



Autumn 2011

## *In this edition*

*'Carlton's Uniqueness'*

*Heritage*

*Reference Group Reports*

*CoRBA-Melbourne*

*CRA Carlton Gardens*

*Public Housing Estates*

*Opportunities for Carlton (OFC)*

*Royal Exhibition Building*

*Traffic and Transport*

*Police and Community Consultation*

*Committee (PCCC)*

*CRA Planning Sub-Committee*

*Emerging issues*

*Rail line to Doncaster?*

*The Division of Carlton*

*CRA publications at 'PANDORA'*

*Community News*

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## *A talk by Trevor Huggard on 'Carlton's Uniqueness' Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011*

Our connectedness to the CAD (Central Administration District) is what makes Carlton so special. Carlton was known originally as the 'Melbourne Extension' and embraces the Hoddle Grid – the only suburb that does.

As Chairman of the Bi-Centenary Committee, it was one of my initiatives to restore Hoddle's Grave at the Melbourne General Cemetery for his legacy to Marvellous Melbourne with its wide gracious streets and boulevards.

Carlton abounds with assets: hospitals, universities, museums, galleries, wonderful parks, gardens and squares, Trades Hall, Percy Grainger Museum and a host of nationally significant institutions such as La Mama and the Royal Exhibition Building.

Carlton is of national significance and I could think of nowhere else to live and take great pride in showing friends and overseas guests its wonders.

It is no coincidence that Melbourne's status as the highest rating Australian city, in the world's most liveable city list, co-exists with Carlton which has kept it honest against development pressures constantly threatening to undermine its integrity.

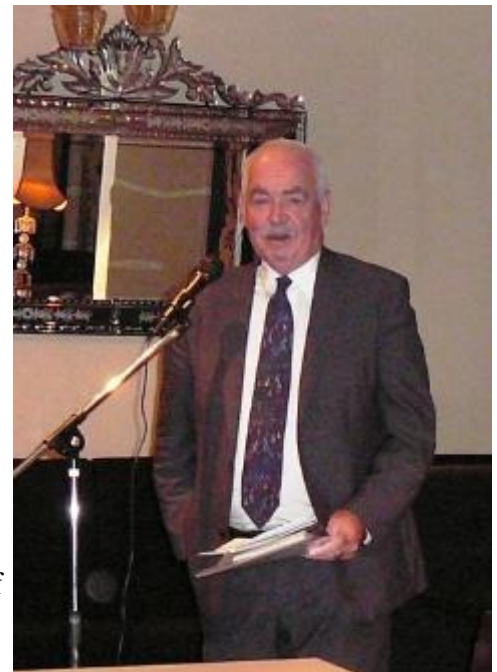
But we need to be each other's conscience and partners of influence in the planning debate so that we both can ensure our future.

We are the only inner city suburb that has every CAD street connected to our streets in a rectangular grid.

Divide the CAD and Carlton falls, united we will exert the influence needed to survive.

Carlton has never had its own Local Government, but it does have a Local Government history.

Carlton is contiguous with the CAD and is the only suburb which is!  
(continued page 2)



Trevor Huggard addresses the  
CRA General Meeting

**Cont from page 1:**

More than any other suburb, 'Carlton lives on the edge ..... of the central city' (Quote:- Dr David Dunstan, Historian)

No physical barrier of consequence stands between it and the CAD, like the river does with South Melbourne or the Parliamentary precinct and parkland does with East Melbourne or the railway loop does with Docklands or West Melbourne.

Carlton is part of Melbourne Local Government. Other inner metropolitan districts – Fitzroy, North Melbourne, South and Port Melbourne, Kensington and Flemington all have separated to form their own municipalities over time, they all have their own Town Halls.

But not Carlton! We have always been part of Melbourne.

Carlton has a homogeneous architecture, built form and transport patterns and stands alone physically for the every day observer. It reads as one, acts as one and is one and has never been divided. It has a strong community of interest that must not be divided.

In September 1993, the new Liberal Premier Jeff Kennett announced MCC boundaries would be reduced with the severance of residential areas including Carlton North, Carlton proper. Parkville, East Melbourne and South Yarra would stay while South Bank, Docklands and part of Flemington Race Course would be added. Despite 92% voter opposition against dividing Carlton for the first time ever in Melbourne's history, the Kennett Government over rode democratic principles and divided our community.

In the past Carlton, its residents and representatives have enjoyed a reputation of having had political influence – within the MCC and in other ways as well. Business interests have made no secret of their resentment of this in recent years, and the media has followed suit.

Trendies, 'chattering classes' and 'Chardonnay Socialists' are among the epithets that have been used.

Carlton has more 'firsts' than any other urban area in Australia, the first street closures and traffic calming measures, the first streetscape protection measures, the first heritage controls and urban conservation plans, and so on goes the list.

The five historic theatres, Victoria Market, City Baths, Royal Exhibition Buildings, heritage listing of 54 buildings in the CAD all earmarked for demolition survive today because of Carlton's influence on the CAD.

Carlton needs to be re-united for the good of

Melbourne and the current Local Government review to once again adopt a democratic vote franchise of one vote, one value with Ward Councillor representation with ballot box voting, not remote postal voting and elected Lord Mayor by Councillors.

Melbourne is the best city in Australia by far, formed under this governance system and needs to continue under the system that made us great once again. Carlton deserves better.

## *Heritage*

### *Did you know?*

#### **A snippet of Carlton history**

Victoria's 'Half-Caste Act' of 1886 was intended to force Aboriginal people of mixed descent to assimilate into white society. The Act had far-reaching consequences on the state's Aboriginal population, effectively breaking up families and communities, and reducing the number of Aboriginal people on missions and reserves. The Act's racist intent forced many Aboriginal people to fend for themselves without realistic employment opportunities in the areas they called home. Fitzroy became a welcoming destination that offered both employment and a strong sense of community. Often accommodated in boarding houses which forbade social or political meetings, members of this emerging community began to gather in public spaces. From the 1920s to 1940s, one of the most important of these meeting places was the Moreton Bay Fig Tree in Carlton Gardens.

Many legendary speakers addressed gatherings here including Pastor Doug Nicholls, Jack Patten, Bill Onus, William Cooper, Ebenezer Lovett, Martha Nevin and Margaret Tucker.



**The Historic Morton Bay Fig**

# Reference Group Reports

## CoRBA-Melbourne

### • Electoral reform:

Intense lobbying has been occurring to ensure that the new Minister for Local Government Jeanette Powell fulfils her pre-election promise to review the deeply flawed electoral system which plagues our city.

Although we are assured that the matter is in hand, no definitive process or date has been discussed. Unless the Minister acts soon, it will be too late to reform the glaring faults, such as postal only voting, deeming, absence of Wards, too few Councillors for the growing population etc, **before** the next Council Election. It is of serious concern that the new Minister is actively encouraging the City of Geelong to adopt direct election of the Mayor and Deputy when it is abundantly clear that this process leads to populism and ineffective governance. CoRBA representatives are meeting with Councillors from Geelong to support them in their efforts to stop this so called 'reform'. Stay tuned.

### • Commercial exploitation of Public Land

CoRBA is taking the City of Melbourne (CoM) to task about the lack of transparency and lack of financial accountability relating to the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show in the World Heritage-listed Carlton Gardens. The key issue for CoRBA is that CoM ratepayers are paying for this event through direct subsidies and other non-disclosed in-kind contributions. For further information refer to the Carlton Gardens report below.

### • Lack of Community consultation

CoRBA has been concerned for many years about the steady decline in community engagement in the CoM and resultant lack of community responsiveness. Several long standing CoM committees with community representation have now been disbanded and as a consequence, local knowledge no longer factors into CoM policies or decisions. Most Councillors do not reside in the CoM. Their grasp of the issues is inevitably abstract. The CoM Administration is promoting a new type of community engagement which essentially pushes residents and ratepayers to access websites and respond to online polls in a type of sham tick-box consultation. CoRBA argues that this model alone cannot deliver adequate community engagement, let alone consultation. Nor does it provide Council with local knowledge.

After many complaints, a meeting between CoRBA representatives and the CEO of the Melbourne City

Council is scheduled for May to discuss this matter. A first step perhaps?

### • Lack of Heritage support

CoRBA members are seriously concerned about the lack of heritage support over recent years from the State Government and the CoM. Many important buildings have been lost. However, the CoM is 'lifting its game' to the extent that it will conduct a review of heritage overlays and listings of the CBD precinct and heritage buildings which are currently unprotected and at risk of development. It is disappointing to note that in 2002, the CoM began to develop a heritage strategy but this was not completed. Now, a new heritage strategy, incorporating best international practice will be the basis for a new CoM framework for future heritage policy. Apparently 80 buildings are to be considered. The draft of the CoM report is currently before CoM officers.

### The new CoM Heritage strategy review process, involving a 5-step process, is as follows:

1. Questions/research: "Have we got the best system?" "What is international best practice?"
2. Identify buildings which need to be further considered.
3. CoM findings - peer review (currently being undertaken.)
4. Public Consultation to be held (presumably CoRBA members will be allowed input.)
5. Planning to achieve the outcomes

It is anticipated that the draft planning scheme amendment will be presented to Council in the first half of 2011 and a formal exhibition will follow.

The CoM Chair of Planning would be responsible for the 'planning' areas of heritage.

For further information: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/BuildingandPlanning/Planning/heritageplanning/Pages/HeritageStudies.aspx>

### 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](mailto:secretarycra@gmail.com)**

**WEBSITE: [www.carltonresidents.org.au](http://www.carltonresidents.org.au)**

**PO Box 1140, Carlton 3053**



## ***CRA Carlton Gardens***

**The CoM is challenged.** Council is being urged to rethink its 12 year relationship with IMG, who seek license to continue imposing this event on the residents and ratepayers of Carlton.

Three questions must be answered satisfactorily before Council agrees to license:

1. Is it good for the Carlton Gardens?  
The answer is No!
1. Is it compliant with our World Heritage listing?  
The answer is No!
2. Is it a good 'return on investment' for ratepayers?  
The answer is No!

Council understands only too well the 'downside' in continuing to re-license this controversial event - the economic burden to the ratepayer, and the self-evident environmental damage in the World Heritage-listed Carlton Gardens site.

**CRA and CoRBA have challenged Council to fully account for the costs of the event and ensure that full-cost recovery is a condition of the new license.**

The CoM has never provided the community with an accurate and comprehensive costing of the event. Indeed, there appears to be inadequate or no accountability of any events in public places. Currently CoM costs (financial and workforce) are not factored into event management license fees. Rigorous objective cost/benefit analysis has not occurred and CoM relies heavily on information from the commercial operator.

After so many years with one operator and one venue, it seems likely that corporate 'Groupthink' is preventing an objective CoM assessment of the event and is also preventing the CoM from re-locating the event to the four alternate sites in the City - Docklands, Birrarung Marr, Melbourne Convention Centre and the Show Grounds.

In essence, the CRA position is that the event should go elsewhere BUT if there is no political will to move it, then the CoM must at least charge commercial rates to generate additional funds to resuscitate the gardens before the next event onslaught. Ratepayers and residents should note that dollars directed at salvaging the Gardens are wasted when further damage occurs the very next year. This nonsense has gone on long enough. More dollars will help on one level but will not help the CoM meet its obligations with its World Heritage Listing. This cannot occur until the event is sited elsewhere.

A serious re-think is necessary. It is important to support the CRA and CoRBA in this campaign to protect the Carlton Gardens. If you would like a copy

of the CRA and CoRBA submission please email Margaret O'Brien at [margaretruthob@bigpond.com](mailto:margaretruthob@bigpond.com).

## ***Public Housing Estates***

On 17 February 2011 three CRA representatives brought CRA's wide-ranging concerns about the Carlton Public Housing Redevelopments to the attention of Ms Margaret Crawford, Director of Housing & Executive Director, Housing and Community Building, DHS.

In brief, these concerns are:

- privatisation of public housing land
- no additional public housing
- massive loss of open, green space – public housing tenants on the Lygon/Rathdowne St Estate have been left with only two hectares of public parkland
- exclusion of public housing tenants from private green space
- instead of the much-vaunted integration of public and private housing, public housing units are confined to a single, high-rise building while private units are gated and surrounded by a 2.5 metre-high concrete wall
- private units have been largely sold to overseas buyers, despite the lack of public housing for 41,000 people in Victoria
- the promised 700 sq.m. public housing community space on the Lygon/Rathdowne St site will not eventuate
- no financial need to privatise given the massive input of public money (\$165 million plus land). CRA costed replacement housing at \$45 million, but CLC refused to minute this information.
- CLC is a deliberately non-representative, sham consultation
  - only one CRA member permitted to attend
  - Public Housing representatives feel intimidated in the presence of their 'landlords'
  - people with relevant expertise not accepted on sub-committees (eg building)

It is most regrettable that the Office of Housing remains dismissive of CRA input on the Carlton Housing Estates redevelopment. This policy will not lead to the social inclusion that was the Labor Government's justification for the development's high cost and massive loss of open space and, contrary to Ms Crawford's written contention, will very probably have a negative effect on social capital on the Estates. History will judge the outcome accordingly.

## ***Opportunities for Carlton (OFC)***

The Carlton Community Website [www.carlton.vic.au](http://www.carlton.vic.au) is one of many OFC projects, but it is something of a standout in terms of popular appeal. This has caused its "Google" ranking to rise.

To keep abreast of what is happening in and around Carlton, make a point of regularly visiting this website. Furthermore, everybody with an interest in Carlton becoming a better place to live, work, run a business, study or visit, as well as absent friends, are invited to subscribe and receive the free monthly feature article 'My Carlton' which is written by a range of prominent personalities. Just visit the website to register your email address.

## ***Royal Exhibition Building - viewing promenade***

The Carlton Residents Association and Fitzroy Residents Association have joined forces to obtain government funding to restore the viewing area at the base of the Royal Exhibition Building dome to its former glory, which will include a passenger elevator. The Carlton Community website provides an historical backdrop to this proposal.

The Melbourne Times then published an article quoting Museum Victoria's CEO Patrick Greene: "My dream is that one day we could get enough money together to recreate that experience ..... I think people would be attracted to the idea of going up for the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Marvellous Melbourne experience."

Also, Residents 3000 and the Carlton Gardens Group have pledged their support, along with a number of professional individuals who have offered pro bono help.

At a pre-Easter meeting with these resident action groups, Adam Bandt MP expressed wider interest in what needs to be done to elevate the profile of our World Heritage site (REB and Gardens) - well beyond the restoration of the observation deck.

The *Sunday Age* (8 May) reported upon the historical significance of this World Heritage site, featuring the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Australian flag being hoisted for the first time to mark the first sitting of Parliament for the new Commonwealth of Australia opened by His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York, later King George V.

Adam Bandt hosted a gathering at the REB to share this special occasion with descendants of Australia's second Prime Minister Alfred Deakin, one of the fathers of Federation.



L to R Adam Bandt (Federal MP), two relatives of former PM Alfred Deakin, Yolande (Residents 3000), Brian (CRA), Tom and Margaret (Fitzroy Residents' Association).: Photo Courtesy of Rose Iser

The REB and Gardens were added to the World Heritage list in 2004 as one of the few 'world fair' buildings from the 19th century and the only surviving Great Hall of the Palace of Industry, the centrepiece of the International Exhibitions.

## ***Traffic and Transport***

### **• Dangerous road intersections**

CRA has long campaigned for improved pedestrian and cyclist safety in Carlton, particularly at the dangerous road intersections. Of major concern are the Lygon/Elgin Streets and Drummond/Elgin Streets intersections, which were again raised with the Council last July, for possible action under the Federal Government roads 'blackspot' funding regime.

The Council retained consultants to assess and recommend action on the above two intersections, along with 23 other dangerous intersections throughout the City of Melbourne. CRA was recently advised that traffic lights will be installed at the Drummond/Elgin Streets intersection, which currently has pedestrian lights only on Elgin Street. However, the busy Lygon/Elgin Streets intersection, with its serious accident history, has been assessed as lower priority and will not be considered in the forthcoming 2011/12 funding round. We will continue to pursue stormwater flooding problems on the northern area of this intersection which can make crossing difficult and dangerous for pedestrians in wet weather.

### **• New parking meter technology**

The CRA has been advised by the Council that new parking meter technology will be trialled in the CBD, beginning in June. This will include pay-by-phone and remote sensing technology, which will advise inspectors when a meter expires. These new

arrangements will probably be extended to Carlton in due course. An information briefing is scheduled for Wednesday, 18 May, 10.30am, at the Melbourne Town Hall. Phone Jennifer Howard 9658 8606 for further information.

### ***Melbourne General Cemetery Friends***

CRA is liaising with the Carlton Community History group which shares our interest in protecting the Melbourne General Cemetery from inappropriate over-development. Sadly, some of the original design features have been ignored over recent decades and practically all the available space has been filled so that the original ambiance of this iconic site is lost, as a consequence of gross over-crowding. More and more kerbside land has been sold to pay for the operations of the cemetery. *The Leader* newspaper (April 25, p.1) states that there are 750,000 graves there already and another 1077 will be interred in the soon to be completed multi-story mausoleum. Unsightly and unseemly billboards at the entrance gates currently advertise Melbourne's 'best kept secret.' The reality is that the 'best kept secret' is the shameful degradation of this marvellous historical treasure because successive governments have failed to act.

The Melbourne General Cemetery should be deemed full. This has been done in the past and the decision was overturned for financial gain. A program of restoration should be immediately commenced before all is lost and so that the community can once again enjoy this rare open garden space in the manner for which it was designed.

### ***Police and Community Consultation Committee (PCCC)***

The CRA is an active participant in the monthly PCCC meetings. Indeed, the police believe that this PCCC is one of the strongest in the State.

Key points from the April meeting:

- The local police are looking at ways to help residents on housing estates ensure their safety and to encourage people to be observant and pass on information to police regarding unwanted and suspicious activities. The police want to have *observers* NOT *vigilantes*. In relation to this, a Community Safety Forum was held at the North Melbourne Town Hall on Monday 2nd May.

- The City of Melbourne reported on its work experience program which is designed to help youth obtain work experience, particularly with respect to preparing resumes. Drum Youth Services assists the City of Melbourne with this.
- There was a presentation by Job Co - a not for profit organisation - with headquarters in Brunswick which provides support for youth at risk. They also assist disabled youth to obtain employment, with funding obtained from a variety of sources.
- The Homeless Action Group (HAG) described their work with homeless persons and the steps they take to link business and community groups to assist with homeless services. They work to improve standards in rooming houses; raise issues associated with begging including provision of information for beggars on how to get help eg with respect to obtaining food, washing, safety, and who can and will provide help. There are leaflets available detailing this information.
- Re Crime/Traffic/Emerging Issues, it was reported that :
  - we are generally travelling well in the area;
  - there are more foot patrols which has meant also that the police are gaining more information on what is occurring, consequently, the level of problems is declining;
  - an extra patrol car has been obtained;
  - thefts of number plates have increased;
  - the University has an issue with bike thefts.

### ***CRA Planning Sub-Committee***

Each month, the committee considers the current planning applications for 3053 postcode, addressing issues that threaten 'loss of amenity', eg. car parking, compliance with heritage overlay, residential diversity etc. Access up-to-date information on the status of a Planning Permit or current application at:

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

#### **Summary**

The Committee is currently reviewing a major development proposed for the south east cnr. of Queensberry/Swanston Sts. as it is cause for concern. Members will be advised as details are available.



## Emerging issues

### Rail line to Doncaster?

The election of the Baillieu State Government saw the Brumby Government's proposal for a defacto freeway on Hoddle Street shelved in favour of a \$6.5 million feasibility study for the long discussed rail line to Doncaster. Such a rail facility could significantly curtail commuter traffic growth in Carlton.

In late February, several CRA members joined a rally organised by *Protectors of Public Lands* outside Collingwood Town Hall to support and encourage the above new and exciting directions in State transport policy.



Protectors of Public Lands rally in support of public transport

In the meantime, the RACV and the pro-roads lobby have been busy resurrecting the Eddington \$10 billion east-west roads tunnel proposal (*Newsflash* Winter 2010) and other major roads projects, as a response to Melbourne's unsustainable car dominated transport network. The Australian Bureau of Statistics recently reported 16 million motor vehicles in Australia; one for every Australian of driving age. With finite and diminishing fossil fuel resources, and global warming issues from emitted carbon dioxide, car dominance in Melbourne will surely be challenged in the near-term.

Despite Melbourne's status as the fastest growing city in Australia, progress on improved public transport has been lamentably slow. No new suburban rail lines have been built since the 1930's. *The Age* editorial (2 April 2011) noted that Melbourne's population explosion, sprawling growth and long neglect of public transport, have led to the current rail and road chaos. According to Premier Baillieu, "We cannot make these [public transport] changes overnight ..... Labor has left black holes all over the place". Regarding funding priorities,

\$25 million was recently spent re-badging the rail network from *Connex* to *Metro*, which adds nothing to rail capacity.

Federal Infrastructure Minister, Anthony Albanese, proudly announced "We have doubled the national roads budget to more than \$27.7 billion". In contrast, rail transport attracted \$1.2 billion, just 4% of the Federal transport budget.

**Will we ever see a rail line to Doncaster? Don't hold your breath!**

### The Division of Carlton

At a recent meeting of the newly formed 'Carlton Alliance' group, a copy of a flyer letterboxed in early 1994 by the North Carlton Residents Group was circulated for information. The flyer revealed that in a 1993 City of Melbourne opinion poll, 96% of residents opposed the transfer of North Carlton from Melbourne to the newly established City of Yarra, as determined by the Kennett Government. Local residents were given no say in the decision; objections were over-ruled; Government appointed Commissioners were in charge of Councils. The Local Government Minister at the time was Hon Roger Hallam; he refused all requests to meet with representatives of the North Carlton community.

It is within this background that the newly formed group is considering the possible re-unification of Carlton. The '*Case for Carlton*' is being drafted and it is a very persuasive one on heritage grounds alone. Carlton was (and is) an integral part of the world-renowned 'Hoddle' grid, a northern extension of the City of Melbourne. It is truly remarkable that after 18 years, the community of Carlton refuses to be divided and continues to reject the 'political' municipal boundaries imposed by the Kennett government. The Carlton community has steadfastly persisted in retaining its original 'identity' as a legitimate and worthy extension of the State capital.

If ever there was an example of people power over political power at the grass roots level, this is it.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact Jackie Watts at [jackiewatts@netspace.net.au](mailto:jackiewatts@netspace.net.au).

### CRA publications in Victoria's online memory

PANDORA is an online archive in which selected Australian websites and online publications are preserved and made permanently available to the public for research and reference. Online publications of "The Carlton Residents Association Inc will be included. Search for free at [pandora.nia.gov.au](http://pandora.nia.gov.au), or [slv.vic.gov.au/catalogues](http://slv.vic.gov.au/catalogues).

## Community News

- **Mahboba's Promise – film**

The *Good Weekend* magazine of Saturday 30 April featured an article about 50 of the most influential women in the world. One of those women, a 'Crusader', was Mahboba Rawi, an Afghani refugee who has founded the organisation Mahboba's Promise, which provides money and accommodation for orphans and widows in Afghanistan.

In 1975, Afghanistan grew more than enough food to feed itself, but after three decades of war and destruction it cannot. It has one of the highest rates of widowhood in the world and 1.5 million fatherless children whose mothers are prevented from working to support them. Boys from the age of five work in the streets, washing cars or selling whatever they can to provide for their mothers and siblings.

The confronting film *Garden at the End of the World* was inspired by Mahboba Rawi's promise to feed and house the women and children. It has been written, filmed, directed and narrated by Australian film-maker Gary Caganoff and in 2010, won the WACC Human Rights award. **It is being shown on Sunday 5 June, 2pm at the Church of All Nations.**

- **La Dolce Italia Festival**



World record attempt for World's longest pizza

The weekend of 26-27 February saw the closure of Lygon Street for this popular Italian festival. A feature this year was an attempt on the Guinness World Record for the longest pizza, 1.2km (Elgin to Victoria Streets). Despite wet weather and the Laws of Physics (friction), a pizza length of 600m was achieved - an Australian record!

Italian-themed live entertainment, vocal competitions, movies, fashion parade, cooking demonstrations and

children's activities all added to the festive atmosphere of Lygon Street, somewhat dampened by the inclement weather. 'Pavarotti' and 'Carmen' dropped by to entertain the crowd. All in all, it was a memorable event for Carlton and a credit to the organising committee.



Vocal competition at La Dolce Italia Festival

- **Tennis**

A chance comment from one of the local Ethiopian women that her children would love to learn how to play tennis, has led to the Carlton Gardens Tennis Club providing free tennis lessons to a group of children from the Carlton Housing Estate. For the past six weeks, up to 8 boys and girls aged between 5 and 11 years have been coming to the courts each week for coaching by the Club's professional coach and the Club President, Brian Falconer. Brian reports that while there is some budding talent there, the main thing is that the children enjoy themselves and are happy. They are certainly that! If you are passing the courts on a Saturday afternoon between 4 and 5pm watch out for these children swinging their racquets enthusiastically and learning this universal game.



L to R:  
Abel, Kedus,  
Joel and  
Noah getting  
ready for  
their lesson