



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSFLASH

Winter 2013

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Vale Paul Mees

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Reference Group Reports

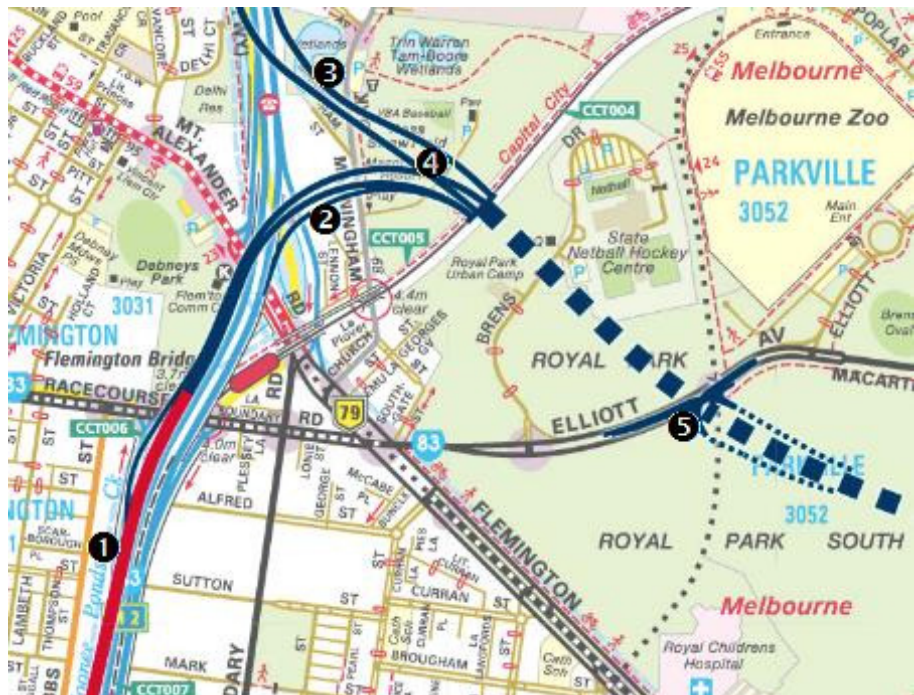
Traffic, Transport and Parking

East West Toll Road news

Mass community opposition is the only way this costly, destructive and unsustainable project will be stopped.

At the time of publication of our previous *Newsflash*, Autumn 2013, the State Government had just designated the eastern section (Stage 1, Hoddle Street to City Link) of the controversial East-West Toll Road as its top priority transport project for Victoria. The Government has now invited 'Expressions of Interest', to build Stage 1, which closes on 29 August. The project is publicly justified as 'completing a missing link in the freeway network' (despite its being a toll road!). The Toll Road is the most serious challenge the northern area of the city has faced in decades. Opposition to the Road is widespread and mirrors community concern in the 1970s over Eastern Freeway impacts.

The \$8 billion Toll Road Stage 1 decision has provoked widespread concern. Expectation from the roads lobby was that the western section (City Link to Western Ring Road) would be the priority, to service the Port and to provide an additional river crossing. Could the current decision have been dictated by political imperatives in the Eastern suburbs?



Toll Road connection to City Link in west Royal Park

How could such a contentious project possibly merit top transport billing for the entire State? Premier Napthine certainly appears to be enamoured with it and to have swallowed the threadbare justification.

Reference Group Reports

There has been no transparent process to assess the range of cost-effective alternatives to reduce traffic congestion and public transport overload in Melbourne. The Toll Road is set to dominate the State budget for decades to come and yet the cost-benefit assessment of this massive undertaking has been hidden behind a cloak of 'commercial in confidence'. Its claimed benefit of \$1.40 for each \$1 invested is three times that of previous assessments. The fact that taxpayers will bear the sovereign risk surely throws doubt on that very optimistic figure of \$1.40

The community galvanised opposition to the East West Toll Road and support for public transport at an overflowing Public Meeting at Fitzroy Town Hall on 13 June 2013, for the launch of the City of Yarra's *Trains not Toll Roads* campaign. The meeting was chaired by celebrity comedian and local activist, Rod Quantock. Speakers included: Alannah MacTiernan (former WA Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, who oversaw the 70km Mandurah rail line in Perth), Dr Sophie Sturup (planning expert, Melbourne University), the late Professor Paul Mees (transport planning expert, RMIT) who had pre-recorded a video message for the launch, and the Mayors of Yarra and Manningham.

Representatives from major organisations attended, including the Metropolitan Transport Forum, Public Transport Users Association, Protectors of Public Lands, Yarra Campaign for Action on Transport, Yarra Climate Action Now and residents groups. State and Federal members of parliament were in attendance, as were councillors and officers from Yarra, Melbourne, Manningham, Banyule and Darebin.

The meeting unanimously passed the following resolution: ***This meeting of concerned citizens of Victoria endorses the Trains not Toll Roads campaign and petition to the Premier seeking priority for public transport. We demand the Victorian Government abandon its plans for the costly and destructive East West Road Link project through inner Melbourne in favour of viable, sustainable public transport projects, and progressing the commitment to build Doncaster Rail. Further, we call upon Yarra Council to send a copy of this resolution to the Premier, all Victorian Members of Parliament and all Melbourne Metropolitan Councils.***

For further information please see

www.trainsnottollroads.com.au and www.vcat.org.au

In preparation for the above meeting, CRA was involved with information stalls at prominent street sites in Carlton, Fitzroy and Clifton Hill, and outside Linking Melbourne Authority (LMA), and information displays in North Carlton and Flemington. Much information was distributed to the community about the costs and impacts of the Toll Road and sustainable public transport alternatives; thousands of signatures were gathered for the Petition. Street protests were also attended.

Lack of information has characterised LMA interactions with the community. Details have been dribbled out,

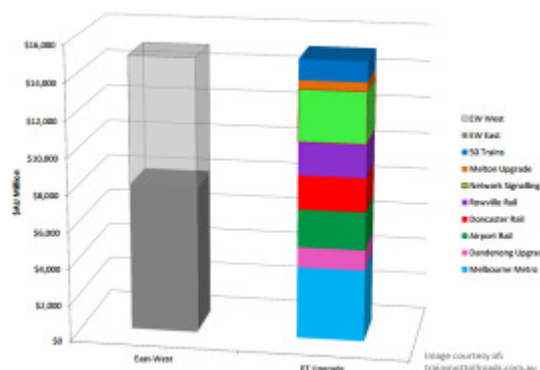
including plans for compulsory property acquisitions and construction impacts. This has led to great distress among those likely to be directly impacted in Collingwood, Parkville and Flemington. The extent of open-cut construction through Royal Park is yet to be revealed. At best, LMA provides 'public consultations' on already taken design decisions. Community protest rallies involving hundreds of people were recently held at each end the Toll Road route.



Part of the 'Trains not Toll Roads' Rally on Hoddle Street, at the Freeway exit

Letters and emails expressing CRA's opposition to the Toll Road and support for public transport have been sent to: Premier Denis Naphthine, State Transport Minister, Terry Mulder, Linking Melbourne Authority, City of Melbourne, and Federal Transport Minister & Deputy PM, Anthony Albanese. We met with the State Member for Melbourne, Jennifer Kanas, and State Member for Richmond, Richard Wynne (acting Shadow Minister for Public Transport); both claim to oppose the Toll Road provided no construction contracts are signed. In a widely reported announcement on 31 July, Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews stated that the ALP would oppose the Toll Road and called on the Premier not to sign contracts pending the State Election in November 2014. The Premier rejected this call and confirmed that contracts will be signed prior to the election.

In 2008, the Brumby ALP Government proposed, and subsequently withdrew (in the face of massive community protests), a virtually identical road project, the Eddington Tunnel (*Newsflash*, Autumn, Winter & Spring, 2008). Federal Member for Melbourne, Adam Bandt (Greens), firmly opposes the Toll Road and has agreed to help ensure it is denied Federal funding. Federal Opposition Leader, Tony Abbott, has agreed to contribute funding to the Toll Road, but not to public transport.



The mass of worthy public transport projects which could be funded with the \$15 billion now slated for the East West Toll Road.

A significant program of protest rallies is scheduled to continue, along with letter writing, media events, political lobbying, street stalls, etc. We will continue to provide details on these actions in the hope that CRA members and friends will participate.

The East West Toll Road project is devoid of evident merit, other than providing lucrative cash-flow to the 'big end of town'. The State Coalition Government is intent on fast-tracking contracts prior to the State Election in November 2014. It is improbable that an ALP Government would rescind such contracts if elected.

Whither Doncaster Rail?

The State Government announcement of the \$15 billion East West Toll Road as its top priority transport project has sounded the death knell for the long-sought rail line to Doncaster. Community agitation for a Phase 2 Study of the Government's impossibly costly estimate (\$11 billion) for the rail project and associated rail network enhancements, seem no longer on the agenda. The *Doncaster Rail Study* desperately needs external rail expertise from Perth and overseas to ensure a realistic and practical proposal. The current study appears aimed at ensuring that the rail proposal disappears for ever. An announcement that the Eastern Freeway rail reservation will be converted to additional freeway lanes was the final nail in the coffin.

As reported in the Winter 2012 *Newsflash*, independent transport experts have costed Doncaster Rail at \$1.3 billion. Apparently the existing rail network, especially the critical City Loop, is operating at half capacity due to archaic signalling and poor maintenance. The Government shows no interest in modest, cost-effective enhancements of the existing rail network to accommodate Doncaster Rail and other urgently needed rail projects.

The Government's roads-centric agenda has prioritised road over rail regardless of cost, environmental impacts and long-term sustainability. The ongoing *Trains not Toll Roads* campaign will continue to confront the Government and Opposition with the urgent need to change direction on transport policy.

Police station - Sale by Tender

The historic former Carlton Police Station has been sold by public tender for \$3.6 million (*The Age*, 27 July 2013). We understand the Government negotiated with two tenderers in the final phase of disposal of the buildings, which had been valued at \$5 million. 'Commercial in Confidence' provisions preclude us from knowing any details regarding the new owner or future use of the buildings. CRA will continue to monitor the fate of the heritage protected site.

Public housing

The Carlton Housing Estate Redevelopment

Progress Reports:

Since the last report in the Spring issue, there has been substantial progress across the estate sites. In particular, new landscaping to the east side of 480 Lygon St, the under-cover play area at 510 Lygon St and at 140 Neil St the foyer

renovation have been completed to enhance the amenity and appearance of the estate.

Stage 3 (Elgin/Nicholson Precinct) - Structural work on the private dwellings is now complete and the fit out is proceeding, with an anticipated completion by November 2013. The social housing building structure is at level 6 and the fit out has started. It is expected that this building will be ready for occupation by April 2014

Stage 5 (Rathdowne St.- Australian Unity "Wellbeing Centre") -

The building structure is near complete and construction of "Colgan St" between Drummond and Rathdowne Streets has commenced. Completion of the aged care building and the new landscaped park between Reeves and Colgan Streets is scheduled for March 2014.

Stage 9 (Lygon/Rathdowne Precinct) - Planning approval has been issued and the builder has been contracted, construction is scheduled to commence in August. Sales of these private dwellings, now exceeds 65%.

Keppel/Cardigan Precinct - The design is progressing on the next stage at this site, albeit with the additional demands imposed because it involves the existing historic buildings.



New playground adjacent to 510 Lygon Street

An official opening of the newly landscaped areas, including the new children's playground, was held on 11 July 2013 and attended by The Hon Wendy Lovell, Minister for Housing and Mr Rob Pradolin from Australand.

CRA has been able to obtain detailed information relating to the open space areas before and after redevelopment, along with other related site statistics which has been the subject of conjecture for so long. These details are available on the CRA website below.

A more detailed progress summary of the redevelopment can be viewed on the CRA website under Public Housing.

<http://www.carltonresidents.org.au/referencegroups/PublicHousing.html>

Reference Group Reports

Planning and Development

Applications

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)

The City of Melbourne has an easy to use online search facility for the Planning Register, which provides up-to-date information on the status of a Planning Permit or current application, searching by application number or address.

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

If you are aware of developments needing attention, please contact the Planning Committee: planningcra@gmail.com

| APP No./ADDRESS | DETAILS OF WORK/CRA INTEREST |
|---|---|
| Carried Forward from 2012 TP-2011-805-93 – Application Refused 93 Barkly St TP-2012- 1044 – Application Refused 139-155 Queensberry Street | Partial demolition & construction of a 3 storey addition to existing dwelling An application to construct a 15 storey apartment building adjacent to the ETU building, was opposed by CRA and others. A consultation meeting was held on the 18 April, however no concessions were offered or given and the CoM subsequently refused the application on 8 July. CRA expects a VCAT appeal or an alternative proposal. |
| Carried Forward – from January - April TP-2013-63 – 183Palmerston St- Monitoring TP-2013-246 - 65 Kay St – No action TP-2013-256 - 206 Rathdowne St- Monitoring TP-2013-267 - 181 Elgin St – No action TP-2013-287 - 70 Carlton St – No action | Initial proposal considered an overdevelopment by CRA who objected along with 4 other parties. A consultation meeting resulted in the applicant revising the design substantially removing most of the objectors concerns, the process is ongoing. No serious grounds for objection identified – Under assessment Insufficient information available at this stage – Stalled No serious grounds for objection identified – Under assessment No serious grounds for objection identified – Permit issued |
| May – 14 Applications, 1 Objection TP-2013-317- 63 Nicholson St- Objection | No serious grounds for objection identified in 13 applications viewed. An application to construct a 4 storey residence at the rear of the shop on the corner of Faraday St was objected to by CRA as an overdevelopment of the site, unsympathetic to the Faraday Streetscape and heritage values. |
| June - 8 Applications, 0 Objection, 1 Under watch TP-2013-397- 44 Barkly St- Monitoring | No serious grounds for objection identified in the 7 applications viewed. Part demolition, renovation and extend existing dwelling |
| July - 18 Applications, 1 Under watch TP-2013-505-104 Barkly St- Monitoring | No serious grounds for objection identified in 17 applications viewed. Partial demolition & construction of additions to existing dwelling, insufficient information available at this stage. |

IT'S TIME TO JOIN CRA : DO IT TODAY!

Take a look at the website for up to date information www.carltonresidents.org.au

Download the membership form and email to carltonresidents@gmail.com

New Planning Zones

In *Newsflash* Winter 2012 we outlined Government proposed policy regarding new Residential Planning Zones. Following extensive community consultation over the past year, Planning Minister Guy announced: 'A new era in Victorian planning policy and building industry regulation will commence on Monday 1 July 2013. The reforms to Victoria's residential planning zones offer a once in a generation change'. (Media Release, 28 June 2013).

Residential areas, such as much of historic Carlton with its 10.5m height overlay, will likely be covered by two new zones: Neighbourhood and General. Other areas of Carlton could fall within four other zones: Growth, Activity Centre, Comprehensive Development and Mixed Use. The Council will have 12 months to identify specific areas and streets within the new zoning scheme. This more prescriptive process should diminish planning disputes at VCAT, particularly the ambit proposals of some developers which cause much conflict.

It is unclear at this stage how the new zoning policy will impact Carlton, if at all. CRA may need to argue the case with Council planning staff as the implications progressively unfold.

On a related matter, the Planning Minister is handing planning controls back to the Council on eleven major sites across the city, which will give the community more say on large developments, previously 'called in' by the Minister. In his words: 'For too long the previous (Brumby) government ignored the howls of concern around the viability of existing regulatory structures.' (Media Release, 28 June 2013).

Maybe a 'new era in Victorian planning policy' is indeed upon us.

VCAT Presentations

Fees Hike

Substantial fee increases at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) were first flagged in January 2013 in line with State Government 'user pays' policies. In the CRA submission (13 February 2013), we argued that the proposed trebling of fees had the potential to undermine the ability of community groups, such as CRA, to appear at VCAT in the public interest. We reminded the Government of the VCAT charter 'to provide Victorians with a low cost, accessible, efficient, and independent tribunal delivering high quality dispute resolution'.

In early June 2013, the Department of Justice released its new fees structure which confirmed a massive increase in costs at VCAT, to be phased in over three years. Hearing and Mediation fees will be levied for the first time; lodgement fees will increase from \$322 to \$1007 for developments under \$1 million, rising to \$2014 for developments over \$1 million.

It is probable that the fee increases will not have much impact on CRA. Our objections to planning applications brought by developers will not incur lodgement or hearing fees, as we are usually supporting the Council against a

developer at VCAT. However, this is not always the situation. If we need to go it alone, the new fees structure will likely apply to CRA submissions.

CRA Coffee Club Continues

2nd Thursday of each month at 10.30am.

CRA members, friends and neighbours are invited to meet for an hour over a cup of coffee and a chat. Local issues are discussed without a big time commitment or a formal and daunting agenda. These meetings do not replace committee meetings but allow genuine community/member interaction under the CRA banner.

Jimmy Watsons, 333 Lygon St. If weather permits, in the "Wolf's Lair", rear gardens, upstairs.

Join us and bring a friend or neighbour.

Topical Issues

Developer donations impact Council

In the run-up to Council elections in 2012, there was extensive publicity regarding donations from developers to Councillor election campaigns (*Newsflash*, Spring 2012). A post-election investigation by the Local Government Inspectorate found no conclusive evidence that the Local Government Act had been breached. However the Inspectorate recommended 'the Council tighten governance procedures to protect the integrity of their decision making' (*The Age*, 3 May 2013).

Matters came to a head at the Council Meeting on 2 June 2013. Lord Mayor Doyle and five other councillors (the Doyle Team and Cr Ken Ong) were forced to exclude themselves from the Meeting because of financial donations to their election campaign by a major developer, who had made a submission on the matter under consideration. The Council was considering a significant reform to developer contributions to fund open space in the city (5% or 8%, in cash or land). The Council lacked a quorum to vote on the proposal because six councillors were 'in conflict'. An important reform was thwarted and those councillors who did not accept developer donations were denied their right to vote. The matter may need to be referred to an independent panel for resolution. There is concern quorum issues could become a regular occurrence, given the extent of developer donations supporting the election of several councillors. All councillors have now agreed not to meet with developers unless a Council Planning Officer is present.

Cr Mayne noted that Council conflict of interest provisions are now far stricter than for State Government ministers, yet not rigorous enough. More stringent rules apply to developer donations in NSW. The Victorian State Government appears oblivious to the problem. With respect to Planning Minister Guy, for example, 'There is no transparency about who the Minister is meeting with as he exercises huge discretionary powers ...[he] is involved in negotiating a raft of controversial [planning] proposals' (Mayne Report, 22 July, 2013).

Our rates at work

The City of Melbourne 2013-14 Budget includes capital works totalling almost \$100 million, in an overall budget of \$364 million. Of interest to CRA are the following allocations:

- \$7 million to develop the Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre
- \$2 million to redevelop the Neill St Reserve, adjacent to the Public Housing Estate
- \$7.7 million for parks renewal and tree planting
- \$2.7 million for major streetscape improvements
- \$2.65 million to extend the bicycle network

According to Finance and Governance Chair, Cr Stephen Mayne, 'The City of Melbourne has targeted savings across the organisation that will channel millions of dollars back into services'. Rates will increase by 3.75%, among the lowest increase across the State, which will add \$75 to a typical \$2000 rates notice in Carlton.

Melbourne University buys former Royal Women's Hospital

In June 2013, the long-vacant Royal Women's Hospital (RWH) was purchased by the University for the establishment of a new Carlton Connect Precinct intended to house 'sustainability research'. The Precinct is expected to comprise 2000 University staff and students by 2014. Lord Mayor Doyle welcomed the new Precinct: 'It is a very powerful extension of Melbourne as a knowledge city ... attracting the brightest and the best'.

Although the State Government had valued the Hospital at \$60 million, the University paid just \$35 million (*The Age*, 13 June 2013). The purchase came as no surprise, given the CRA's political battle to extract KSC from the Hospital site in 2010 for Council purchase. We believed at that time that the Brumby ALP Government had an established understanding with the University regarding the RWH purchase. Acquisition of RWH continues the long-term University off-campus expansion into Carlton and Parkville (currently around 100 buildings). As the University is rates-exempt, it makes no contribution to Council finances.

Community News Opportunities for Carlton (OFC) Awards

A Celebration of the achievements of OFC, with the 70 projects initiated through this venture, was held on Friday 19 July at COASIT in Faraday Street. Cr Cathy Oke and Melanie Raymond were the keynote speakers. A number of community members were recognised for their contributions:

- Brian Falconer (CRA & Carlton Gardens Tennis Club) and John Evans (Church of All Nations), –the coordinators of Carlton Together, the group responsible for the Carlton website and Eco Carlton.
- Sarah Deasey (Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre) and Sarah Howe (Drummond Street Services), the key coordinators of the Work & Learning group, which led

- the work on digital inclusion, family learning and a range of employment initiatives.
- Bich Ha (North Yarra community Health) and Des Shead (Department of Human Services), coordinators of Healthy Carlton, which has been involved in preventing family violence, Harmony Day celebrations and community safety.
- Rebecca Harris (Carlton Primary School) and Hamdi Ali (Carlton Housing Estate Residents)
- Melanie Raymond, Volunteer Chair of the Opportunities for Carlton project since 2010. Melanie is an experienced independent non-executive director and chair with multiple Board and Committee positions, and a committed contributor to the Carlton vision. In October 2012 she was named one of Australia's Top 100 'Most Influential Women' in the Westpac & Australian Financial Review 100 Women of Influence Awards.
- Cr Cathy Oke, currently Chair of the City of Melbourne Transport portfolio, and deputy Chair on Environment. Over the last four years, Cr Oke has been an active contributor to the Carlton project, especially in realizing the Eco Carlton aspirations!

Volunteer Awards 2013

Melbourne MPs (Member of Parliament)

Volunteer Awards 2013 -Two CRA members honoured.

Megan Gathercole and Brian Falconer were both recipients of a MP Volunteer of the Year Award, presented by Adam Bandt MP, at a ceremony held in the Commonwealth Parliament Offices on 9 August 2013, Treasury Place.

Megan Gathercole received an Innovation in Volunteering award. Mr Bandt said it was a great pleasure to recognise Megan's outstanding work. He added that Volunteers make a huge difference in Melbourne. They drive essential community groups and services, strengthen the social fabric of the local community and make Melbourne the great place that it is.



Adam Bandt MP with Meg Stevenson-Gathercole

Megan is truly inspirational in her unstinting dedication to the local community, and especially, but by no means solely, to primary schools. She has brought leadership, considerable skills, time, energy and political lobbying to establish an innovative charity 'PEACHES' (Physical Education, Art/Culture, Health, Environment and Science), which provides essential resources to inner city primary schools in these vital areas. An additional arm of this work is 'CREAM' (Community Resources, Education and Mentoring).

The impact of Megan's work has been extensive and will continue to develop. Her innovation, leadership and ongoing commitment have contributed to wide community engagement and cohesion. The schools programs generate equality of opportunity for significant numbers of Carlton's disadvantaged primary school students, and considerably broaden educational opportunities for all local students in a wide range of areas. Further impacts include unifying Carlton's school communities in major projects for the benefit of all. This has been extended to engagement with the wider community, such as effectively generating extensive support for the CRA campaign for a library in Carlton, and a range of educational and social events, e.g. an all schools reading program, Harmony Day and a combined school production for an end of year concert.



**Brian Falconer speaks at the Melbourne MPs
Volunteer Awards**

CRA's Brian Falconer, in response to this award, spoke of his over 25 years' work for the Carlton community in many spheres and thanked Adam for helping to secure an allocation of \$20m in the May 2012 Federal Budget for restoration works to the Royal Exhibition Building and the promotion of the World Heritage site as a visitor attraction. He recalled Adam making a phone call to personally deliver the news of the funding that evening whilst Brian was playing tennis in the Carlton Gardens. He pointed to Adam's foresight and inspiration in 'picking up a few of our ideas' and producing a vision of the birthplace of the Australian democracy with the first sitting of the Australian Parliament, and the opportunity for a democracy education centre. Brian thanked Adam for his contribution to the wider community

of Melbourne as our local member and wished him well on behalf of all of his constituents, in the 7 September federal election.

CRA congratulates and thanks Megan and Brian for their contribution to life in Carlton and their support for the Association.

**FREBCG Friends of Royal Exhibition Building
and Carlton Gardens our World Heritage site.**
Reopen the dome! <http://www.frebcg.com.au/index.html>

La Mama - Betty Burstall's Legacy

Betty Burstall, who founded Carlton's iconic La Mama theatre in 1967, has died at 87. Betty handed over the reins to artistic director Liz Jones in 1976, but continued to play an active role as chief script advisor until 15 years ago.

La Mama features new Australian plays and provides unique opportunities for playwrights, actors, directors, stage staff, et cetera to gain vital experience in stage productions. The theatre has played a crucial role in shaping the cultural landscape of Australia.

At a recent memorial in La Mama's forecourt, Betty was described as a giant - indomitable, determined, a mentor and an inspiration. Her vision and legacy, nurtured and developed at La Mama by Liz Jones, have influenced many hundreds of artists over several generations across Australia and Betty herself became a household name.

A cross-section of artists offered memories of Betty to an audience that included her family and many actors, writers, composers, poets and filmmakers now highly regarded and well known. Producer Emma Valentine, one of many artists who developed her skills at La Mama, described Betty's legacy as founded on very practical principles: free coffee, an open fire, an open door and box office split. Free coffee and an open fire ensure community, conversation, a close connection between artists and audience. An open door policy and a box office split denote respect for artists and finding practical ways to present unique shows which other companies reject: shows which may not yet have an audience, or are experimental, or weird, or at first draft stage. Shows by an artist who has no experience or doesn't fit in anywhere, or who wants to try something new, or has never put a pitch together, or doesn't have access to a computer, or whose first language is not English. Or by an artist who needs a community and a home.

Emma recently directed a play at the MTC which sparked impassioned reactions in emails and Facebook comments. This led her to yearn for the courtyard at La Mama, where audiences can sit around a fire and discuss the show they've just seen. She carries with her advice from Liz Jones, which epitomizes Betty's La Mama: 'if you stick to your vision and don't let fear distract you, you could do something really special.'

Emma maintained that La Mama and Liz Jones, the guardian of Betty's principles, instil a way of making art that is about building a community, being generous with one's peers, finding ways to say yes, being brave and

adhering to a belief that one person can make an immense difference.

The tiny former shirt factory which houses La Mama was leased by Betty from Rose Del Monaco. Rose warmly supported the theatre and following her death, her family contacted Liz Jones in 2008 and offered her first option to purchase the building for \$1.8m including Stamp Duty. Liz accepted the challenge to raise the \$170,000 deposit in four weeks, and the remainder within three months. She appealed to the community by word of mouth, telephone trees, get-togethers, and via radio and television. Donations came thick and fast, ranging from \$20 to many of \$1,000. Some people had formed clusters to raise this amount. In just two weeks the required deposit had been attained.

Next - the remaining \$1.6m! Liz, with substantial assistance from Mark Rubbo (Readings), appealed to philanthropic organizations, Melbourne City Council, State and Federal Government. Contributions were most generous. Liz commented warmly that such overwhelmingly generous support was very affirming.

A day before a glorious benefit concert in the Athenaeum Theatre, Federal Minister Peter Garret made a substantial donation, enabling Liz to announce that 'we're over the line!' Settlement took place two weeks before cut-off, and the La Mama Trust became the theatre's new owner.

Maintenance and upkeep have been taken care of by a substantial bequest in 2008 from Board member Max Chapman. More recently, the Melbourne City Council's development of the La Mama forecourt as Del Monaco Place has made a valuable public piazza available for all to share, in the true La Mama community tradition.



Carlton residents feel very proud and privileged to have La Mama in their midst, and deep gratitude to its founder Betty Burstall, and to Liz Jones for inspirational artistic direction, and for assuring La Mama's continuity.

Vale Paul Mees

It is with a heavy heart we record the death of Professor Paul Mees (52), transport academic extraordinaire and 'friend' of CRA. Paul died on 19 June following a 15-month battle with cancer. His death led to an outpouring of support

and grief in the media, including an editorial tribute in *The Age* (24 June, 2013).



Paul started out as a barrister and solicitor in industrial law. However his transport passion led him to become President of the Public Transport Users Association (PTUA, 1992-2001) and ultimately to an academic career at the Australian National University, Melbourne University (Urban Planning, 1998-2008) and RMIT (Associate Professor, Statutory & Transport Planning, 2008-). He enjoyed an international reputation in transport planning.

Paul was demoted at Melbourne University in 2008, following a complaint by the ALP State Government against his forthright transport commentaries (*Newsflash*, Winter 2008); he resigned and continued his invaluable academic contributions at RMIT. In his funeral Homily, the priest referred to this disgraceful event, how poorly it reflected on Melbourne University and how it had elevated Paul as a fearless proponent of the truth. PTUA President, Tony Morton, noted that Paul had for many years 'personified the transport debate in Victoria, and called successive governments to account for their neglect of public transport'. Paul's final public appearance was via a video recording played during the 'Trains Not Toll Roads' campaign launch at Fitzroy Town Hall on 13 June (reported elsewhere in this *Newsflash*). He questioned the Napthine Government's \$8 billion Stage 1 of the East-West Toll Road and lack of research to support it.

We will sorely miss Paul's forthright, ethical and informed contributions to the transport debate, and always helpful and wise counsel to CRA on critical transport matters. He addressed our General Meeting in August 2008 on transport issues; he and his wife Erica were regulars at our annual Xmas Party at La Mama. His inspiring positive spirit is best summarised in his comment: 'We will win comrade, or we will have different success!'

Our deepest sympathy goes to Erica and their family. An extensive obituary on Professor Paul Mees was published in *The Age*, 22 June 2013.