



The Carlton Residents Association Inc.
A0034345G ABN 87 716 923 898 P.O.

9th Annual General Meeting, February 15, 2005

President's Report

The highlights for our Association in 2004 were the successful launch of the Carlton History book in April. The declaration of the REB and Carlton Gardens as being added to the list of World Heritage sites was a marvellous victory for the many people who have worked for over a decade to that end. A low point was the compromise resolution of the Eastern Precinct plan. Other policy developments have been the completion of the *C60 Amendment* for the Melbourne Planning Scheme's Municipal Strategic Statement which contains an excellent local policy for Carlton and other local areas in the municipality, consultation on a *Carlton Gardens Masterplan*, conclusion of consultation on the Argyle Square redevelopment plan, the *Carlton Access and Parking Strategy*, and the *Business Diversity Strategy*, as well as monthly monitoring of town planning applications in Carlton. As an Association, our Committee has worked hard to meet the Association's objectives of advocating on behalf of the residents of Carlton to enhance the amenity and protect the heritage of the neighbourhood.

Carlton History Book Launch

April 1st 2004 was a highpoint for our Association! On a brilliant sunny morning at La Mama Theatre, the 40 or so historians who had worked hard with the Editor, Peter Yule on the great history of Carlton congregated, and revelled in a truly grand launch, followed in the evening with a "Melbourne Conversations" session at Federation Square with Carlton identities reminiscing. Here are some photos of the book (with author Caitlin Mahar), the authors on the steps of La Mama, the editor (Peter Yule), a section of the crowd, and the launch (Lord Mayor John So, Peter Yule, David Williamson, Louise Adler, Sue Chambers) to remind us of the great day!





The Authors



The Editor



The Crowd



The Launch

The Reviews

That's History with Professor Weston Bate

Colourful Carlton

The recent launch by playwright David Williamson of *Carlton: A History*, written by many hands, rang bells for me about the importance of locality in shaping lives. In the story of Melbourne, the inner suburbs have a special place, for nowhere else (and particularly in Carlton) have the tides of change flowed as strongly, and nowhere else has ethnicity been as powerful a creator of colour and identity.

The launch, for Melbourne University Publishing, was held under a strong autumn sun in the crowded carpark of La Mama Theatre (founded in 1968), where new voices, like Williamson's and Jack Hibberd's, were heard with delight by the avante garde. During the 1970s the nearby Pram Factory also provided a venue for the Australian Performing Group, which spawned Circus OZ.

Just as the book launch spread over and beyond the carpark, the camaraderie of theatre people spilled into the streets, enlivening cafes and Melbourne's first espresso bars or Jimmy Watson's wine bar. It went further, into demonstrations against censorship and condemnation of the Vietnam war.

I had not known about Jimmy Watson's Italian ancestry, but, of course, he represented what Celestina Sagazio regards as the Italo-Australian community's penchant for public ceremonies like street festivals, church and family functions, music and sport. The paving and concreting skills of urban northern Italians shaped modern Melbourne (just think of Grollo) while the need to feed those migrants, and village born southerners, has made Carlton the Mecca for lovers of Italian cooking.

From the 1920s to the 1950s, a watershed for Italians, there was also a considerable Jewish population whose cultural centre, The Kadimah, attracted radical intellectuals and artists of all faiths. Interestingly, the life of Carlton's Italians and Jews was the subject of a pace-setting social history exhibition at the Melbourne Museum when in Swanston Street.

Even if I added Greeks and Lebanese to the migrant story, I would only be able, here, to give a flavour of the contents of this marvellous publication. Its 500 pages contain over fifty articles from reminiscences, like Arnold Zables' about the 1950s to serious research about social welfare by Shurlee Swain. You can find out about factories, bookshops, other businesses, sporting clubs, the Exhibition Building, Melbourne General Cemetery, the University, terrace and slum housing, the Trades Hall, the Womens' and Childrens' Hospitals, schools, churches, parks, crime and almost anything that takes your fancy.

And notice that much of the consciousness of Carlton depicted in this history derived from the struggle of a group of citizens, called the Carlton Associates, to prevent the indiscriminate clearing of areas designated as slums in 1969 by the Housing Commission. Almost thirty years later, to fight the desire of the University of Melbourne to demolish cherished terrace housing, the Carlton Residents Association was formed. It has built well on the work of its predecessor by sponsoring this publication and finding Peter Yule to edit it.

Carlton: A History Yule P.

This marvellous account of Carlton offers unique insights into one of Melbourne's oldest suburbs. The reader can fight the epic political battles of the past as recounted by John Button, take part in street theatre with Bill Garner, watch the building of elegant terraces of Drummond Street with Miles Lewis, stroll through Melbourne General Cemetery with Don Chambers & Celestina Sagazio as well as many other historical sites within Carlton. With over 250 illustrations, this history of Carlton richly evokes the many influences that made Carlton a vibrant, exciting & influential suburb. MUP Aust 2004 HB 570pp **\$A59.95**

Plus

<http://www.carltonresidents.org.au/History/AgeArticle.html>

<http://www.mup.unimelb.edu.au/catalogue/0-522-85061-8.html>

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2004/04/16/1082055638528.html?from=storyrhs>

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/history/hindsight/stories/s1264056.htm>

Plus do a Google for the pages of reviews and sales: you will find about 8 pages of mentions of the book in reviews and book collections.

We are pleased to announce that sales have been very good, and Melbourne University Press are gearing up to publish a soft back version in 2005. The book has also been entered for a Community History award that we should hear about in May.

Eastern Precinct Development

We were less successful in the compromise reached with the Eastern Precinct development. Many would say the architecture is a considerable improvement on what was initially planned. There will still be about 540 units and a section that is 11 storeys high. In our view, the complex will be massive for the area and have a negative impact on both the heritage significance of central Carlton, and the amenity of residents and pedestrians. Unfortunately both the MCC and the National Trust negotiated compromises that they thought sufficient. Without their support, it was not possible to continue the objection with any confidence that the efforts of many people would be fruitful. History will judge whether those responsible for the development have left a building complex which people will wonder “How could they have been allowed to do that?!” Such buildings can be demolished!

SAVE CARLTON

STOP THIS MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN CARLTON'S HEART

Becto's new proposal for the Eastern Precinct submitted for Planning Approval January 2004. Formerly cancelled by City and Council on 11/03/04.

"The cliff approach does not achieve the level of respect that needs to flow between the prominent Swanston Street precinct and the culturally valued Carlton heritage precinct." - from the VCAT Decision rejecting Becto's previous design - October 2003.

Swanston Street Becto

Becto's revised plans for the Eastern Precinct Development have been submitted to the Department of Sustainability & Environment.

The public advertisement period will be in February, with objections from the public received at that time.

Melbourne City Council will be deciding its position, probably at the beginning of March. Objections should be emailed or posted to Council before then.

Contact for Councillors, MPs, the Carlton Residents Association and the media are available on our website: www.carltonresidents.org.au or phone 9340 1558.

Sign the petition against this proposal at Reading's bookshop, 309 Lygon Street, Carlton.

CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Coalition of Residents Associations

The work of the Coalition of Residents Associations (CoRA) continued during 2004. We were pleased to have the *Amendment C60* of the Melbourne Planning Scheme sent to the Minister for Planning for approval. The plan provides clearer objectives for different areas, and clearer boundaries for each area. We are still waiting the outcome, but assuming it is accepted, the plan for Carlton (see below) will provide Planning Scheme protection for the strategic directions that have been developed in the past five years with the support of our Association. The full document can be seen at http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/rsrc/mss2004/21_8_7_carlton.pdf for the section on Carlton. This is a major policy development. A *Heritage Statement of Significance* Amendment has also been developed and will go through a consultation process in the next year or so.

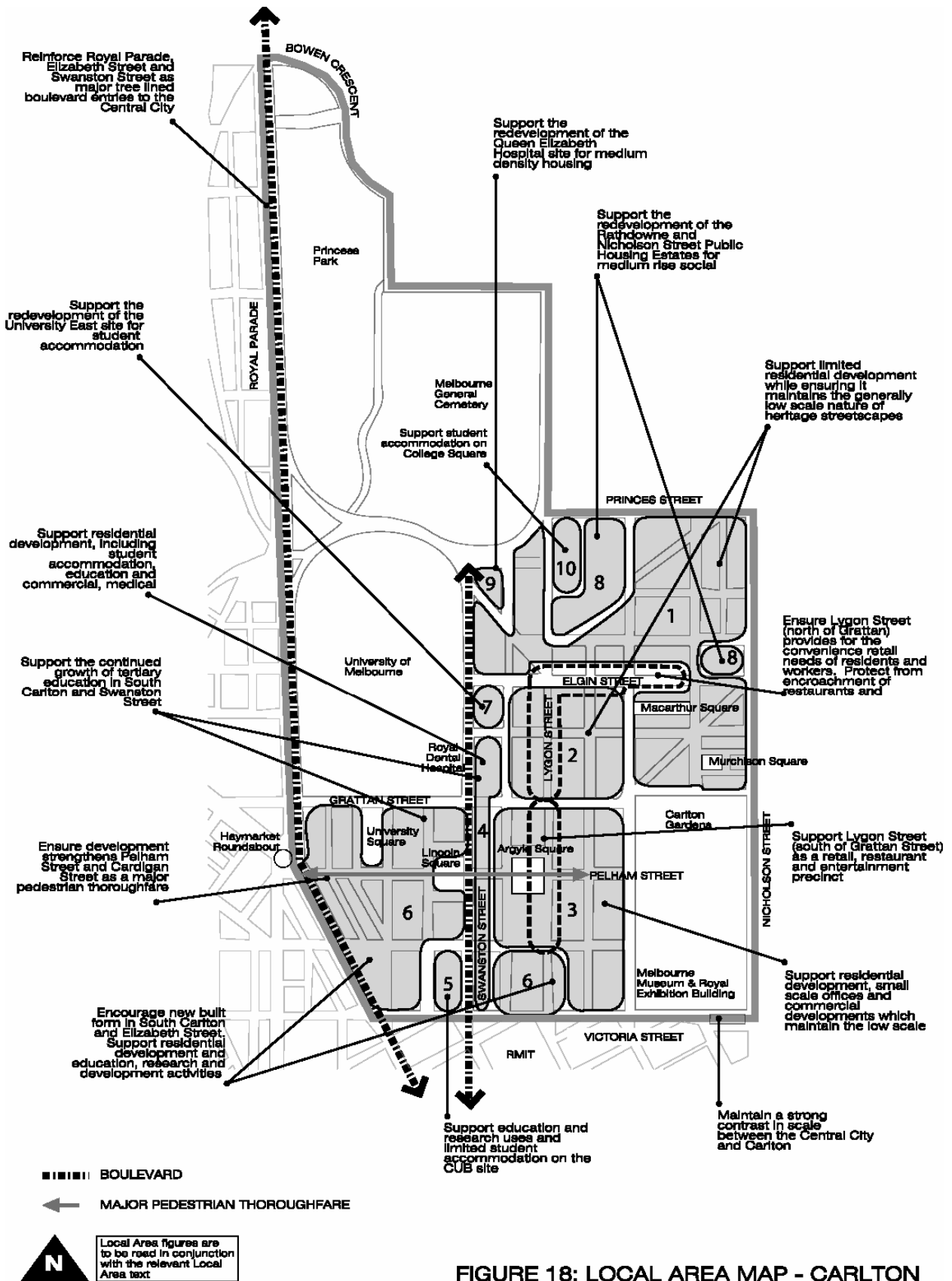


FIGURE 18: LOCAL AREA MAP - CARLTON

The Carlton Access and Parking Policy and Business Diversity Policy

This policy has now been endorsed by Council see

http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/opm/bc/ctee/meetings/COUNCIL_55_20040429.pdf This will limit on-street parking for new residential buildings from 2005, and abolish multi-user resident parking permits in favour of visitor vouchers. We remain concerned that the waiving of parking for many business developments is common; and look forward to some progress on making sure that the streets do not get even more swamped with parked cars; or drivers looking for a space. The under-utilization of off-street car parks while there are free on-street parking spaces for visitor car parking poses a problem for street amenity. Our Association continues to lobby MCC for improved public spaces which are pedestrian friendly and which are not dominated by cars. The MCC policy is to introduce median plantations when off-street car parking becomes available. We will be urging MCC to make sure this happens and that off-street car parks are used.

A related policy, Amendment C59 – Lygon and Elgin streets, Carlton see

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=195&pg=1423> has been introduced to limit the number of restaurants in the business zone north of Grattan Street is presently being processed.

MCC Budget & Streetscape Greening

There was little MCC budget allocation for Carlton purposes during 2004. There was no appointment of a Place Manager. There was also no substantial greening of Carlton (i.e. streetscape improvements). There has been progress on redevelopment of Argyle Square, Lincoln Square and the Tram stop in Swanston Street between Elgin and Faraday Street. None of these have been priorities of the Association; nor of the Carlton 2010 strategic plan. In the case of Argyle Square there is now agreement on a concept plan, which is expected to be constructed in the next year. Details can be seen on the weblink:

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/rsrc/PDFs/Major%20Developments/Current%20Developments/ArgyleSMasterPlan.pdf> The redevelopment of Lincoln Square with the introduction of a Bali Memorial is

happening. We hope when the changes are made that the park will be attractive to residents and visitors without too much loss of lawn: the trend to put hard surfaces where possible is inconsistent with Council's "Growing Green" policy, and residents' need for access to green spaces in high density urban contexts. The tram stop is also presently being constructed as the 4th busiest tram stop in Melbourne. Our Association was able to ensure that the safety fences were around the trams, rather than on the edge of the pavements; plus under-grounding of cabling and planting of 60 elms. We remain concerned that pedestrian amenity is compromised by the limited width of the crossing south of Faraday Street. For those interested, the document relating to the tram stop can be viewed at the MCC and VCAT sites

http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/opm/bc/ctee/meetings/COUNCIL_52_20031127.pdf

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/disp.pl/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2004/369.html?query=m%2dtrams>

Lord Mayor John So has indicated that he would like MCC budget to include a community space for Carlton, and greening Pelham Street from Rathdowne to Elizabeth Street. These initiatives would be of great benefit to Carlton. We will also be lobbying for more of the streetscape improvements listed in Carlton 2010, and for a Place Manager to lead the implementation of the Carlton 2010 strategic plan.

Our lobbying for funding of improvements to Carlton Gardens has continued with other residents groups. The *Carlton Gardens Masterplan* will go to MCC Council for endorsement early in 2005, and can be seen at <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/rsrc/Images/ParksGardens/5-Carlton%20Gardens%20Bklt.pdf> The World Heritage listing of the Royal Exhibition Buildings and Carlton Gardens has both helped but complicated the future protection of the Gardens, since all levels of Government are involved. There remains concern that the International Flower Show is not making a sufficient effort to relocate exhibits that are impacting on the Gardens. We will be continuing to lobby for this to occur.

State Government

Members of CoRA continued to meet with local MPs (Hon. Bronwyn Pike and Glenyys Romanes). Our Association is lobbying for MCC and State Government to work jointly on a traffic management plan so that the recommendations of the **Northern Central City Corridor Study (NCCCS)** are implemented. There is some progress on a joint effort being established. We will be lobbying for some joint action.

Queen Elizabeth and Housing Estate sites

Little progress was made on redevelopment of either the Queen Elizabeth or the Housing Estates sites. We understand that state budget allocation is not forthcoming.

CRA Activities

Planning Applications

We have continued our monthly monitoring meetings, with a very active group. The members are Greta Bird, Don Chambers, Murray Dovey, Warren Green, Victoria Hamer, Peter Sanders, Dennis Toth and me (with Dennis Toth joining the group in 2004). The most numerous objections were for extensions to existing dwellings which caused overlooking of neighbours, or were not sufficiently respectful in form or materials to the heritage context. As well there were many signs and roof furniture on business developments that we commented on. There were VCAT cases on residential developments in Palmerston and Keppel Street; and a business in residential zones in Elgin Street. We were especially alarmed at the redevelopment at 264-266 Elgin Street. Archicentre has worked with a number of authorities to demonstrate how to renovate terrace houses as a project for the Year of Built Form. The following photographs show that in the case of 266 Elgin Street, only the external front wall and the roof that you can see from the street remains. This gives a whole new meaning to retention of heritage buildings and facadism, and if encouraged would lead to Carlton becoming a “Disneyland” of heritage frontages. Hopefully the new heritage policy will be more successful in ensuring that the retention of the front rooms of heritage buildings.



266 Elgin Street: The Front



266 Elgin Street: The Back

Other VCAT cases coming up in 2005 are at 264 Swanston Street where one of the original timber houses in Carlton opposite Newman College has a plan for demolition and development of a 3 storey student accommodation building. Don Chambers and Peter Sanders will represent CRA on this case. The Lemon Tree Hotel is also likely to be a major effort by many members to ensure that the proposal to re-open the building for a hotel is not successful. We believe that our main grounds of objection (discretionary use in a Residential 1 zone) will be successful, and will support the local residents in their vehement objection to the proposal.

Other contributions

As for 2003, Don Chambers again represented CRA on the Carlton Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC) and the MCC Heritage Advisory Committee. La Mama Theatre continues to be our venue of choice for our end-of-year Party which is always a great occasion. Our toasts for 20034 were proposed by the newly re-elected Lord Mayor John So, accompanied by most of the new Councillors, and also Peter Sanders, a longstanding eminent Carlton resident who is murmuring about going to another suburb after 45 years of so. Brunettis continue to provide food for our general meetings and end-of-year party, for which we are most grateful. We also thank the Royal Women's Hospital for continuing to provide us with a meeting room at the Kathleen Syme Centre.

Committee & Membership

The elected Committee members for 2003 were Sue Chambers (President), Greta Bird (Vice-President), Jacqueline Ots (Secretary), Warren Green (Treasurer), Anne Ritter (Membership Secretary) and Jackie Watts (Committee member) with Don Chambers (Heritage) co-opted. As usual, I would like to thank all Committee members and other members who have contributed so much to the work of the Association. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Greta Bird who was Acting-President during the MCC Election period while I stepped aside to contest a Councillor position. Greta did a great job. Jaqueline Ots is retiring as Secretary, and we thank her for her work taking the Minutes at our General and Committee meetings. Fortunately Jackie Watts is agreeable to act as Minute Secretary, so that important role will be covered. Anne Ritter will be our new Secretary, and continue to be responsible for communications, the website and membership. We also

welcome Murray Dovey to the Committee. Murray has contributed in the past two years to the Planning Group, and will continue to do that, as well as contributing to the main Committee.

Higher CRA membership numbers remains an important goal for the Association, not just for sharing the financial load, but also for ensuring the representative nature of the Association and increasing the people resource pool we can call on. Increasingly we need to spread the load of the Association's work and policy development across the membership. We continue to be grateful to the MCC Councillors, local MPs, numerous MCC officers, National Trust, and members of the media, who have helped our Association to have another successful year.



Sue Chambers

President

| CRA 2005 Meeting Schedule | Date |
|--|-----------------------------|
| CRA Planning (8pm) | Tuesday 11 January |
| CRA Committee (8pm) | Tuesday 18 January |
| CRA Planning (8pm) | Monday 31 January |
| CRA AGM (8pm) | Tuesday 15 February |
| CRA Planning (8pm) | Monday 28 February |
| CRA Committee (8pm) | Tuesday 15 March |
| CRA Committee (8 pm) | Tuesday 5 April |
| CRA Planning (8pm) | Monday 11 April |
| CRA Planning (8pm) | Monday 2 May |
| CRA Committee (8pm) | Tuesday 17 May |
| CRA Planning Group (8pm) | Monday 30 May |
| CRA Committee (8pm) | Tuesday 14 June |
| CRA Planning Group (8pm) | Monday 4 July |
| CRA Committee (8pm) | Tuesday 19 July |
| CRA Planning Group (8pm) | Monday 1 August |
| CRA Committee (8pm) | Tuesday 16 August |
| CRA Planning Group (8pm) | Monday 5 September |
| CRA Committee (8pm) | Tuesday 20 September |
| CRA Planning Group (8pm) | Monday 3 October |
| CRA Committee (8pm) | Tuesday 18 October |
| CRA Planning Group (8pm) | Monday 7 November |
| CRA Committee (8pm) | Monday 14 November |
| CRA Planning Group (8pm) | Tuesday 28 November |
| CRA Christmas Party (7.30 – 9.30pm) | Monday 12 December |

Venues: It is planned to hold **CRA Committee and Planning Group** meetings at 244 Faraday St. Carlton. The venue for the Christmas Party is La Mama Theatre. Enquiries about CRA meetings and venues should be directed to 9349 3615.

2005 General Committee: Sue Chambers (President), Greta Bird (Vice-President), Anne Ritter (Secretary), Warren Green (Treasurer), Jacqueline Watts (Minute Secretary), Murray Dovey (Committee member), and Don Chambers (co-opted: Heritage).

Planning Group: Greta Bird, Sue Chambers, Don Chambers (Heritage), Murray Dovey, Warren Green, Victoria Hamer, Peter Sanders, and Dennis Toth.