



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

NEWSFLASH

Spring 2010

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Candidates' Forum 8 November - State Elections

The three candidates for Melbourne in the State Election – Bronwyn Pike (Labour), Brian Walters (Greens) and Luke Martin (Liberal) – attended the Candidates' Forum on Monday 8 November, to address the people of Carlton on the coming election. Approximately 80 people attended. Candidates were given time to state their case before answering questions from the floor.



From left, John Evans (Chair), Bronwyn Pike, Brian Walters, Luke Martin

Summary of key points made in their opening presentations:

Bronwyn Pike – Labour: has spent on services in the area, especially health and education; public housing has been kept close to the city; redevelopment of health services e.g. refugee health nurse program. These are good examples of how a government minister can use resources to give people better lives. Is pleased to have been part of such initiatives over the years.

Wants: there are already plans to rebuild the local Carlton Primary School in partnership with Melbourne University, Lady Gowrie Child Care Centre and City of Melbourne as part of the Opportunities for Carlton collaboration; to improve community connectedness and provide employment opportunities; aims for an inclusive and caring society.

Brian Walters – Greens: disagrees with the government on the desalination plant and money spent on this – costs still not available; planning – no agreed outcomes; no direction; no plan, e.g. Windsor development; loss of parkland to private development.

Wants: harmony with the environment; a creative, connected and happy Melbourne.

Luke Martin – Liberal: has studied, lived, worked in area, believes that residents of Melbourne deserve a better deal.

Disappointed with: the poor leadership and vision of the current government which has led to poor services and problems associated with planning; increased waiting times for public housing.

Wants: to fix the problems and plan for the future – (the Liberals have a clear vision for this) a strong economy and an end to waste; a clean, reliable, safe and punctual public transport system; strong families and a viable community; to take note of community input; to ensure 20% reduction in emissions in the state by 2020; to improve public safety – will employ 640 more police and protective service officers.

A wide range of issues was covered in the questions from the floor. Responses from each candidate on the issues are summarised below.

Bronwyn Pike's responses:

Citizen power in planning processes: this is difficult and controversial – community was involved in 2030 process but this needs refreshing; Citu of Melbourne, (CoM), as a mixed-use area, has particular issues and needs flexible solutions, especially relating to residential areas; CoM needs to have greater decision-making power on planning issues.

Desalination plant: Govt believes this is the right decision as it is one part of an integrated water strategy for securing water for the future with non rain-dependent sources in a rapidly growing community which suffers drought; important to look at the cost in terms of a contractual arrangement over a long period of time.

Carlton Housing Estate – design of public/private mix: acknowledged problem with design of wall between public and private areas; future developments will ensure 'no reality or perception of division between public and private residents'. Public housing residents wanted own gardens so have larger balconies.

Policy costings: Labor has run economy carefully; important that all costings be independently verified by a third party as done already.

Mental health services: policy is one of rebuilding and continued investment, e.g. community-based programs, mental health nurses in A&E, mental health services for refugees and the homeless.

Education: entry-level staff are the highest paid in Australia; cost involved per student is related to remoteness and indigenous spending (which are more serious issues in other states); Victorian students perform better although spending per student is less.

Cost of solar panels/renewable energy: acknowledges the issue of 'gross feed in tariff' is controversial – likely to be reviewed, Federal Government's white paper on climate change will have an effect; State Government closing 25% of Hazelwood; with development of renewable energy power, coal-fired stations will close.

Royal Park/ RCH development: services included in the development will not encroach on Royal Park; the hotel included in the development was requested by parents and community; 'more land is to be returned to Royal Park than is used for the development'.

Public transport /Westlink: is not a precursor to Eddington tunnel; planning underway for a rail tunnel, which will service Carlton; additional crossing of Maribyrnong River; there have been 2000 additional weekly train services (1999-2010); also increase in buses and trams.

KSC: important to follow appropriate process; CoM can now buy site at Valuer General's valuation; can apply to the State Government for financial assistance if needed.

Anti-corruption: the Govt already commissioned Elizabeth Proust to review the bodies involved and will implement the report.

Brian Walters' responses:

Citizen power in planning processes: need extensive community consultation (as in Vancouver) to decide goals and prescriptions for planning which are binding (e.g. height levels, etc), so that developers and community know the rules.

Select entry school: not opposed to it where appropriate, but resources should not be taken from other schools.

Desalination plant: does not know the actual cost or the energy-intensive nature of the plant; retire Hazelwood and replace with solar and wind energy (Mildura area); do not plan for new brown coal plant but replace with renewable energy.

Carlton Housing Estate – design of public/private mix: 'salt and pepper' mix does not work with private development – not a role for private developers.

Policy costings: every policy must be costed and made public; Greens' gambling costing has gone to treasury; revenue should not be driven by gambling – 40% of gambling revenue comes from problem gamblers – \$1 max. bet is a good recommendation from the Productivity Commission.

Mental health services: need resources in early intervention and treatment; people get caught up in legal system unnecessarily and are then housed in inappropriate places like prisons.

Education: says Victoria spends less per student than other states; Greens' policy is to spend another \$1billion per annum to reach national average.

Cost of solar panels/renewable energy: need proper smart meters; also a 'gross feed in tariff', not 'net feed.'

Royal Park/RCH development: a hotel has no place in parkland and will not just be for parents – will be open for anyone; there are other hotels close by anyway.



Carlton community at the Candidates' Forum

Public transport/Westlink: is the first step of the Eddington tunnel; will cause gridlock in Footscray; is testament to the neglect of public transport; better to have interchange nodes in West, East and North Melbourne to take trucks out of the centre and go to Geelong port instead.

KSC: should happen before election; CoM still waiting on Valuer General's valuation.

Anti-corruption: need anti corruption commission – democracy requires checks and balances.

Proposed positive steps from Greens: harmony with environment – a connected, happy, healthy Melbourne; Docklands school; Flemington flats need an Office of Housing presence; better cycling paths; better public transport; a single public transport authority to produce an integrated system; planning involving community; proper harvesting of water.

Luke Martin's responses:

Citizen power in planning processes: will not have 'one policy fits all' approach; decisions cannot be centralised; need sensible local input.

Desalination plant: money must be spent prudently; would use it for better funding for police, health, transport, schools; retire some of the increasing debt.

Carlton Housing Estate – design of public/private mix: outcome is not ideal; community does not want a 'salt and pepper' mix.

Policy costings: Labor addicted to spending and incompetence causes waste, therefore taxes will be higher; dangerous if policies cannot be costed.

Mental health services: need more police on streets, ambulance staff in metropolitan areas; need comprehensive planning to co-ordinate approach within community; Liberals have a comprehensive federal mental health plan.

Solar panels/renewable energy: 'means testing' solar panels not sensible – short term gain no long term vision; smart meters are a 'white elephant'.

Royal Park/RCH development: Royal Park is a great asset but if parents want hotel then it should be there; quality care is the important issue.

Public transport/Westlink: need balance; means nothing if there is no ticketing system or safety.

KSC: support already from Matthew Guy.

Anti-corruption: State needs an independent Commission against corruption.

Proposed positive steps from Liberal: want a strong economy and a stop to waste, need strong families and a viable community – need to take note of community input; manage emissions; paramedics on motor bikes; safe public transport; no more hideous development due to bad planning; reduce wait for public tenants.

Final Summation:

Luke Martin: voters have a real chance to make a difference – committed to improving Melbourne following bad Labor choices; the need is to restore basic services to Melbourne; safety is important.

Brian Walters: is committed to and knows the area; Greens do have a vision for more creative, sustainable and positive seat of Melbourne.

Bronwyn Pike: Melbourne is an exciting place to live, work and raise a family; Carlton is vibrant, inclusive, multicultural, welcoming of all; important to make sure we have strong public services – community health, mental health, education, public housing so that people are cared for.

Greens' Historic Win in Melbourne

Our Winter 2010 *Newsflash* featured a report on the Federal Seat of Melbourne, Candidates Forum, held at Church of All Nations (CAN) on 9 August. The election outcome was historic: Adam Bandt became the first Greens member ever to be elected to the House of Representatives. He is now one of the five minor party and independent members who hold the balance of power in Federal Parliament. Mr Bandt is committed to supporting the ALP to ensure stable government.

The Federal Electorate of Melbourne had been held by the ALP since 1904, most recently by long-standing and high profile Member, Lindsay Tanner. His decision to retire when the election was called opened a way for change.

All eyes are now on the State Seat of Melbourne held by the ALP since 1908 and currently by Education Minister, Hon. Bronwyn Pike, on a 2% margin against the Greens. Outcomes in Melbourne very much depend upon the directions of Liberal Party preferences (as provided to the Greens in the recent Federal Election). The ALP apparently aims to convince the Liberal Party not to give preferences to the Greens in the forthcoming State Election, on Saturday 27 November, according to the *Sunday Age* (24 October). 'Labor plot to crush Greens' was the front page headline which revealed 'Labor lobbyists are using businesses to warn the Coalition against a preference deal (with the Greens).'

We live in interesting times!

(See the previous article in this *Newsflash* for a report on the recent State Candidates' Forum, held 8 November.)

Carlton Institution

DiMattina's restaurant at 306 Lygon Street, is the venue of most of the CRA's monthly committee meetings. The space has been made available without cost to CRA with tea and coffee provided.

The DiMattina family's first restaurant in Lygon Street, 'Il Gambero', destroyed by fire in 2009, now operates 'On the Park' at 166 Lygon Street.

The CRA thanks the DiMattina group for its continuing support.

For more information check www.dimaeats.com and maybe stop by for an express lunch.

Housing Minister unsympathetic to need for affordable housing

Housing Minister Richard Wynne dismissed claims by local housing advocacy group 'City is Ours', that he is ignoring the needs of families who pay up to half or three-quarters of their income on rent (*Melbourne Leader*, 11 October 2010), and that he is 'non-consultative'.

The Minister cites the Carlton redevelopment as an example of 'extensive community consultation'. Nothing could be further from the truth! A Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was established, which, far from consulting, has totally sidelined and ignored many critical issues, including the Brumby Government back-flip against an inclusive 'vibrant and sustainable mix of public and private housing' in favour of intentional segregation through gated private housing. Despite a waiting list of 40,000, the Carlton redevelopment will not create any additional public housing places. It should be a priority for the Office of Housing to provide an increased stock of public and affordable housing, rather than be a conduit for developer profit.

Work will shortly commence on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital site, which will include up-market private housing (\$1m+), 50 social housing units and **no** open space. The small on-site heritage Chapel will be the sole community space for the entire 4500 public housing tenants in Carlton, despite earlier plans for purpose-built community facilities on the Lygon/Rathdowne St Estate.

CRA has written to Housing Minister Richard Wynne, calling for a review of current development plans, which include rolling out the 'Carlton Model' on other Public Housing Estates.

(Read the candidate comments on this issue in their responses at the Candidates' Forum.)



Rally at Housing Minister Wynne's Office. 'Henry Lawson' dropped by to provide inspiration to those concerned about the housing crisis in Melbourne.

Memoirs of a Planning Minister

Public life, private grief is a recent book written by former Bracks Government Planning Minister, Mary Delahunty. It offers valuable insights into her life and activities as an ALP State Government minister during the years 1998 to 2006.

Ms Delahunty caused CRA much grief between 2002 and 2004 over approvals for Melbourne University and Becton to develop 'College Square on Swanston', a 36-metre, highrise student housing complex, opposite the University. CRA members will recall her granting of a Planning Permit on Christmas Eve 2002 for the site, which was previously protected by Carlton's 10.5 metre heritage overlay, and permission to demolish the heritage-listed Victorian

terraced houses which ring much of it. A six-week battle at VCAT ensued, which resulted in the current visually

dominating monolith, finally approved by Ms Delahunty in 2004. The VCAT decision included retention of most of the terraced houses which were subsequently refurbished. A victory of sorts for the Carlton community!

Although much of *Public life, private grief* deals with the tragic loss of Ms Delahunty's husband to cancer in 2002 and her subsequent depression, it also records her role as Planning Minister. The behind-the-scenes influence of developers, which we have long suspected, is detailed: '[most developers] have brutal expectations about the pace of change and reward. Some loved to have a word in the ear of Party leaders – adding a throwaway line about their latest donation – how's so-and-so project going?'

Ms Delahunty reserves special comment for the activities of community groups (such as CRA) attempting to defend heritage, streetscapes and environments in their area from the impacts of development: 'Vain and venal if their narrow self-interest was threatened – they were formidable...' But apparently not formidable enough to save much which we treasure across Melbourne.

Has anything changed since Ms Delahunty's period as Planning Minister? From CRA's viewpoint, planning decisions are now even worse under the current Planning Minister, Hon. Justin Madden. His decisions are not subject to appeal or review. We see special legislation to expedite development, ministerial 'call-ins', site-specific overlays, sidelining of councils, sham community consultation, etc. all in support of Brumby Government plans to double the size of Melbourne to eight million people. Recent major extensions (50,000 ha) to the Urban Growth Boundary (Amendment VC67) and plans for highrise housing developments along tram, train and bus routes (Amendment VC71), like Swanston St., Carlton, are all serving to undermine the liveability and sustainability of Melbourne, in the name of 'economic progress'.

In a recent paper 'Cities: Who Decides', independent think tank, the Gratten Institute (www.gratten.edu.au), deplored the lack of community input on development decisions in Melbourne: 'There seems to be a culture that consultation is about telling people what the planners have decided ... meaningful engagement with residents has been a feature of decision making in some of the world's most successful cities'. But not for Melbourne!

A dramatic policy announcement on Planning was made by Opposition Leader, Ted Baillieu, on 25 October. He stated that the Coalition 'will rebuild Melbourne's planning system to balance community and developer interests', and pledged to 'protect Melbourne's precious built heritage and to stop the destructive firesale of public open space'. Mr Baillieu also committed to establishing 'an independent, broad-based anti-corruption commission which will have the power to investigate planning decisions in Victoria' (see www.tedbaillieu.com.au). These policies are largely in line with that called for over many years by prominent community groups 'Planning Backlash' and 'Protectors of Public Lands' (CRA is a member of both these state-wide groups). Premier Brumby and big business were dismissive of these new Coalition policies (*The Age*, 26 October).

Public life, private grief by Mary Delahunty, is available from Readings, \$29.95.

Community News

• The Latest at 'La Mama'

'Foxholes of the Mind' by Bernard Clancy, a dramatisation of Vietnam vets suffering from post traumatic stress in later life. Bleak and quite challenging, also very moving with wonderful performances from the cast. The author succeeds in his aim of showing how involvement in war can be a sentence to pain, stress and anguish for life. A theme very relevant given Australia's involvement in Iran and Afghanistan

• The Launch of Carlton NILS

On Thursday 21 October, the Carlton NILS (No Interest Loan Scheme) was launched at the Church of All Nations (CAN). The launch was held to coincide with CAN's weekly fruit and vegetable market and a barbecue lunch was also available. Kathleen Hosie from the Good Shepherd Sisters spoke of the order's involvement in micro credit over the last 30 years.

There are now schemes all over Australia, including 95 in Victoria. Good Shepherd helps with this network and has received significant funding from the National Australia Bank (NAB) and State and Federal Governments. Carlton NILS has also received capital from the NAB and some government funding for the scheme.

Such a scheme is important for families, in helping them to break out of the cycle of poverty. At the launch, it was explained, in both English and Arabic, how people could obtain a loan. A special brochure for the program was also distributed.

It was a good cause on a delightful day!



Left to right
Charmaine
Chew,
formerly of
Good
Shepherd,
Isabel Thomas
Dobson,
Moderator of
the Uniting
Church,
Kathleen Hosie
(Good
Shepherd) and
Rev Dr John
Evans (CAN)

• Goodwill Soccer Game

The Carlton Housing Estate Soccer Team (the other Carlton Football Club) played a 'friendly' at Melbourne University on Saturday 23 October 2010 with the soccer team from Queen's College (one of the university colleges).

Although the game was played in wet weather, it was still a most enjoyable occasion. The Carlton Team, consisting of young men from the Horn of Africa, showed great soccer skill and eventually prevailed, two goals to one, over their enthusiastic rivals. The game was played in a

great spirit, with the Queen's players obviously coming to respect the soccer skills of the Carlton players. After the game, the Carlton Housing Estate team shared lunch at Queen's – perhaps an even more significant occasion than the actual game.

Even though all the players live just a few hundred metres apart, the two teams literally come from different worlds and different world experiences. This was a first step in bridging such large divides within the local community of Carlton. Hopefully it will be the first of many such games and other contact between the Carlton Estate and the university colleges. The next game is already being planned.



The soccer teams

• Piazza Italia – Argyle Square - Market

New to Lygon Street starting Sunday 21 November, 10:00 – 16:00

Come to the heart of Carlton for a soul-satisfying browse through Melbourne's newest handmade craft and produce market. Located in Lygon Street's gourmet food district, the Piazza Italia Market offers great products, unique gifts and produce direct from the farm.

All products are Australian Made! Great handcrafts, woodwork, soy candles, emu oil products and unique jewellery, organic olive oil from Gisborne, hats from the Gordon Hat shop and classic photography.

Be inspired by creative artisans and enjoy food for the soul, then stay on and enjoy an evening of great food at one of the many restaurants on Lygon St.

Markets are currently planned for 19/12, 16/1, 20/2; opening hours: 10 am to 4 pm

More information is available at
www.piazzaitaliamarket.com.au/

Join the Carlton Residents Association

Annual Membership subscription!

Full member (if you live in 3053):

Single \$25 Family \$40

Concession: Single \$15 Family \$25

Friend (if not in 3053): \$15

CONTACT: Secretary: secretarycra@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.carltonresidents.org.au

PO Box 1140, Carlton 3053

Planning Reference Group News

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)
- whether the proposed development threatens residential diversity (e.g. oversupply of student housing)

The City of Melbourne has an easy-to-use online search facility of the Planning register, which provides up-to-date information on the status of a Planning Permit or current application. Searching by date or suburb is also possible.

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/BuildingandPlanning/Planning/Pages/PlanningRegisterSearch.aspx>

Summary:

Since the last Newsflash, the Planning Sub-Committee has reviewed 37 Planning Applications for Carlton, and submitted 1 objection to the City of Melbourne.

APP No./ ADDRESS	DETAILS OF WORK/CRA INTEREST
July – 14 Applications	0 objections
August – 11 Applications	1 objection - see below
September – 12 Applications	0 objections
TP-2010-630 52-54 Rathdowne Street CARLTON (HO1)	Part demolition, part alteration and extension to the existing building to allow for a four-storey residential building with commercial space at ground level and 41 dwellings above. CRA Grounds of Objection. Over-development, height, unsatisfactory amenity for small units not defined as student accommodation, inadequate car parking allocation, inadequate bicycle storage - 63 objections lodged to 18/10/2010

Heritage action needed urgently

Letter to *The Age* 20 October 2010

Dear Editor,

We, the undersigned, believe that urgent reforms are needed to planning legislation and processes in Melbourne. The Victorian Government's use of current processes has clearly favoured development over heritage protection, rather than achieving a balance between the two. We have already lost Lonsdale House, and many other buildings have been demolished or are under threat.

Increasingly developers are submitting, and having approved, outrageous proposals that destroy heritage buildings, and ignore height restrictions, density controls and setback limits. We ask all political parties to make public before the election, explicit policies that will improve heritage protection measures. We urge the public to vote to ensure our priceless heritage remains for future generations.

In particular, we are calling for:

1. A review of the role and processes of Heritage Victoria. Heritage Victoria is not fulfilling community expectations for the protection of Melbourne's most significant heritage. Its decisions cannot be appealed by third parties. The 'economic use' clause in the Victorian Heritage Act 1995 must go. It is inappropriate for a heritage body to make decisions about places like the Windsor Hotel based on economic arguments presented by developers that are not made publicly available.

2. Removal of the Minister for Planning's powers as 'Responsible Authority' for projects over 25,000 sq metres in the CBD. This figure dates from the early 1980s when such projects were rare, but now they are the norm, giving the Minister enormous influence over the future planning of the CBD.

3. No more Ministerial 'instant amendments' to the Melbourne Planning Scheme that facilitate large development. This process allows the Minister to effectively approve a development without public notice and does not allow for any appeals. 'Instant amendments' were used to allow the demolition of Lonsdale House and the 1908 Postal Building at the rear of Myer Bourke, removing any possibility of appeal.

The community expects that the city of Melbourne's important heritage buildings will be properly protected by appropriate legislation and transparency in Government planning processes.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Purslow
Chief Executive Officer
National Trust
Victoria

Rupert Mann
President,
Melbourne Heritage Action

Kevin Chamberlain
Convenor,
North and West Melbourne
Association

Robin Grow
President, Art Deco &
Modernism Society
Melbourne, Australia

Michael Kennedy
President, Eastenders Inc

Barbara Patterson
Convenor,
East Melbourne Group



Invitation to the Business Breakfast for the Carlton Community Website

Our vision is for a vibrant, diverse and well connected Carlton.
Do you want to find out more how your business can be a part of this?

Thursday 2nd December 2010
7.45am – 9am

Venue - Universita Bar Restaurant (upstairs), 257 Lygon St Carlton – breakfast provided

The Carlton Community website has now been launched at www.carlton.vic.au

This not for profit website has emerged from the community's interest in creating a central digital hub for information about Carlton – what's here? where to go? what's on? job opportunities? And more...

The website is managed by the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (CNLC), with support from a community committee.

What does this mean for you?

The website to date has been supported by a City of Melbourne Opportunities for Carlton grant, but we're looking for means to support the website into the future. We are seeking your support for this community venture through affordable advertising space reaching your local community.

By advertising your business on the website, we offer to you a way to:

- Promote your business to your local community – both on the site and through the regular e-newsletter
- Promote job vacancies to local residents
- Demonstrate your support for the local community endeavours.

A range of advertising options are available – from corporate sponsorship for major partners to advertising spots throughout the website and newsletter.

The website will be widely promoted throughout the community through a direct mail campaign and a regular newsletter through a website subscription list – it will be a great way to get your business known around Carlton.

Please join us to discuss these options and more

RSVP to: opportunitiesforcarlton@melbourne.vic.gov.au or 9658 9751. For any questions, please call Mary Parfrey, CNLC Centre Manager, on 9347 2739.



The museum was funded by a \$1.45 million grant from the State Government's Cultural Precincts Fund and a two-year start-up grant of \$70,000 from Arts Victoria. *Museo Italiano* adds significantly to Carlton's rich cultural heritage. CRA members and friends will find much of interest in the high quality displays.



Museum Opening:
Premier Brumby greeting visitors in
the Faraday St. Piazza

The museum is open Tuesday to Friday 10 am to 5 pm
and Saturday 12 noon to 5 pm.

See www.museoitaliano.com.au for more information.
(photos courtesy *Museo Italiano*)

'Museo Italiano' Cultural Centre

This new Cultural Centre was opened at CoAsIt, Faraday St., Carlton, by Premier Brumby, on Sunday 3 October 2010. The opening was celebrated by creating a piazza on Faraday St. for the day, with a stage, musicians and long tables for a feast of Italian food. It attracted large enthusiastic crowds and demonstrated the practicality of a piazza in this area of Carlton.

Museo Italiano is Australia's first museum dedicated entirely to the Italian-Australian experience. It highlights the Italian legacy and narrates the history of migration, focusing particularly on the post-war influx to Carlton. The exhibition includes visual, educational and interpretive elements, and interactive and self-explorative installations. One of the objects on display is Melbourne's first espresso coffee machine, which arrived in 1954.



Museo Italiano exhibits

Carlton Gardens News

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

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 replanting 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.

Carlton Community Centre Rally

A rally organised by the Carlton Residents Association (CRA), on Saturday 11 September, in front of the vacant Kathleen Syme Centre (KSC), was part of a long-running campaign to acquire the historic building as a Community Centre/Library for Carlton.

Speakers included Cr Peter Clarke (City of Melbourne), Matthew Guy MLC (Shadow Planning Minister), Brian Walters SC (Greens candidate for Melbourne), Lloyd Jones (La Mama Theatre) and Mark Rubbo OAM (Readings P/L). Apologies and messages of support were received from Lord Mayor, Hon. Robert Doyle, and Carlton Business Association President, Gino Francese.

Speakers were universal in their praise and support for the proposal to develop the vacant KSC, Carlton's first Primary School (corner Faraday and Cardigan Streets) as a long-sought Community Centre. Indeed, all expressed complete dismay at the way in which the Brumby Government has failed to properly utilise this publically owned building for so long.

Speaking for the CRA, Greta Bird reminded the rally that Carlton has no town hall, no public meeting place and no library; nowhere at all for the community to gather. Cr Peter Clarke reaffirmed Council's enthusiasm for and formal commitment to acquiring the Kathleen Syme Centre for the community. Matthew Guy and Brian Walters respectively pledged ongoing whole-hearted support from Liberal and Greens politicians. Mr Guy described the project as a 'no brainer' for the Brumby Government. He questioned the logic of their protracted resistance to such an excellent project which has such obvious benefits for the Carlton community.

Greta Bird told the rally that Member for Melbourne, Hon. Bronwyn Pike, declined an invitation to address it or to send a representative. Ms Bird said the Brumby Government has refused to engage with the Carlton community over several years to progress the project, for no apparent reason.

The rally unanimously adopted the resolution 'We want the Kathleen Syme Centre as a Community Centre/Library for Carlton. The State Government has the power to facilitate this project and has the moral obligation to do so'. A petition in support of this resolution was circulated.

Shortly after the rally the State Government finally agreed to negotiate a transfer of KSC ownership to the Council. Lord Mayor, Robert Doyle, informed us that Minister Holding had written to him, indicating that the Kathleen Syme Centre is available to Council for acquisition, and

further, that Council has written to the State Government requesting the Valuer General's appraisal. CRA wrote to Minister Pike, urging her to ensure that the Brumby Government now activate (former) Premier Bracks' shared funding agreement.

We trust the Government will deal in good faith with the Council and not stall the acquisition process until after the State Election.

Melbourne University maintains an interest in the building and could still 'win the day'. We need to maintain pressure on the Brumby Government in this critical pre-election period to ensure the community and not the University gain KSC.



Community and political support for KSC
Rally held Saturday 11th September 2010



CRA Christmas Party **Monday 6 December, 6.30 pm.** **at La Mama,** **in its magnificent new forecourt.**

The tradition continues; we will again celebrate Carlton and CRA activities throughout the past year. Please note in your diary, come and enjoy a drink and nibbles, find out what we've been doing this year, catch up with friends and meet new people.