

CRA 2015 Snapshot

Who we are

CRA is an inclusive, egalitarian,
democratic, non-party-political,
association which acts to sustain
Carlton's historic identity
and improve its assets
and liveability.

Our work in 2015

1 **The Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre** **Working Group Convenor: Greta Bird**



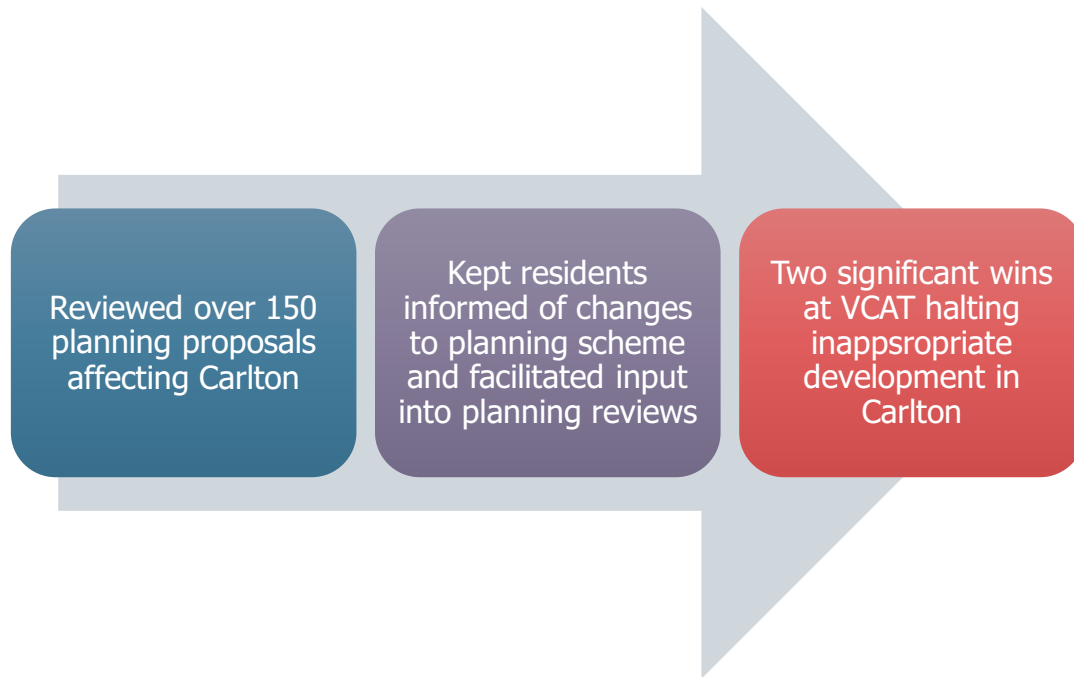
The KSLCC was opened in July 2015. Without the CRA and the great work of Greta Bird on behalf of the CRA, the Kathleen Syme Centre would not be Carlton's Library and Community Centre. It would instead be part of Melbourne University's ever expanding empire.

Greta has annoyed politicians and bureaucrats from the local to federal level, but that has been a marker of her effectiveness. This achievement will be enjoyed for many years to come.

The City of Melbourne has done an excellent job in converting and renovating the building, so that it is by far their most pleasant library, enjoying great patronage, enhanced by the pleasant and helpful staff and the excellent Wild Timor Coffee Company Café.

2 Planning

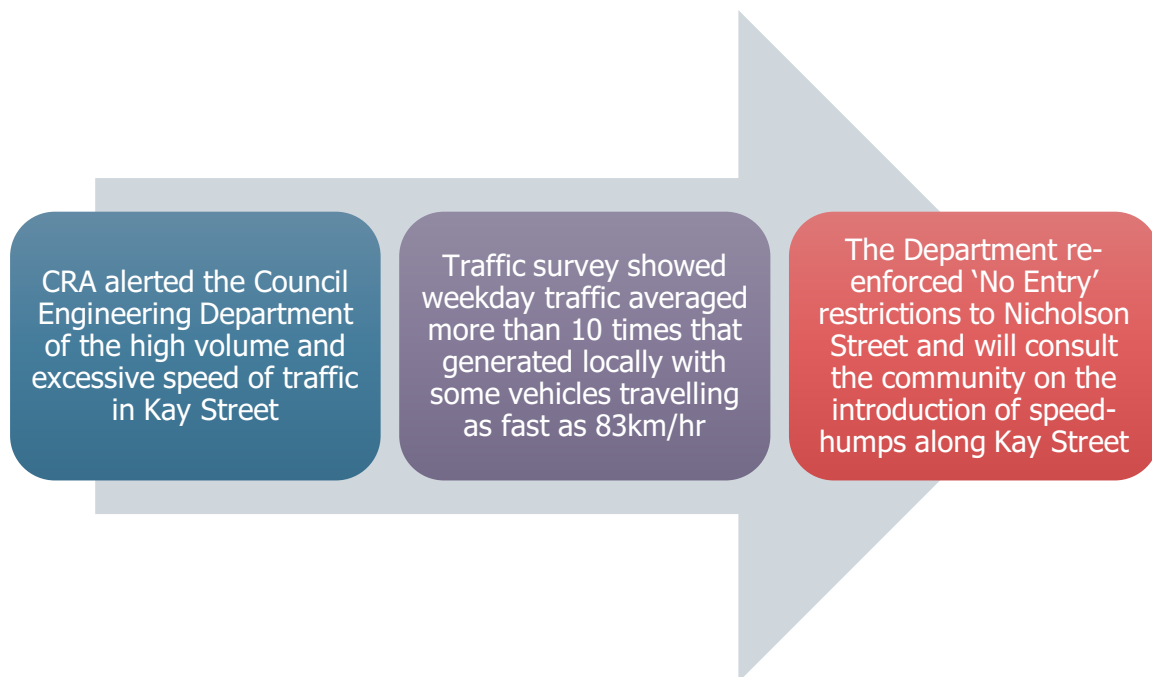
Working Group Convenor: Warren Green



The CRA Planning Working Group (Warren Green, Ewan Ogilvy, Malcolm Foo, Denis Toth & John Weickhardt) has analysed planning issues and represented CRA at a number of VCAT cases. The year was marked by several VCAT decisions supporting objections by the CRA, City of Melbourne and individual objectors.

CRA has been a key part of two significant wins at VCAT in 2015. The first was the refusal to permit construction of the proposed thirteen storey apartment block at the Downtowner Motel site (66-68 Lygon St). Not only did the proposal exceed the eight storey limit of the area but also proposed small one or two bedroom apartments with inadequate light and ventilation. The second win was the 23-33 Lincoln Square South site where VCAT also upheld the council decision to refuse a permit—a welcome if unexpected win.

3 **Traffic, Transport and Parking** Working Group, Convenor: Ian Bird



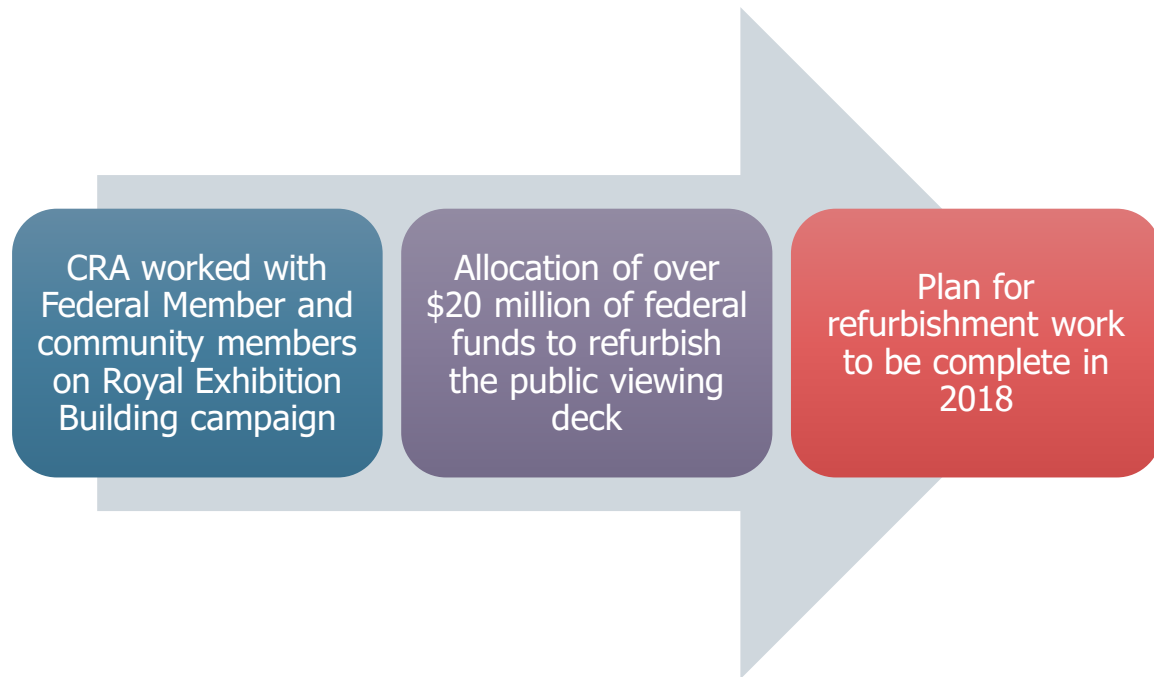
Members of the CRA were at the forefront in opposing the East-West Link, which was cancelled by the new State Government. Ian and Greta Bird were chief organisers of the CRA's opposition to the Link.

The group also monitored other traffic and transport proposals that can impact on Carlton including:

- Western Distributor
- Melbourne Metro Rail
- Victorian State transport infrastructure projects budget allocation

4 Carlton Gardens

Working Group Convenor: Brian Falconer



Our Federal Member Adam Bandt worked with CRA and members of the community to encourage the allocation of \$20m by the Federal Government to reinstate the public viewing deck of the Royal Exhibition Building. In the 19th century the promenade deck provided the best view of Melbourne.

Four years have since passed since then and the work has progressed slowly. We hope that this work will be completed in two years.

5 Newsflash and Website

Working Group Convenor: Lyn Cracknell



Our website is the public face of the CRA. It is supported by quarterly editions of our newsletter-Newsflash. Both of these provide a record of CRA activities.

The production of the Newsflash relies entirely on copy contributed by CRA Members and Friends.

2015 saw the completion of our new website. The website is now up and running at: <http://carltonresidents.org.au/>

6 Events

Coordinator: Farida Fleming



In 2015, CRA hosted four events for Members. Guest speakers were Professor Renata Howe, Dr Celestina Sagazio, Melbourne MP Ellen Sandell, and City of Melbourne Councillor Dr Jackie Watts, who spoke at the CRA Christmas Party.

The Christmas Party at La Mama was a huge success, blessed with good weather and attended by our Federal and State Members and MCC Councillors, along with an enthusiastic crowd.

Our thanks to Liz Jones and La Mama for making the venue available.

We need your support to protect and improve Carlton

Developers love Carlton because it's cheaper to build a high rise apartment in Carlton than in the CBD, and they can then sell the apartments for a better price than in the CBD.

The CRA works to ensure that all new developments make Carlton a better place to live and work, and do not spoil its unique character.

Please join us in the fight to protect and improve Carlton.

Join a CRA Working Group or suggest a new Working Group:

- Friends of Carlton Gardens
- CoRBA (Coalition of Residents and Business Associations, Melbourne)
- KSLCC (Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre)
- Growing CRA
- Media
- Newsflash
- Parkland & Public Land
- Planning
- Melbourne North Community Consultation Committee (formerly PCCC)
- Public Housing Redevelopment
- Streetscapes
- Traffic, Transport & Parking

If you're not already a member:

Join CRA today via the following link –

<http://trybooking.com/JLPE>

For membership enquiries contact the Membership Secretary,
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Report

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