

Median Greening Carlton

CRA has lobbied the Melbourne City Council for increased green space in Faraday and Cardigan Streets for many years (see Newsflash, summer 2008). The issue has been before the Council Planning Committee twice and the full Council once during 2008. **The Carlton Business Association and the majority of Councillors will not sanction any net loss of on-street car parking from greening proposals.** No amount of argument from CRA about the unsustainable dominance of cars on Carlton's streetscapes and the mass of under utilised off-street parking, has influenced this mindset.

The progressive reduction of median car parking in favour of increased median greening, as envisaged in the *Carlton 2010* local area plan, will not now be implemented. This 'vision plan' was developed in 1999 through widespread community consultation and was endorsed by the Council at that time. Its rejection in 2008 represents yet another example of failings in the consultative process which has been a regular CRA experience over many years.

On-street car parking is sacrosanct in Carlton; nothing we say appears likely to change that in the foreseeable future.

Traders and their staff continue to occupy many 'free' on-street car spaces for extended periods every day, thus excluding the customers they claim to so desperately need. We believe the 50 currently 'free' car spaces in Cardigan and Faraday Streets should be metered. This would raise significant revenue (\$200,000 pa) for the Council which could be applied to on-going streetscape works in Carlton; it would also encourage traders to park off-street.

In a spirit of compromise and to move things forward, we agreed at the Planning Committee Meeting on 4 March 2008 to new median plantings in Faraday St. (Swanston to Cardigan Sts.) and in Cardigan St. (Elgin to Faraday Sts.). A total of 23 additional trees will be planted in enlarged tree islands; opportunistic planting of at least further 10 trees will occur in kerbside areas currently lacking trees. The roundabout at the intersection of Faraday and Cardigan Streets will receive a creative landscape treatment (completed in September 2008).

The end result will enhance the main pedestrian entrance to Carlton from the Tram Terminus on Swanston St. and help soften our car dominated streetscapes. Becton will be pursued to complete its 'make good' planting obligations around *College Square on Swanston*, as agreed with the Council several years ago.