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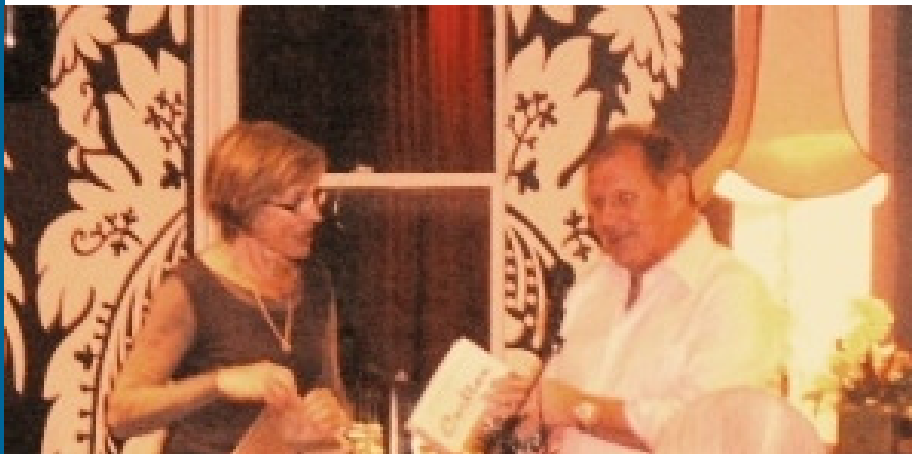
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AGM report

More than 50 people attended the Annual General Meeting of the Carlton Residents' Association, held on Monday 21 February. The CRA Annual Report outlined the activities of numerous Reference Groups which reflected the diverse range of issues in which the Association is engaged (this can be read in full on the website www.carltonresidents.org.au). It was noted that because the main source of income for the CRA is membership subscriptions and these were down considerably on previous years, it is important to continually look at ways to encourage people to join the CRA and participate in the Reference Groups.



Greta Bird presents a Copy of *Carlton - A History* to Lord Mayor Hon Robert Doyle

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle addressed the meeting on the 'challenges and opportunities' facing the city. He emphasised that it is essential for State and City to work together. He spoke briefly about four projects which specifically involve Carlton:

- Council's offer to purchase the Kathleen Syme Centre (currently awaiting a costed price from the State Government) and its intention to consult with the community on the best uses;
- \$7 million being spent on replacement trees and maintaining existing trees in a sustainable way;
- the \$10.4 million project to redevelop the Carlton Baths and community facilities (the contract will put to tender soon and is due for completion in June 2012);
- the \$26 million project to develop Swanston St, particularly the section from RMIT to Flinders St, to appropriately reflect the mixed use by public transport, cyclists and pedestrians. (It will 'not be a lycra freeway'!)

Mr Doyle also spoke of the need for better land-use planning, especially on housing and transport (including bicycles), across municipalities in metropolitan Melbourne. He faced a lively audience, appreciative of his support for purchase of the historic and long vacant Kathleen Syme Centre (Carlton's original primary school) for a library, community meeting rooms, historic displays etc. But he was cautious in response to questions about absorbing North Carlton back into the Melbourne municipality, saying it was up to the residents to demonstrate their wishes through a 'community of interest.'

When queried about issues of 'population explosion', he was quite adamant that Melbourne, as a city of 4 million today is a far more liveable and exciting place, benefiting from many different cultures, faiths and peoples, than in the 1970s, when it was much smaller. He said he was 'not frightened of a bigger Melbourne' but emphasised the need to upgrade existing infrastructure, as well as the importance of providing affordable housing near employment opportunities, not just encouraging 'sprawl at the edges'. In response to policies on limiting car parking, this is slowly being addressed by Council through changes to parking requirements for new developments and units being sold with no guarantee of street parking being made available.

Thanks were extended to Brunetti's for providing supper and to DiMattina's for use of their venue, especially on the evening of their own staff Christmas Party!

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

Traders, Businesses and the CRA

CRA is heartened by the support and encouragement provided by a wide range of traders and businesses in Carlton. Not only do they make our Christmas raffle possible each year, but they are supportive in various CRA campaigns to improve community life in Carlton – not the least of which being the acquisition of the Kathleen Syme Centre.

Obviously it is unlikely that residents and traders can agree on absolutely ALL issues but it is abundantly clear that we do share many concerns. After all, we are all part of the one vibrant community – and we all want it to prosper and thrive. Three years ago traders, businesses and residents met to talk about what matters in Carlton. It is time for another such opportunity for lively and open dialogue between the community, business and traders in Carlton.

To this end, CRA plans to host the second CRA/Trader Forum at our April 2011 meeting. This, we hope, will be an opportunity to exchange views, advance ideas and hopefully work together towards creating an even better Carlton. Stay tuned for details of the Forum.

Kathleen Syme Centre (KSC) – News

• *Melbourne Leader picks up KSC Campaign*

We are delighted to report that the *Melbourne Leader* weekly newspaper has continued to follow the progress of our KSC campaign. On 20 December 2010 it reported:

New Planning Minister Matthew Guy has reaffirmed his commitment to sell the state-owned Kathleen Syme Centre for a Carlton community centre – but the project still hinges on the State Government's valuation.

Mr Guy said the government was taking advice on what process was needed to sell the site.

"If the centre can be sold to the (Melbourne) council, who have stated they want it, then it should be done," he said. He said details, including if the council would pay full price for the building, would be worked out later.

A council report tabled last week confirmed it was looking to buy the site for a community centre and was awaiting government notification on a purchase price. A heritage building, the Kathleen Syme site has been largely disused since the Royal Women's Hospital moved in 2008."

Carlton Residents Association has long campaigned for the centre, with spokeswoman Greta Bird saying the association "confidently" expected the government to honour its pre-election commitments.'

CRA is most appreciative of reporter Nic Price keeping the issue in the foreground.

• *KSC is also very definitely on Council's agenda.*

In December, Crs Peter Clarke and Ken Ong spoke very positively about Council acquisition of KSC. A Council report tabled on 7 December 2010 confirmed its intention to buy the site for a community centre.

We continue to hope for a final positive outcome.

Public Open Space Investigation

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) is investigating the use and ownership of 'public land' and its contributions to liveability in Melbourne (go to www.veac.gov.vic.au for the Discussion Paper).

CRA members attended a Public Forum on 4 December 2010 and compiled a submission in response (read the submission on the CRA website:

www.carltonresidents.org.au

We documented the misuse and depletion of public land and parkland in Carlton and environs over the past 20 years and called for legislative protection of what remains. Areas identified included Carlton Gardens, Royal Park, Public Housing Estates, our three garden squares (Argyle, Lincoln and Barry), Melbourne General Cemetery and median green space. All these areas have been subjected to alienation and/or commercial exploitation. Loss of large areas of open space and parkland on the Public Housing Estates, to gated private housing and commercial aged care facilities, will place increasing stress on parkland elsewhere in Carlton.

Melbourne's population explosion is placing ever greater pressure on our parkland and open space, which is at a premium in Carlton. For residents of multi-storey apartments, public space is usually the only available green space for recreation.

The state-wide group, Protectors of Public Land, of which CRA is a member, has long called for the protection of public land from developers, private profit-making enterprises and road construction (*Newsflash* Autumn 2010). The current review is timely and is strongly supported by CRA.

Population Policy: have your say

What a difference a year makes! In *Newsflash* Summer 2010, there was an article outlining the beginnings of the public debate over Australia's population policy, or lack of it.

At that time, State and Federal politicians from the two major parties were as one, calling for a 'big Australia'. Following a major public backlash against this policy, political support for a population explosion has waned. We now have a Federal Minister for 'Sustainable Population' and a call for public input to the debate.

An issues paper, *A Sustainable Population Policy for Australia*, was released in December 2010; submissions close on 1 March 2011. 'Changes in Australia's population will affect us all, in our work, in our communities and in our built and natural environments'.

(www.environment.gov.au/sustainability/population)

We can all see the impacts of population growth in Carlton (already the most densely populated suburb in Melbourne): the over-development, escalating housing costs, stress on parkland and open space, public transport, roads, water, health services, liveability etc. Is this the Carlton we want? On a global scale, world population is trending towards 11 billion by mid-century, along with potentially catastrophic impacts from global warming, climate change, peak oil production and food scarcity. Mass starvation has been predicted for some Third World countries.

Big business and the former Brumby Government promoted the economic benefits of population growth but largely ignored or dismissed the negatives. A population of eight million is predicted for Melbourne within 50 years, at current growth rates. Claims that our ageing population cannot sustain a viable workforce have been widely dismissed by informed commentators. With the demise of manufacturing in Victoria, our State economy now largely depends on the buildings and services industries and gambling. Is it sustainable? All this presents a major economic challenge to the Baillieu Government.

If you have a view on population policy, now is the time to express it.

Victorian Transport Plan Review

The former Brumby ALP Government's \$38 billion Victorian Transport Plan (VTP) released in 2008 (*Newsflash* Summer 2009) will be reviewed by the Baillieu Coalition Government. The very costly, controversial and largely pro-freeway VTP was the centrepiece of a \$6 million taxpayer-funded ALP pre-election advertising campaign called 'It's part of the plan'.

Coalition Transport Minister, Terry Mulder, has confirmed a pledge to have all projects identified in the VTP reviewed by the soon-to-be established Victorian Public Transport Development Authority (*The Age*, 7 Jan 2011). The Authority will coordinate public transport and undertake feasibility studies for rail extensions to Doncaster, Rowville and Melbourne Airport. Such an Authority has long been called for by the Public Transport Users Association (PTUA) and prominent transport commentators such as Dr Paul Mees of RMIT, but vigorously resisted by the Transport Department Secretary, Jim Betts, and a succession of ALP transport ministers.

Public transport policy was a major State Election issue; it contributed to the demise of the Brumby Government. According to the PTUA, the election of the Baillieu Government 'holds great promise for positive action to transform the public transport system' (www.ptua.org.au).

Some local history

- **Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener – Aboriginal Freedom Fighters**

Since 2006, a group of Melbourne activists have gathered on 20 January to commemorate two Aboriginal freedom fighters, Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener, who were hanged then buried on that day in 1842 on the site of the Victoria Market. Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener were part of a group of four Tasmanian Aborigines who conducted an eight-week campaign of resistance to European settlement in 1841. After three military expeditions, they were finally captured and brought to Melbourne for trial. They were not allowed to give evidence, and were found guilty of crimes that incurred the death penalty.

Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener's deaths by hanging on 20 January 1842, before a crowd of 5000 (a quarter of Melbourne's population at the time), were the first judicial executions to take place in Melbourne.

The annual commemoration initiated by Melbourne anarchist Joseph Toscano and the Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener Committee took place again on 20 January 2011. Speakers included Robbie Thorpe, of the Gurnai people, and Adam Bandt, the Greens Federal Member of Parliament, followed by an open microphone for members of the public to have their say. The rally then went on a silent march to the site of the executions and burials.

Bunches of flowers were laid on the hot tarmac, a minute's silence was observed, and the sounds of the didgeridoo, played by Robbie Thorpe, throbbed briefly over the market.

The committee is campaigning for the Melbourne City Council to build a public memorial to the freedom fighters.

For more information, visit www.anarchistmedia.org and follow the links to find out more about this fascinating piece of local history.

- **Carlton Police Station, Drummond Street**

Built in 1878 by contractor William Smith at a cost of almost £2200, the Carlton Police Station opened with much fanfare. Within ten years, the police station, together with the Court House (1887) across the road on Drummond Street, and the Post Office (1883) just around the corner in Elgin Street, formed the civic core of Carlton. They were an imposing presence and their splendid architecture led to all three buildings being included in the Victorian Heritage Register.

The Police Station was extended in 1890 and a single-storey, bluestone cell block was also built at the rear of the site; the six 4 m x 3.3 m cells even had 'air-conditioning'.

Well, not quite, but they were kept cool by an early example of the Tobin Tube ventilation system. It is because of this that the Heritage Register lists the Police Station as having scientific significance as well as historical and architectural importance.



The **OLD** Carlton Police Station Drummond Street

Built in a restrained classical style, the exterior walls are of Hawthorn brick above a bluestone plinth. The cream and red colour of the brickwork blends in with surrounding buildings, and the round-headed windows are echoed in the Post Office building. Police historian Ralph Stavely has called it 'the last of the purpose-built 19th-century police stations in the inner city area'. And the Victorian Heritage Register describes it as reflecting middle class attitudes of respectability and demonstrating the important position of law and order in society. The front building, with its two-storey six-room layout, became the prototype for later police stations in Richmond, Geelong and Kyneton.

In August 2010, the station was closed and its staff transferred to Wreckyn Street, North Melbourne. It is now empty and showing the early signs of decay. The brickwork of the ornamental chimneys and the horizontal string courses are corroding and some are breaking off. The corrugated iron roof panels of the rear buildings are rusting, their ridges are lifting, fascia boards are rotting, gutters are buckling, and the timbers of the cell block ventilation louvers are splitting. The overall look of the building is tired but it must not be allowed to falter.

The Carlton Police Station has steadfastly played its part in helping to better the life of Carlton residents. As the one-time workplace of generations of policemen and -women, and with its aesthetic qualities, its strength and solidity, its role as companion to other civic Carlton structures, this historic building now needs the support of the community to find a new role so that, through adaptive reuse, it can once again become part of Carlton's beating heart.

Opportunities for Carlton (OFC)

The OFC is funded by the State Government and administered by City of Melbourne. Its objective is to build social infrastructure in Carlton and make it a better place for residents, workers and visitors. During 2010 several projects were implemented or planned. Some of them are described below:

Carlton Digital Inclusion (CDI)

This project is a partnership involving the Church of all Nations, Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre, the Melbourne University students, the DHS Public Tenant Employment Program and the City Melbourne. It will use computer technology to increase educational, employment and social opportunities. From a workshop based at the Carlton estate, second hand government computers will be refurbished and sold at low cost to residents who can also receive tuition from local firms and volunteer students. The Carlton community website (*see below*) will act as a digital hub for the project.

Carlton Community Website

The Carlton community website is up and running (<http://carlton.vic.au>) and its management committee has developed a comprehensive marketing kit for prospective sponsors. In December, the committee hosted a business breakfast to promote the website and sponsorship options for local business. Support through sponsorship will ensure the financial viability of the website without further grant funding.

Residents are invited to register on line their email addresses and receive free of charge news feeds, plus the monthly feature article from a prominent guest writer. By subscribing, your email address will be recorded on the website database, and you will be kept up to date with all of the website's latest news. Privacy is important; and the website committee will not sell, rent, or give your name or address to anyone. At any point, you can select the link at the bottom of every email newsletter to unsubscribe.

Individuals and businesses can also have their own web address from this site, eg jane.citizen@carlton.vic.au. Enquiries about this can be accessed from the site.

Carlton Public Housing Estate

A grant of \$45,000 will allow refurbishment of the existing workshop at 510 Lygon St, to revitalise a relatively unused community space on the estate. Here, it is hoped to establish a Men's Shed, a Computer workshop, a community room, a bicycle shed and space for a Men's Health for Harmony project steering group to meet.

Bendigo Bank Connected Communities Fund

This proposed initiative for 2011 plans to create a sustainable community fund to support projects and

activities driven by Carlton community members and organisations. Further information is available from the bank's Carlton Branch.

OFC Grant Round

A number of other projects are currently underway. These include:

- *Postcarding Carlton (Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre)* - to advertise the Carlton Community website via a postcard mail-out to residents and business across Carlton.
- *Sustainable living in rental accommodation - how to live green and save money! (Green Renters)* – to deliver 10 workshops for renters in Carlton about how to make their properties more environmentally sustainable.
- *The International Students Guide to Carlton (Meld Magazine)* to produce an on-line international student orientation guide to Carlton.
- *Getting Back On Your Feet* – to provide isolated, low mobility residents with increased support to assist with their physical mobility, to a point where they can sustain healthy activity levels.

Some project funding is still available, so if anyone has an idea for a project that meets the aims of enhancing the Carlton community, please contact the Opportunities for Carlton group at the City of Melbourne.



The La Dolce Italia Festival in Lygon Street Carlton. will commence on Saturday evening 26 February where the Italian short film competition will be held in the piazza followed by an Italian feature movie. The festival will continue with the full program on Sunday 27 February from 1pm to 9pm.

Inspired by 'La dolce vita' (the sweet life), La dolce Italia festival celebrates the Italian way of life and this year will be showcasing the regional areas of Campania (Naples), Lombardia (Milan), Toscana (Tuscany) and Calabria.

One of the most exciting and thrilling events for 2011 is the attempt to make the Guinness book of records world's longest pizza at 1.2 km long.

Police and Community Consultative Committee (PCCC)

The following points were raised and discussed at recent meetings:

- The Lygon St Festival will take place on 27th February 2011 from noon to 9 pm and will be themed on four Italian regions.
- There will be another kids' camp in March 2011.
- There is a drug problem at the residences at 510 Lygon St which police and the community will attempt to address.
- The police state there is a continual challenge for the community to inform police of issues/problems/violence, etc. If they do not receive information, it is very difficult for them to allocate resources to affected areas.
- Police are targeting beggars but will also try to provide appropriate support.
- Police are also targeting bicycle theft in the university area and will be setting up 'bait bikes' which can be tracked and traced.
- There will be an increase in more visible foot patrols.
- There has been an increase in thefts at the hospital and food courts (eg of purses).
- Police have asked people to report noisy vehicles and they will issue EPA infringement notices. Make the report to the North Melbourne Police Station on 83790800. The police require the registration number of the noisy vehicle and the date, time and place when the vehicle was observed.

CRA Planning Sub-Committee

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 issues that threaten 'loss of amenity', eg, car parking, compliance with heritage overlay, residential diversity etc.

The following web site provides up-to-date information on the status of a Planning Permit or current applications.

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

Summary

Since the last *Newsflash*, the Planning Sub-Committee has reviewed 18 Planning Applications for Carlton, and submitted no objections to the City of Melbourne.

News on the Melbourne General Cemetery

• New mausoleum

Celestine Sagazio from the National Trust reported that 'The National Trust, along with the MCC, has spent many months negotiating with the cemetery managers and Heritage Victoria for a new (third) mausoleum design that will be smaller and less intrusive. The original design near the entrance, was out of scale and blocked the view of the cemetery. Most of the mausoleum crypts will be underground.'

• Tours

Full moon cemetery tours are on Sunday 17 April 2011, the first at 6.20 pm and the last at 8.50 pm.

For further information and bookings contact the National Trust. Telephone: 9656 9824

La Mama News

What a wonderful asset La Mama is, from the historic building with its newly restored courtyard, a centre of calm in busy Carlton, to the opportunity to see local and international talent in a constantly changing program.

"Mrs Vincent Price" If you enjoy tales of the local girl made good, go and see this play which cleverly portrays the life of Coral Browne from Footscray. We loved it.

Coral became a very successful actress in London working with the likes of Michael Redgrave and Ralph Richardson and described by fellow actress, Zoe Caldwell as

"elegant, feminine, witty, a marvellous actress with the mouth of a truck driver".

Be warned- the language is strong and pithy. Peter Quilter's script is stylish and funny and immensely enjoyable. The play, set in Hollywood, relives some of the high points in a colourful life.

And for good measure, there is a "Special" -2 tickets for the price of 1 if you book by phone. It's on at the Courthouse until 27 February 2011. Don't miss it.

CONGRATULATIONS to all 14 of the 2010 Green Room Award nominees from La Mama productions!

The Green Room Awards recognise the world-class Musical Theatre, Cabaret, Dance, Theatre and Opera productions that grace Melbourne's stages each year. From artistic excellence to technical innovation, a Green Room Award is the most revered accolade an artist can receive in Australia's cultural capital.

La Mama is extremely proud to have such a widespread representation of its shows.

Community News

- **Melbourne Museum – Reconstruction of the Garden in the Forecourt**



Take a look at the new look forecourt


If you walk past the Royal Exhibition Building in Rathdowne Street, you will see that work is progressing well in the World Heritage, World Futures project which will transform the western forecourt from an asphalt car park to a re-construction of a 19th-century garden. Planting is almost complete. For regular information and updates on this project, go to:

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/reb/about-us/world-heritage-world-futures/blog/apr-2010/findings-from-archaeological-dig>

- **Volunteers needed**

The Church of All Nations (CAN) in Palmerston St, Carlton is looking for more people to help with their programs. If you are interested in helping with the Homework Club (Monday/Wednesday afternoons), the IT kiosk, the Community Lunch (Mondays at 11.30), computer classes (Thursdays at 1pm), tutoring and mentoring with the Employment Program – or just want to know more about these programs, please contact John Evans on 9347 7077.

African Affair



Join Diafrix and Friends for an African soaking!!

Indulge in African culture with performances by celebrated hip hop duo Diafrix! This fiesta will be rich in music and culinary experience with food from Africa and artists of African descent!

When: Sunday 6th March, 2011

Where: Footscray Community Arts Centre
45 Moreland Street, Footscray

Time: 2pm to 7pm

Contact: Justin King on justin@footscrayarts.com



- **New Salvation Army Officers in Carlton**

The Salvation Army Chapel on Drummond St Carlton, has new officers. Lieutenants Mera Maniky and Bhardwaj 'Monty' Abhishek took up their new posts there last month.

This is the first appointment for the couple, who recently completed two years of theological training at the Salvation Army Training College in Parkville; both were commissioned last December.

Mera comes from Hyderabad in southern India, while Monty is from northern India – north Punjab. They met in Sydney in 2006. Mera had arrived the previous year to study for her MBA, and Monty happened to also move to Sydney in 2006 to undertake a Masters degree in IT. Following their studies, Mera and Monty moved to Adelaide in 2007 for work, and then in 2009, moved to Melbourne to commence their training for the ministry.



Mera and Monty

Their journey to ministry in Carlton has not always been easy. Mera comes from a Christian family (her father is a pastor of a community church in Hyderabad) but Monty comes from a Hindu family. So his conversion to Christianity was for a long time not accepted by his family. However, now they have accepted his decision and both families were present for their commissioning in December.

Monty, as you might imagine, is passionate about computers – and also cricket; while Mera enjoys cooking. Both are very excited about their move to Carlton, and they look forward to getting to know and work with people in the Carlton community.

- **Diary dates**

Harmony Day, Thursday 17 March from 3.30pm - 8pm

'Old Age is not for Sissies': two guided sessions on Ageing and Spirituality with Maryanne Confoy. March 10 and 17, 2-5pm.

Register at www.carlton-uca.org/australia-dreaming/

Carlton conversations @ the Clare, Thursday 17 March, 6.30 - 8pm. Guest speaker is Tony Keenan, CEO of Hanover Welfare Services.

To book, email theclare@bigpond.com

Adam Bandt MP

Federal Member for Melbourne addresses CRA Christmas Party



Part of Adam Bandt's speech: *The voters of Melbourne have already changed Australian politics and inside Parliament the people of Melbourne are already having an impact. Last year, because Melbourne voted Green, my colleagues and I were able to negotiate important policy changes and key democratic reforms as part of an agreement to support the Gillard government. I am now working with the government on implementing many of those important policies.*

On climate change, Melbourne catalysed cross-party work to restart climate action within this term of parliament. I am working as part of the new Climate Change Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister and we are making progress. I hope the decisions of the committee will finally see Australia put a price tag on pollution and help kick-start a clean energy future.

On transport, my colleagues and I were able to negotiate to bring forward a \$20 million government feasibility study into high-speed rail between Melbourne and Sydney. That study is now beginning and we will be working hard to take the next steps to transform how we move.

Other important achievements over the last six months include the first debate in Parliament on Afghanistan, reforms to the way Parliament works and a commitment on a referendum on recognising indigenous people in the Constitution.

Here, I am currently working with an Expert Reference Group and members of the community on defining a plan to address Melbourne's future infrastructure needs. There is so much more we can do to improve the liveability and sustainability in Melbourne, this in turn will make Melbourne's economy stronger and more productive. We will release our first plan soon and will be seeking your feedback.

Adam reiterated his desire to hear from community members about any issue or concern, large or small, and his desire to work together to achieve the positive changes needed. He can be contacted on: 03 9642 0922 or adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au or through his website www.adambandt.com.

CRA Christmas Party

Around eighty CRA members, friends and guests gathered in the newly extended La Mama forecourt for a wonderful end-of-year get-together in balmy conditions as we celebrated CRA's activities over the past year.

Greta Bird welcomed attendees and provided a brief overview of the year. Angela Munro introduced our guest speaker, Adam Bandt MHR, recently elected Greens member for the Federal seat of Melbourne. He shared his initial experiences of Federal Parliament in Canberra (including a conversation with Bob Katter: 'Oh, you're the Green member. I'm the anti-Green!') and his policy aims and dreams. (A synopsis of his speech precedes this article.) Adam is the first Greens member ever to be elected to the House of Representatives. He was presented with a copy of the CRA published book *Carlton – A History*. Jackie Watts ran a lucrative fund-raising raffle of great prizes generously donated by Lygon St traders.



Christmas Party 2010

Our guests included City Councillors Ken Ong and Kevin Louey, former Lord Mayor Kevin Chamberlin, Greens candidate Brian Walters SC, Julianne Bell (Protectors of Public Lands), Dr Paul Mees (transport guru and RMIT senior lecturer), Leading Senior Constable Nick Parissis, Amy Lees (City of Melbourne). Apologies were received from Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, Cr Peter Clarke and other councillors, Mary Drost (Planning Backlash) and a number of CRA members and friends.

Special thanks as always to Liz Jones of La Mama for the wonderful venue, Brunetti's for tasty nibbles and to the members who ensured it all came together in such fine style.