

Carlton Gardens News

September 2010

Letter to Angela Hill Senior Park Planner regarding the loss of the kaffir plum

Dear Angela and Francis,

We held a quiet wake for the kaffir plum. The remaining trunk looks so pitiful. Of course, its loss comes after a number of years of struggle and as you know, concerns for its health. We are reminded that Rob Galbraith singled out the kaffir plum for special comments in his reports and most recently Julianne Bell raised her concerns again to committee in the context of MIFGS event report.

Its loss will leave a gap in the gardens especially as it was in such an important and prominent place near the fountain. When one looks at that area and then over the whole garden, one is reminded of the many gaps and the openness throughout the gardens as a result of the cumulative losses.

I recall that there was to be another replanting. As winter is now passing, can you tell us when and where things will happen? Given the plum was a significant heritage tree, is it going to have early replacement scheduled?

Can you also give us an updated timetable for the Western circle redevelopment?

The reply:

We will be replanting a Kaffir Plum in the Gardens, but not this year. Yes, you are right, we have had some tree re-planting plans in the approvals system for some time, but I am still waiting for final confirmation from Heritage Victoria before we can proceed. The hope is that we will still be able to get them in this year.

As far as I'm aware, the western forecourt redevelopment is on track to be finished early next year, but you would need to confirm directly with the Museum about that. You can look at update reports and photos about the project on their special website about the project:

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/reb/about-us/world-heritage-world-futures/>

All that fencing etc on the Southern forecourt at the moment is to allow the installation and connection of some new water pipes and to close off others as part of the overall project.