tuesday 15 September - [RSVP](#)
- [Email](#) with your detailed feedback
- Call on 9658 9658 or
- Write to Urban Landscapes at the City of Melbourne, P.O. Box 1603, Melbourne, VIC 3001.

Until 2nd October

Your feedback will help inform the development of the final University Square Master Plan.



Reimagining University Square Draft Concept Plan released for feedback

OPEN UNTIL 2 OCTOBER 2016



Thank you for being a part of earlier community engagement for University Square in Carlton.

Based on significant ideas and insights from the community, we've prepared a draft concept plan showing how we think University Square can be transformed into a new and innovative public space in the heart of Carlton.

You can help shape the future of University Square by coming along to one of our information sessions or by sharing your feedback on our interactive plan online.

[Visit Participate Melbourne for more information!](#)

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Neill Street Reserve Opened

The City of Melbourne has recently transformed Neill Street Reserve between Lygon and Rathdowne streets to create a neighbourhood park for the Carlton community.

The redeveloped area now includes two courts for informal games, a community square, a table tennis table, swings for older children and informal areas for sitting and relaxing.

There are also new trees, plants, lawn, lights, bins and pathways.

<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/ParksandActivities/Parks/Pages/NeillStreetReserve.aspx>



Link with CRA on Facebook:

<http://facebook.com/pages/carltonresidentsassociation/112403528827845>



What were we worried about in 2002?

