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Next Dinner/Meeting

Monday 19 May at

Café Italia.



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The CRA Restructure: The way forward

The CRA has transformed itself! At the AGM the new structure based on Reference Groups was approved and we are confident that this devolved non-hierarchical structure will encourage participation at various levels of commitment. Thank you to CRA members who have already stepped forward to engage with CRA Reference Groups and activities. **BUT – we need more involvement still! Carlton needs all the support it can get since the challenges we face are many and varied.**

Please overcome your dread of committees! We all loathe committees. CRA Reference Group activity need not be onerous and by and large, the issues are very INTERESTING! There is PLENTY OF SCOPE for various levels of involvement with lots of support for those members who are new to community engagement. For those who might still be thinking about lending a hand, here is the list of available Reference Groups:

Carlton Gardens

Community Centre (KSC) & Library

CoRA (Coalition of Residents Associations)

Media Liaison

Newsflash/Website

Parkland & Public Land

Planning & Development

VCAT Representations

Social Events

Streetscapes

Traffic, Transport & Parking

Melbourne 2030 (Planning Backlash)

Public Housing Redevelopment

Culture

Demographic and Boundary Changes

Carlton & North Carlton

A reminder that North Carlton was excised from Carlton during the Kennett years leaving the Carlton 3053 precinct very much depleted. This boundary change obviously swelled the rate coffers in Yarra but the impact on Carlton was adverse. We lost a large number of residents and our Council became even more responsive to business. Given this emphasis on business and development in the city, the State Government sought greater influence over the affairs of our community. Residents' concerns tended to be sidelined. Fortunately, the situation is fluid. The resident base in the CBD, Southbank and Docklands is increasing and Kensington is again in the municipality. Residents are increasingly vocal as individual precinct associations and through the Coalition of Residents Associations (CoRA).

The CRA is also taking steps to grow membership and gather support for Carlton by creating a new category of Membership – **Friends of Carlton**. Many people outside Carlton have a fond and sustained connection to the precinct. For a small fee, folks who live in North Carlton or any other suburb can become a **Friend of the CRA**. The many people who feel an attachment to Carlton, whether because they work here, visit regularly, studied or perhaps grew up here, can lend their support to preserving all that is best about Carlton.

If you know anyone who would be interested in becoming a Friend of CRA, please contact us – we will email an invitation to become a Friend of CRA.

Kensington reunited

After 14 years as part of the City of Moonee Valley, from 1 July 2008 Kensington will rejoin under the City of Melbourne. The Kensington Residents Association conducted a poll of resident opinion, which proved to be overwhelmingly in support of the move. So as we strive to counter the prevailing emphasis upon the business community in our city, the inclusion of Kensington will create an enlarged and stronger resident base which is obviously good news for all residents in the City of Melbourne.

Drunks and Nuisance Noise in the Municipality

Clearly things are reaching a crescendo – pardon the pun! It's really no laughing matter that CBD residents are increasingly alarmed at public drunkenness and the lack of restraint at night 'clubs' downtown. However, noise and nuisance is not only a headache for residents of the CBD. Carlton residents are also subject to the effects of drunkenness and noise. You can and should report any problems:

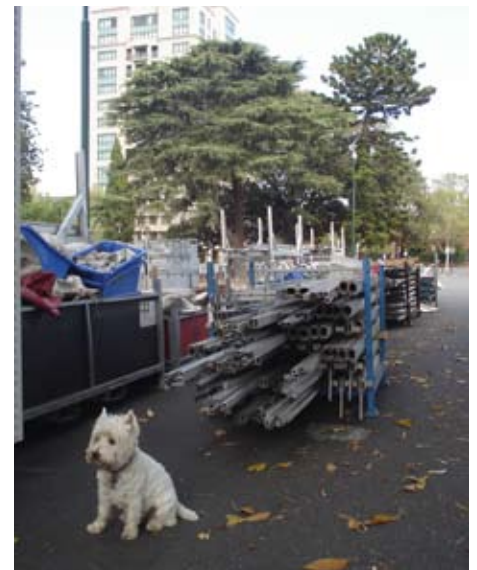
- EPA has an **Atmosphere and Noise Unit** – ALWAYS report your concerns. Numbers of **formal complaints** do matter. Call 9695 2337
- Victoria Police also have the Regional Licensing Unit. For noise complaints call: 03 92475324 fax: 92475325
- Also try the Liquor Licensing Unit, Mathew Allen 03 9247 5324.

Inner City resident Andrew Nichols has established a web site offering advice on the best strategies for tackling the problems of noise nuisance and drunkenness. See <http://melbcitynoisecomplaintinfo.com>

Carlton Gardens: Flower Show, World Heritage site obligations and climate change



Desecration of the World Heritage listed Gardens - Who cares? – certainly not those who are paid to care!



Given the impact of climate change, the Carlton Gardens Group makes the valid point that, in these drought ravaged times, the granting of permits for commercial activities in already our seriously stressed public gardens is unacceptable. CoM and or the State authorities continue to grant such permits without consideration for the impact on vegetation in these difficult times. It is outrageous that powerful commercial nursery industry lobbyists involved in the Melbourne Flower and

Garden Show have the ear of the State Government. They continue to insist that the Carlton Gardens are the only suitable venue for this commercial activity and will not even concede that given the current degradation of all green space, that Show access should be confined to tarmacked areas. Times have changed and Show organisers' attitudes must also change.

Recent Promotion: Many of you will have been dismayed to find a brochure promoting the Garden Show in your letter box. It is an insulting endorsement by the City or Melbourne of the unacceptable status quo and a scandalous misuse of public funds.

You may also have noticed that the promoters erected heavy-roofed display sheds around the gardens at least a week before the date specified in the contract, thus effectively commandeering public space for private profit for an extended period. So much for City of Melbourne 'regulations'.

CRA members Margaret O'Brien and Anne Ritter will be making presentations to the **Parliamentary Committee inquiring into Public Land Development** on behalf of CRA and the Carlton Gardens Group on 3rd April 2008. This joint submission by CRA and the Carlton Gardens Group will argue that the World Heritage Carlton Gardens (WHCG) should not be used for the Melbourne International Flower and Gardens Show (MIFGS). In addition, another submission will be made by CRA and the Carlton Gardens Group, on April 21 to the **Royal Exhibition and Carlton Gardens Draft Strategy Plan on world Heritage Environs areas.**

Attention!
Our new CRA website
coming soon!

Eddington Inquiry & Carlton: East West Needs Assessment

Major State infrastructure policy is now dictated by commercial interests whose bottom line depends upon a steady flow of major projects funded by Public-Private Partnerships, so beloved of our State Government. The next major infrastructure project following Eastlink (Mitcham-Frankston Tollway) appears certain to be a \$10 billion road tunnel link from the Eastern Freeway (Hoddle Street) further west to the Outer Ring Road in Deer Park. **This controversial project has also been backed by the Eddington Inquiry, which recently reported its findings to the State Government.**

Unlike previous traffic and transport investigations in the northern area of the city, the \$5 million Eddington Inquiry has conducted its deliberations in secret. There have been no information or workshop sessions seeking community input; this has been limited to written submissions. Strategic leaks and Government spin have been softening up our sceptical community to the inevitable decision to build the tunnel.

The road tunnel, a long-term favourite project of the roads lobby, was rejected at earlier inquiries as an ineffective solution to traffic congestion. A rail line to Doncaster, northern extension of the City Rail Loop and transport tax rationalisations would be much more cost effective and sustainable. Public transport is critical to the success of the Government's main Melbourne 2030 planning policy which aims to squeeze a further 1 million people into Melbourne and Metropolitan regions by 2030.

The opening of Eastlink later this year will inundate Carlton with new traffic from the Eastern Freeway, 70% of it destined for the CBD and 90% one driver only. An East-West road tunnel

will not change this as only 10% of traffic continues west; a bottleneck will continue to exist north of the CBD **But let not transport facts get in the way of a profitable new road project!**

For a fraction of the \$10 billion road tunnel cost, Melbourne's public transport network could be upgraded and extended to provide a world class and sustainable service into the future. However, such policy holds no interest for the roads lobby which continues on its merry way oblivious to global warming, peak oil production, urban air pollution and the long-term unsustainability of it all. Easy short-term profit motivates the roads lobby; rail infrastructure holds no interest.

Government approval of the proposed east-west road tunnel will be the beginning of utter chaos in Carlton. Tunnel construction will be largely open-cut (because of subsoil structure), on-off ramps will be needed at major road intersections with severe impacts on existing roads and buildings. Massive increases in local air pollution will occur from tunnel exhaust stacks and traffic congestion will continue unabated.

This is a nightmare project!

Development Density in Melbourne

The Oliver Hume Research Diary reports that of the 160 medium to high density projects being marketed in metropolitan Melbourne in December 2007, the highest number (25) were located in the City of Melbourne. A total of 5900 new units have been added to the housing stock. In the inner suburbs all types of accommodation (referred to as 'product mix') are designed with smaller floor areas (see www.Oliverhume.com.au)

Lygon Street 40kph Speed Zone

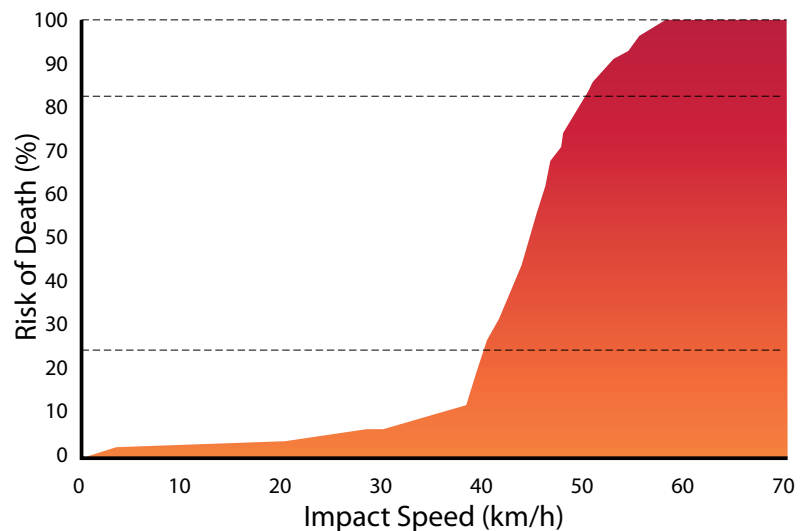
CRA has campaigned for many years to introduce a 40kph speed zone through the Lygon Street Precinct (Elgin St to Victoria St). The Carlton Business Association and Carlton police fully support the proposal. The City of Melbourne Planning Committee unanimously resolved on 5 Feb. 2008 to seek VicRoads approval for immediate introduction of the long-sought speed zone.

The tragic death of Damian Cooper on Australia Day 2007 at the hands of a hit-run driver alleged to have been travelling along Lygon Street at 100kph, refocused CRA's lobbying efforts. However, VicRoads remains unmoved by all appeals, despite



Phone-box shrine in Lygon Street, set up by the Cooper family in memory of Damian

the need for urgent action. Nick McCallum of Radio 3AW took up the cause between Christmas and New Year. He interviewed Mark Cooper (Damian's father), Cr Fiona Snedden (CoM) and Ian Bird (CRA). The Age also publicised the issue. All agree that hooning and speeding on Lygon Street must be curtailed.



Impact Speed with associated Risk of Death graph

There are extensive accident statistics from across the globe to justify reduced traffic speed through pedestrian and cycle rich areas such as Lygon Street (see graph above). There is no need for yet more data gathering as claimed by VicRoads. At 50kph (the current regularly ignored speed limit) risk of pedestrian death when struck by a vehicle is 85%. At

40kph this falls to 25% and at 30kph to just 7%. VicRoads recently advised CRA that consideration of a 40kph zone in Lygon Street has again been deferred pending new guidelines due to be released in April 08. **We seem to be on the never-never with this important issue but will continue our long-running campaign.**

Police Matters

CRA Member Richard Tischer, our representative on the PCCC (Police Community Consultative Committee) reports that the last meeting between our local police and the community discussed the objectives of the PCCC partnership. The PCCC convenes a forum each month where community concerns about safety can be raised and other information may be shared. The Officer in Charge will report, for example, on Crime, Traffic, and Public Order, including begging etc. Richard raised CRA concerns about the need to impose a 40 km speed limit on Lygon St. The Police advise that the Road Traffic Authority has apparently approved a reduced speed limit subject to further assessment. Another PCCC issue is

the implementation of a local Driver Education Project. This pilot project will involve young and disadvantaged fledgling drivers in our precinct. It will be modelled on a Frankston project. **Richard requests that CRA members contact the CRA with any matters they would like him to raise at the next PCCC meeting.**

Planning Backlash (M2030)

Planning Backlash is a grassroots movement triggered by widespread dissatisfaction with the current planning blueprint - the regulatory document known as Melbourne 2030 (M2030) Resident Groups throughout Melbourne are opposed to Melbourne

2030. The Backlash group argues that the M2030 was flawed from the outset because it relied upon consultations with developers, builders, academics, and planners and lacked adequate resident or community input. It does not address neighbourhood character or amenity, both crucial elements in maintaining what we value most in Carlton. Minister Justin Madden announced an audit of M2030 but **Backlash** has serious concerns about the review process and continues to argue that the M2030 document is not prescriptive enough – leaving much open to interpretation by developers. Under the current regime, VCAT has assumed a planning role and has weakened Council’s role in regulating local developments. Developers have the resources to pay for legal and other expert evidence at VCAT hearings and often muscle inappropriate projects through VCAT leaving Council planners and residents floundering. CRA has been on the receiving end of such VCAT judgements. Backlash also argues that M2030 does not address basic infrastructure implications in relation to developments eg. sewage, roads, public transport, power etc. Nor does it address issues relating to maintaining public lands and open space. Obviously our city needs appropriate sympathetic development and we rely upon our policy makers to regulate in such a way as to ensure this occurs. CRA agrees with Planning Backlash that M2030 is a planning disaster in Melbourne and that the role of VCAT must be reviewed as a matter of urgency.

(see. www.melbourne2030.org.au)

For information about the City of Melbourne Strategic planning Policy see www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=288&pg=1355

In Defence of the DDO

In January 2006 the Victorian Government imposed a new ‘**design and development overlay**’ (DDO)

on the City of Melbourne. The Carlton postcode area is covered by several overlays that reflect the disparate nature of district; the design guidelines and height limits are tailored to the character of each particular section. By way of example, the DDO covering central Carlton north (Grattan to Elgin, Cardigan to Rathdowne) is DDO48. It imposes a height limit of 10.5 metres and its principle design objectives are:

- To maintain the predominant low scale nature of the area.
- To ensure development supports high levels of pedestrian amenity related to access to sunlight and sky views and a pedestrian friendly scale.

CRA is concerned about the number of development applications that wilfully exceed the relevant DDO height limit. Some are rejected or modified by CoM’s planning department, but more often than not Council’s decision is then overturned in the developer’s favour at VCAT. A favourite ‘justification’ is that the streetscape concerned is already ‘degraded’ by buildings that exceed the DDO.

CRA would like to know why, if the intention in imposing height limits was to protect only pristine streetscapes, the DDO boundaries include areas that are already ‘degraded’ by one or more buildings in excess of the new height limit?

We submit that the original intention was to protect these areas from further degradation. We therefore also submit that VCAT is not honouring the spirit of the DDOs when it accepts arguments of ‘prior degradation’ to permit buildings that exceed the height limit. VCAT often appears to be unaware of the vast difference between an occasional tall building and an entire street wall of tall buildings. They need only look at what has happened to Swanston Street to see the long-term effect of ‘prior

degradation’ arguments. That street is fast becoming a canyon and we do not want this to happen in other Carlton streets.

Then there are the ‘me too’ arguments advanced by developers whose building is within a low-rise area adjacent to a DDO area with a higher height limit. The result, if sanctioned, is height creep by reason of proximity, but the fact is that the planners who drew the lines of the DDOs were perfectly aware of the discrepancy but nonetheless chose to keep one side of a street lower than the other. **The line has to be drawn somewhere and it is the job of Council and VCAT to ensure that it is enforced.**

Another strategy used by developers to get around the DDO is to submit an application for an unacceptably tall building and when this is rejected, to offer to ‘set back’ the offending top floor(s). This too is unacceptable, for while the street frontage may adhere to the height limit, the overall effect is one of antipathetic visual bulk – witness the Becton development on Faraday and Cardigan Streets and,

CRA calls on the City of Melbourne and VCAT to honour the letter and spirit of the DDO by rejecting any applications that exceed the official height limit and by ceasing to accept set-backs as an acceptable way of circumventing the DDO.

before long, 262-276 Drummond Street, where CRA last year lost its appeal against a massive over-development of the site.

NB It should be noted that many of these applications for taller than permissible buildings request a **partial waiver of car parking requirements**, thus putting additional pressure on an already stressed parking situation in Carlton. More on the thorny issue of parking in a future newsletter.

Positive Development? We don't need always to be adversarial!

Long-standing CRA members from Drummond St share a positive experience of appearing at VCAT to support a neighbour.

It may seem a little unusual, but we can report that we took great pleasure recently, along with another neighbour, in attending a VCAT sitting in support of our direct neighbour's application to extend his house. The proposed extension is to the north of our house and little courtyard, which fact automatically raises the prospect of overlooking and increased shadowing. An objection had been lodged against a certain aspect of the extension by two occupants of the flats to the east of the house in question. One of the objectors had since moved, and the other did not follow up his objection when invited to do so. Nevertheless, because the Council had ruled against the development in its present form, the applicant and his architect had to present their case to VCAT, requesting that the objection be over-ruled. The owner had been asked to modify the back of the addition, which faced a very narrow laneway, by cutting 1.7 metres off the depth of the smallish upper back room, which would have become to all extent and purposes unusable, placing the whole plan in jeopardy.

Our neighbour and his architect had earlier taken much trouble to confer with us about the planned extension, and we appreciated their concern and the efforts they had made to avoid overlooking and minimise overshadowing. Hence our willingness and delight in having a 'morning out' at VCAT, where a decision was made on the spot to allow the extension to go ahead in its original form.

We three supportive neighbours are delighted to have ensured the prospect of a responsible development, and to have kept our little neighbourhood intact. We realise it is often not so easy to be comfortable with changes occurring in our vicinity, but placing a value on our neighbour's amenity as well as our own has, we believe, resulted in a good outcome for all.

Vyrna and Rolf Beilharz CRA Members

Carlton Demographic: Deprived area status?

Griffith University academic Assoc. Prof. Scott Baum has developed a 'Deprivation index'. Using indicators such as employment levels, income, ethnic diversity, family composition, public housing demand and education, the research ranks suburbs according to 'Deprivation' levels. **It seems that in Victoria, Carlton is the only inner suburban area registering within the top 22 band of deprived suburbs** - along with Sunshine, Broadmeadows, St Albans and Braybrook. Interesting to note that Docklands, East Melbourne is ranked amongst the least deprived suburbs! Such is the disparity within our municipality. (*The Age Feb 16, 2008. P.2*)

New Residential Planning Zones

Planning Minister, Hon. Justin Madden, made a low-key announcement in February that the existing established planning zones (Res Codes 1, 2 & 3) would be changed to:

- Residential 2: Substantial Change ('Go-Go' zone)
- Residential 1 & 3: Incremental Change ('Slow-Go' zone)
- New Zone: Limited Change ('No-Go' zone)

The reason for the introduction of new zones is because development has

'not been meeting State Objectives' - in plain English that means M2030 has failed. In part, M2030 failed because of resident opposition! Such changes in zoning will tend to hamper residents' right to object. The Brumby Government has major plans to 'streamline' planning by 'fast tracking' the process and making it much more 'developer friendly'. The appointment of Justice Kevin Bell as President of VCAT, together with a review of that organisation, are components of these new planning policies. Residential densities will significantly increase; appeal rights to VCAT will be severely curtailed or removed altogether in many cases. **Much of Carlton is presently classified Residential 1 & 3 (the Public Housing Estates are Residential 2); the future for CRA appeals against inappropriate developments is looking grim.**

Recently the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) convened a series of public meetings to discuss the proposed changes to zoning. Planning Backlash group members were the only 'residents' present. The rest were council planners and developers. The DPCD stated that Councils were expected to consult with their communities on these important zoning changes by 18/4, a very tight time frame indeed! When councils complained of logistical difficulties, the DPCD advised that no extension to time frame would be permitted. Obviously this haste will ensure that as little genuine community consultation as possible occurs. It is instructive to note that the DPCD hoped that Councils would put documentation about changes in their libraries - which are, of course, tricky for Carlton, Southbank, Docklands since we do not have libraries! Get a copy of their documentation including their submission form and have your say by emailing: planning.systems@dpcd.vic.gov.au or calling 9637 8610



Greta Bird (CRA) & Cr Fiona Snedden (MCC) in Faraday St, the main pedestrian entrance to Carlton. Median area is dominated by parked cars; there is just one tree.

Median Greening Update

CRA has lobbied the Council for increased green space in Faraday and Cardigan Streets for many years (see Newsflash, Summer 2008). The issue has been before the Council Planning Committee twice and the full Council once over the past year. **The Carlton Business Association and the majority of Councillors will not sanction any net loss of on-street car parking from greening proposals.** No amount of argument from CRA about the unsustainable dominance of cars on Carlton's streetscapes and the mass of under utilised off-street parking, has influenced this mindset. The progressive reduction of median car parking in favour of increased median greening, as envisaged in the Carlton 2010 local area plan, will not now be implemented. This 'vision plan' was developed in 1999 through widespread community consultation and was endorsed by the Council at that time. Its rejection in 2008 represents yet another example of failings in the consultative process, which has been a regular CRA experience over many years. **On-street car parking is sacrosanct in Carlton; nothing we say appears likely to change that in the foreseeable future.**

Traders and their staff continue to occupy many 'free' on-street car spaces for extended periods every day, thus excluding the customers they claim to so desperately need. We believe the 50 currently 'free' car spaces in Cardigan and Faraday Streets should be metered. This would raise significant revenue (\$200,000 p.a.) for the Council which could be



Cr Catherine Ng (Chair, MCC Planning Committee) with Greta Bird (CRA) contemplating roundabout options

applied to ongoing streetscape works in Carlton; it would also encourage traders to park off-street.

In a spirit of compromise and to move things forward, we agreed at the Planning Committee Meeting on 4 March to new median plantings in Faraday St. (Swanston to Cardigan Sts.) and in Cardigan St. (Elgin to Faraday Sts.). **A total of 23 additional trees will be planted in enlarged tree islands; opportunistic planting of at least a further 10 trees will occur in kerbside areas currently lacking trees.** The roundabout at the intersection of Faraday and Cardigan Streets will receive a creative landscape treatment. The end result will enhance the main pedestrian entrance to Carlton from the Tram Terminus on Swanston St. and help soften our car-dominated streetscapes. Becton will be pursued to complete its 'make good' planting obligations around College Square on Swanston, as agreed with the Council several years ago.

Bike Parking at Lygon Court

A proposal from Cr Fraser Brindley to convert two car parking spaces in front of Lygon Court to 26 bike parking spaces was endorsed by the Council Planning Committee on 4 March. Existing bike parking facilities are grossly inadequate to meet ever-increasing demand from cyclists. There is presently an unsightly and (for pedestrians) dangerous jumble of bikes tied to any fixed structure for security.

The Carlton Business Association opposed the loss of on-street car parking stock for bike parking. In a press report (More bike parking is not going to bring more business) it claimed inter alia that two cars have greater economic benefit to Carlton than 26 bikes! CBA did not appear



Current bike parking arrangements outside Lygon Court

at the Council Planning Meeting to support this curious argument. Bicycle Victoria has indicated to CRA it will seek further opportunities to lobby for additional much-needed bike parking elsewhere in Carlton.

In approving bike parking facilities in Lygon St., the Council is implementing its Melbourne Transport Strategy which has a key objective of encouraging cycling. **Cycling has environmental, health and traffic congestion benefits which merit widespread community support.**

Democratic Local Government – not in the City of Melbourne!

The Coalition of Residents Associations (CoRA) is calling upon the Premier, John Brumby and Local Member Bronwyn Pike, Minister for Local Government Richard Wynne and the Melbourne City Council to restore DEMOCRACY to Melbourne. Residents and many members of the business community call for a complete review of the Melbourne

City Council, BEFORE the Council election on November 29, 2008. **CRA strongly supports CoRA in calling for an independent Electoral Review.**

The municipality of Melbourne is not governed by the same legislation as other municipalities in Victoria. Unlike other municipalities there is no compulsory review of processes. An Electoral Review is the first crucial step in getting local democracy back on track in Melbourne.

The current processes are undemocratic and result in a Council that does not represent the residents adequately. The anomalies within the current system are well documented and irrefutable. Since an objective Electoral Commission Review would obviously address the issues and alleviate concerns, why not conduct one?

Who can order such a Review?

So far CoRA has appealed to the Council and to the Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne. CoRA is fast losing confidence that either will act properly to reform the clearly flawed system.

Minster Wynne refuses to order a Review presumably because the State Govt prefers the status quo, namely a system that does not represent constituents adequately. However, the current system does deliver him the political advantage in ensuring commercial control of the capital city.

It is significant that the State Government does not deny that the identified flaws in the system exist. No, it appears that their reluctance to order a Review is based upon the convenient perception that there is a lack of public outcry. And, given the complexity of the current system, it is not surprising that voters appear acquiescent. Voters for the most part remain unaware of the erosion of democracy within local government in the City of Melbourne.

The Lord Major also refuses to support an Electoral Review. He has used his casting vote in Council on three occasions to reject Motions calling for a Review. Cr Fiona Snedden again raised the need for a Review (11/3, Finance and Governance Sub-committee). Since Lord Mayor So did not attend this particular subcommittee meeting, the Motion was passed! It will now proceed to the next full Council meeting (25/3) where it is expected that Lord Mayor So will once again use his team and his casting vote to reject the Motion and again block a Review. However, we live in hope that Lord Mayor will now recognize the seriousness of this blocking and reconsider his position so that a Review can occur.

UP-DATE 1/4

At the full Council meeting on **25 March** Lord Mayor John So and his Team, voted as a bloc to overturn Sub-Committee's decision. John So for the third time now, rejected a call for an objective **Review of Council Structure** and electoral processes. This refusal is an outrageous assault on local government democracy. **The packed gallery was justifiably vocal in expressing anger at this continued refusal to respond to the valid, reasonable and well argued demands of non-So Team councillors, residents and members of the business community.**

What is there to hide that a Review would reveal?

We urge all CRA members to become familiar with the electoral issues and to understand the significance of the next election (**CoRA background material will appear on the CRA website shortly**). There are many issues to consider but two very obvious flaws in the current system are:

- **Postal Voting Only** has proved impossible to audit and is open to fraud. Attendance voting should replace the existing postal ballot. (Absentee voting will be easy this year when all Council elections throughout the State will be held on 29 November.)
- **The lack of Direct Ward Representation** which results in greatly diminished responsiveness to residents.

Local Government tends to be weakened in capital cities such as Melbourne where greater State Government control is imposed at the expense of resident representation. State governments court and foster the Big End of town to drive development and commerce. Premier Brumby, Minister Wynne, Minister Pike and Lord Mayor So seem to be overlooking the reality that residents have a democratic right representation.

The quest for adequate library services in Carlton 3053

The long awaited Melbourne Library Service Strategic Plan 2008 – 2018 was presented at the CoM Community Services Subcommittee (11/3) chaired by Cr. David Wilson.

The Plan recommended “**full service library in Carlton should be developed over time**”. While CRA is obviously pleased to find that our demands are endorsed by Council staff, the “over time” clause remains of concern. CRA argues that we have been waiting far too long already and the CoM is saving \$300,000 p.a. on library services since it withdrew from its partnership with Yarra Libraries. CRA is puzzled, however, that the **Melbourne Library Service**

Strategic Plan 2008 – 2018 actually prioritized the needs of Docklands and Southbank over Carlton on the completely whacky grounds that Carlton was close to the State Library – which Council staff admit, is not a lending library! Nonsense such as this aside, the Melbourne Library Service Strategic Plan 2008 – 2018 does at least acknowledge Carlton’s dire need for library services and that our preferred model is the East Melbourne Community Centre/ Library. Over recent years CRA has been continually discouraged in our quest for a library by certain councillors. Some argue that Docklands and Southbank have the greater need. CRA has, time and time again, rejected this divisive ranking. **CRA is adamant that ALL three precincts need libraries equally – and that the East Melbourne Library/Community Centre model which offers full library service is what we need.**

Fortunately, other councillors understand the key role played by libraries in the community especially in a disadvantaged precinct such as Carlton. Cr Clarke argued strongly that the provision of library services was the one basic service any given council had an obligation to provide to ratepayers and that, if Melbourne is to take itself seriously as a knowledge city, surely Council had an obligation to provide such basic infrastructure. Cr. Clarke moved, seconded by Cr Brindley, “that the strategic plan provide a full library service provision as a part of a co-located Community hub in Southbank, Docklands and Carlton within the next four years and refer it to the 2008/09 budget cycle”.

Cr. Wilson proposed that the ‘four year time frame’ be extended to a 10 year period for Carlton and that the proposal for a ‘full library

service’ for Carlton be reduced to a specialized library. Fortunately this proposal was rejected. In this sub-committee meeting, councillors who acknowledge the needs and rights of Carlton residents to a full library service prevailed. The amended Plan was passed. But, once again, when this matter is raised at the next Full Council Meeting (25/3), Lord Mayor John So may use his casting vote to sink the resolution.

UP-DATE 1/4

At the full Council meeting (25/3), Cr. Wilson, together with the Lord Mayor and the rest of the So Team, moved to extend the time for the establishment of our library from four years to 10 years. Fortunately Cr. Wilson refrained, on this occasion, from pursuing his initial push to downgrade the proposed ‘full service library provision’ and to insist that other precincts take precedence over Carlton. .

Harmony Day

Although there was chaos in the animal pen and rain clouds loomed, cohesion was the message for Harmony Day, organised by the Carlton Local Area Network, last Thursday 20 March.

Activities were held in the grounds opposite the Carlton Primary School and several hundred adults and children participated in a range of activities, including a lively drumming workshop, bead making and henna tattooing. Stalls run by local community members provided an opportunity to display and sell clothes, bags and crafts.

Throughout the afternoon, Nick from the Carlton Police Station and several volunteers, worked the BBQ, providing a constant supply of tasty wraps, sausages and chicken. For

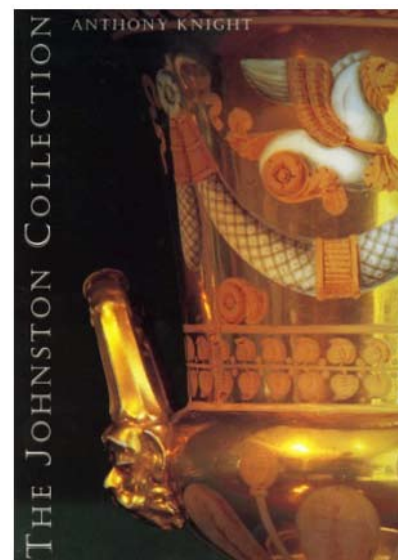
dessert, trays of sweets and oranges circled the crowd. One stall, which managed to shelter from the elements, provided fragrant Ethiopian coffee. It was so popular, coffee was brewing well into early evening.

Possibly the most popular activity of the afternoon was the animal zoo. Children were excitedly holding, patting and feeding guinea pigs, chickens, ducks, cows, sheep and even a small pony. With the occasional animal escapee and animal scratch, the zoo provided hours of fun for dozens of youngsters and the odd game adult.

There was also a great variety of musical entertainment throughout the afternoon, and all who attended had a great time.

Have you seen the Johnston Collection ?

The Johnston Collection, a museum of fine and decorative arts in East Melbourne, incorporates the Johnston Collection House Museum, boasting a collection crammed full of antiques including French and English furniture, ceramics, paintings and decorative arts, particularly rich in the Georgian and Regency periods and the Johnston Collection Gallery, a showcase for special exhibitions and the venue for an exciting program of public lectures and workshops. The Johnston Collection is the legacy of the late William Robert Johnston, former antique dealer and collector who bequeathed his astonishing collection and residence where the collection is housed Fairhall to the nation. At his request, the collection is arranged within a domestic setting and one gets the impression Johnston has just left each room the visitor enters. Tours of Mr Johnston's



residence or of the current exhibition in the Johnston Gallery are available Monday to Friday at 10.00 am, 12.00 pm and 2.15pm. Bookings are essential. To make a booking or to request a detailed program simply telephone 9416 2515 or visit www.johnstoncollection.org

Planning Report

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

The total number of applications considered was comparatively low, partly because of the holiday period, but also, no doubt, because of the economic turndown. The committee continued to monitor several 2007 applications that were rejected or restricted by council planners and which are now the subject of VCAT mediation or hearings.

APP. NO.	ADDRESS	DETAILS	CONCERNS
TP-2007-1067	286-288 Cardigan St	Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a 3-storey dwelling with rooftop terrace	Visual bulk; overshadowing; overlooking
TP-2007-1213	83-95 Rathdowne St	6-storey apartment block requiring demolition of buildings from 1915 and 1955	Height and heritage issues
TP-2007-464	106-108/110-112 Queensberry	10-storey hotel with vehicular access on Lt. Cardigan Street	Rejected by council now subject of an appeal at VCAT; height and traffic issues

Note: Should you wish to lodge an objection to a planning application that affects you, or to check the status of an application, you can log on to the City of Melbourne planning web page at: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=81&pa=829&pg=1659>

CRA Christmas Party

The annual CRA Christmas Party at La Mama was a very happy, well-attended and successful end-of-year celebration. President Greta Bird briefly reported on highlights of 2007, including the ongoing campaign to acquire the Kathleen Syme Centre as a Community Centre for Carlton. Cr Peter Clarke proposed a toast to CRA. Local State Member, Hon Bronwyn Pike and Past President Sue Chambers addressed the assembled throng. We were delighted to have Sue and Don briefly back in Carlton, and able to join us in the celebrations.

The photo collage captures the festive spirit of the occasion.



Our new website coming soon!



CRA 2008 Membership

New / Renewal Membership Application Tax Invoice: ABN 87716923898

Annual membership runs from January to December each year. Please complete the form below.

- I/We would like to apply to become a member/renew membership of the Carlton Residents Association Inc.
- I/We agree to comply with Rules of the Association.

Name/s (please print):

Home Address:

Postal Address:

Phone/s: **Mobile/s:**

Email/s (please print):

Signature/s:

Date:

Membership Costs Rates include GST.

Membership type: (please tick)	Annual Fee	Concession Fee*
Single:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$26	<input type="checkbox"/> \$13
Family:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$26

**Concession Fee entitlement: Pension recipients and students*

*** Family membership: Please include names of all adult members for family membership*

Payment Options (please tick): **Cheque** (enclosed) **E.F.T.** **Cash**

Amount: \$

If making EFT payment - CRA Direct Credit Details: ANZ Bank BSB 083-170 Account Number: 55-706-0596
Send form by post, fax or email: Secretary The Carlton Residents Association Inc. PO Box 1140, Carlton 3053 FAX: 9347 1411 Email: secretarycra@gmail.com