



# THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSFLASH

Summer 2010

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## AGM report

The Annual General meeting of the Carlton Residents Association was held at DiMattina's on Monday 15 February and was attended by approximately 40 people. Convenor Jackie Watts presented the annual report, pointing out that the CRA works towards sustaining 'remarkable' Carlton by monitoring, informing and advocating on matters of concern to the community, presenting views at community, council and government level. To this end the CRA operates through a series of Reference Groups and the report outlines the activities of these groups throughout 2009. Members are urged to make their voice heard by participating in one or more of these reference groups: Planning; Community Centre/ Kathleen Syme Centre; Growing CRA; Carlton Public Housing Estates Redevelopment; Public and Community Consultation Committee (PCCC); Newsflash; Traffic, Transport and Parking; Streetscapes; Events; Population Growth; Carlton Gardens; CoRBA; Friends of the Melbourne General Cemetery. This report is available on the CRA website [www.carltonresidents.org.au](http://www.carltonresidents.org.au).

*AGM Report continued on back page.*



*Carlton Gardens Autumn*

## Melbourne's Population Explosion

Melbourne's escalating population growth of around 2000 per week has been referred to in recent editions of *Newsflash*. At current growth rates, our present population of 4 million will reach 7 million by mid century, largely from immigration. Federal and State Government policy is actively fostering this population explosion from a narrow economic viewpoint: **more people—more consumers—more economic growth**. Environmental, infrastructural and housing implications are largely ignored. Both major political parties are as one on population growth; big business is very supportive. **There seems to be no limit to growth!**

Amid all this enthusiasm for Melbourne's population growth, some voices of concern have been raised. On the political front, the Hon. Kelvin Thomson, Member for Wills, has analysed the implications and raised major issues: *14 Point Plan for Population Reform* ([www.kelvinthomson.com.au](http://www.kelvinthomson.com.au)). Demographer, Dr Bob Birrell (Director, Centre for Population and Urban Research, Monash University), has raised the alarm over the unsustainability of current population directions and an economy based around 'building'. Business entrepreneur, Dick Smith, in his media release of 28 January 2010, claims rapid population growth 'has become a threat to the nation's future' on basic water, food and housing affordability considerations. **Remarkably, Australia has no population policy.**

All these commentators (and others) are concerned about the implications of the recent tripling of Australia's immigration to around 300,000 per annum; significantly up from the 100,000 long-term traditional levels. They call for stabilisation of Australia's population at around 26 million, rather than 50-100 million as current growth trends suggest, requiring a reduction in immigration to around 70,000 per annum, including 20,000 refugees (currently 13,000 plus a few hundred 'boat people'). Government claims that increased population is vital to replace and service retiring 'baby boomers' are widely rejected. Immigration is compensating for Government failures to adequately educate and train the local workforce and to efficiently employ younger and older Australians, the chronically unemployed or under-employed. Shamefully, we find it is easier to import skilled labour (e.g. medical professionals) from poor Third World countries, than to train our own

### What impact will population growth have on Carlton?

Over the past decade under the State Government's planning regime *Melbourne2030* (now

*melbourne@5million*), we have seen an unprecedented growth in high-density housing, particularly 'student housing' (e.g. in and around Swanston Street, Carlton). New planning policy legislation, expected to be passed by Parliament shortly, is aimed at 'fast-tracking' planning proposals to accommodate Melbourne's booming population. Pressure for much greater population densities in Carlton appears certain. We are already seeing moves to re-badge purpose-built 'student housing' to more general use.

### CRA's capacity to oppose inappropriate development through Council and VCAT processes will be greatly curtailed under new planning legislation.

Escalating housing costs, driven by population pressures, will require people to embrace high-density apartment living, including in the suburbs where the house and garden tradition has reigned supreme. The controversial approval of a 38-storey tower in Box Hill is a recent example of new housing trends. Urban sprawl seems also set to continue as the Government opens up more greenfield sites for housing on the fringes, where public transport and community facilities are minimal. This will entrench car dependency. **Melbourne's much valued 'liveability' is now under direct threat from a largely unplanned population explosion.**

The population debate is hotting up as the issue gains increasing political, media and community attention. It is something CRA will need to monitor as associated planning, transport and infrastructure pressures are confronted into the future.



*Currently student housing: is it suitable for private ownership?*

## Planning Reference Group News

At the beginning of each month, the CRA's planning sub-committee meets to consider the previous month's planning applications for the 3053 postcode area. The committee is particularly alert to the following:

1. overlooking or any other loss of amenity to neighbouring properties
2. loss of amenity to the wider surrounding area (bulk, aesthetics, car parking)
3. whether the application complies with the council's heritage overlay and height restrictions
4. internal amenity (chiefly in multi-dwelling developments)
5. whether the proposed development threatens residential diversity (e.g. oversupply of student housing)

Since the last *Newsflash*, the Planning Sub-Committee has reviewed about 20 Planning Applications for Carlton, and submitted one objection to the City of Melbourne.

ADDRESS	DETAILS OF WORK / CRA INTEREST
127-135 Pelham Street Carlton Victoria 3053 (Zone MUZ)	<p>Use of the premises as a licensed restaurant with a car parking waiver.</p> <p><b>CRA objection:</b> on amenity grounds. The proposed unit was not suitable for use as a restaurant. In particular there was no route between the kitchen, and the bin washing area in the car park except out the main door of the Restaurant and along the street. This clearly represented an unreasonable intrusion on the amenity of the restaurant patrons as well as on the wider area.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> The application has since been withdrawn.</p>

## Future of the Carlton Residents Association

A new reference group has been formed to consider a range of issues concerning the future of the Carlton Residents Association. The group's convenor, Brian Falconer, has been consulting (and will continue to consult widely) with members and community representatives

about issues such as: the association's name and logo, membership categories, aims and purpose, whether or not the association should have a patron, ways of engaging more widely with the community, funding sources. An interim report has been prepared and is being circulated for comment. Your views on these issues are welcomed. Please feel free to contact any CRA member or email the CRA secretary on [secretarycra@gmail.com](mailto:secretarycra@gmail.com).

## Community News

### • Princes Hill Heritage Network

The Network has been established to support and conserve the historical and significant heritage aspects of Princes Hill; lobby for the maintenance of these characteristics; advocate for appropriate planning in the Princes Hill area and on its boundaries, and celebrate Princes Hill as an important heritage area.

Annual Membership is \$20 and membership forms are available at the Princes Hill Newsagency, or online at [princeshill.heritage@yahoo.com.au](mailto:princeshill.heritage@yahoo.com.au).

### • LiveHouse Gathering: theatre making workshops

(Friday evenings 7- 9.00 pm: 5 Feb to 12 March)

These workshops will develop the performance materials and talents of residents through live performances each week, culminating in a final public performance. The 'LiveHouse' will be explored as a unique theatre setting for a dynamic expression of lives on the Carlton Estate. No prior experience is needed – all residents are welcome. The workshops are led by theatre makers Mammad Aidani (University of Melbourne), Claudia Escobar and Mick Douglas. For further information, contact Michael McMahon on 9347 0025 / 0409407825.

### • Community courses

Both the *Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre* and the *Princes Hill Community Centre* are currently offering a range of day, evening and weekend classes and workshops – from art to exercise to gardening to singing.

Brochures are available from the Princes Hill Community Centre at 270 Macpherson St, Princes Hill, with further information available on email: [enquiries@princeshill.org.au](mailto:enquiries@princeshill.org.au) or their website [www.princeshill.org.au](http://www.princeshill.org.au).

The Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre is located at 20 Princes St, North Carlton. Further information is available by email: [info@cnlc.org.au](mailto:info@cnlc.org.au) or ph: 9347 2739.



## • Probus Club of Carlton-Parkville

Probus is a club for active retired or semi-retired men and women who wish to take advantage of regular opportunities to keep their minds active, expand their interests and enjoy the fellowship of new friends. Meetings are at 10.30 am on the second Tuesday of each month. For further information email: [probuscarltonparkville@gmail.com](mailto:probuscarltonparkville@gmail.com)

## *La Dolce Italia Festival: Saturday Feb 27 & Sunday Feb 28 2010*

La Dolce Italia Festival is a celebration of Italy's three great loves – food, family and fun. Each year's festival will showcase and celebrate the traditions of three Italian regions. This year Lazio, Lombardia and Sicilia are the focus.

The shops, cafes and restaurants of Carlton will provide the stage and backdrop for roving entertainers, al fresco banquets and opportunities to savour rare provincial Italian dishes with Piazza Italia featuring Italian Movies on Saturday, and a mass live entertainment on Sunday. More information at [www.dolceitalia.com.au](http://www.dolceitalia.com.au)

Since the Piazza's official opening in November 2009, there appears to have been little use made of the stage. Recent Sunday morning jazz events were held on the grassy, treed area on the north side of the Piazza. Hopefully, the Festival will be a good opportunity to make use of the staged area. The City of Melbourne is very open to suggestions from the community about further ways in which this space can be utilised.



*Sunday morning jazz in January*

## *CoRBA Melbourne*

There are a great many unresolved issues in our City, which affect all residents and ratepayers. The challenge for CoRBA is to ensure that the resident/ratepayer voice is actually heard by our elected representatives (i.e. Councillors and their staff). CoRBA argues that Council

accountability and responsiveness to community concerns is inadequate and simply must improve. Electoral reform is of course the basis for this. To its credit, Council has attempted, on behalf of us all, to induce the State government to act. So far the State government has chosen to ignore Council and residents on this crucial matter.

However, it is of concern that the current Council has also decided to reduce our opportunities for genuine community consultation. One new Committee, the *Future Melbourne Committee*, will replace five other committees. (*Connected City Committee; Eco-City Committee; Economic Development and Knowledge City Committee; and People and Creative City Committee*). It is unclear how this change will enhance Council operations, processes or accessibility.

Current concerns include:

- No direct Ward representation in Melbourne
- Use of 'new' communication strategies to liaise with constituents which seem to work best for those managing the 'process'

During 2009 CoRBA attempted to hold the newly elected Council to its promises. We continually lobbied to ensure that community views reached Council and attempted to induce the State government to review the electoral system in Melbourne.

In 2010 CoRBA plans to provide candidates in the forthcoming State election with three opportunities to respond on issues of concern to voters in our municipality.

CoRBA will interview local candidates, invite their participation in a survey to be lodged on the CoRBA website and convene a public meeting for all candidates.

CoRBA meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Town Hall. Contact Jackie Watts [jackewatts@netSPACE.net.au](mailto:jackewatts@netSPACE.net.au) on matters which are of concern to residents and ratepayers across the entire municipality so that they can be raised with CoRBA each month.

## *Police and Community Consultative Committee (PCCC) News*

Key points from the recent meetings are as follows:

- Further discussions will be held in 2010 about the nature and safety factors associated with the Lygon St-Princes St intersection.
- A very successful kids camp (15 from local primary schools) was held, with a welcome donation from Safeway.
- As the Open Day at the Police Station was such a great success it was proposed that a farewell function be

held in 2010, highlighting the historical features of the station and its importance as a heritage site.

- It was reported that whilst there is no increase in felonies, there are constant issues such as motor car thefts (with successful arrests!) and concerns about the safety of international students. However, there are also educational programs alerting students to steps they should take to ensure their safety and that of their laptops.
- The driver education/training program will now be abandoned because of lack of support from the City of Melbourne, even though other councils have done so. This matter has been on the PCCC books for several years but the lack of cooperation from Council means we can no longer proceed even though RACV and other groups have been supportive.
- North Yarra Community Health Family Forums will now be held on 18th March 2010.
- The Melbourne Community Safety Audit Pilot Program is a joint initiative of the City of Melbourne and Victoria Police, whereby community members nominate a location where safety improvements are needed. A copy of the Community Safety Audit Pilot Program information pack can be downloaded from [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au).

## *Friends of the Melbourne General Cemetery*

(a new CRA Reference Group in 2010)

The cemetery was originally conceived not only as a burial place but also as a tranquil public garden, providing people with beautiful views across to the hills, water features, splendid trees and walkways. In recent times, the push for economic 'self sufficiency' has degraded the gardens. In order to 'make ends meet', all the splendid design considerations and heritage values have been ignored. The result is that there are now many more graves than originally planned, jammed into all manner of inappropriate sites. Every possible nook and cranny has been used – and paid for! One hopes that the replacement trees will soon be planted along Lygon Street as promised.

A new 'high-rise' mausoleum is to be built. CRA has contacted Heritage Victoria urging it to take a proactive role in designing and siting the building. More needs to be done to save the cemetery from further degradation. Now is the time. The State Government established a Cemeteries Reform project and a new Trust will now control our cemetery – one of Victoria's Class A Metropolitan Cemeteries. To date, the heritage value of the MGC has not been respected and we need a group of 'Friends' to make sure that we achieve better future outcomes for this unique site.

Register your interest in preserving this truly marvellous piece of Carlton heritage by emailing Jackie Watts at [jackiewatts@netspace.net.au](mailto:jackiewatts@netspace.net.au).

## *'Doing the Block'*

Are you interested in a group tour of the National Trust-classified Block Arcade? The Block Arcade is one of the finest examples of a 19th-century shopping arcade, renowned for its impressive etched glass roof with decorative wrought iron and timber supports as well as the largest mosaic floor area in Australia. Designed by architect D.C. Askew for the financier Benjamin Fink, the arcade was constructed in two sections in 1891 and 1893. It derived its name from the tradition of 'doing the block', or parading around Melbourne's fashionable shopping streets. Tours of the Arcade are run on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Register your interest and availability by emailing Jackie Watts at [jackiewatts@netspace.net.au](mailto:jackiewatts@netspace.net.au).



*Golden Cypress trees have been removed along the Lygon St boundary of the cemetery*



## Brunetti - a Carlton Icon

In Faraday Street opposite La Mama theatre, this popular Carlton icon is a truly authentic Roman pasticceria. The café/restaurant is operated by the Angelé family, five brothers and father Giorgio, who came to Australia with the Italian Olympic team in 1956 as a pastry chef, and then migrated here, bringing with him a wealth of experience with pastries and coffee.

Since 1991 Brunetti has delighted Carlton residents and visitors with delicious coffee and a wide variety of wonderful products, including a range of amazing delicacies and celebratory cakes. In 2009 Brunetti deservedly came first in the Victoria-wide *Delicious Café Awards*.

Statistics: Brunetti employs over 200 people, serves 20,000 cups of coffee per week, and uses 2,000 litres milk per week.

Brunetti contributes to many Carlton activities including its cycling team, giving participants an opportunity for great cycling trips and events, both locally and in Italy. Team rides always include great coffee at Brunetti.

CRA is most grateful to Brunetti, who have for many years generously donated mouth-watering delectables to our functions.



Brunetti

## La Mama – special offer

*The Feast of Argentina Gina Catalina* is part of a Finucane & Smith 'triple bill', including *Salon de Dance...Deluge & Tooth & Nail*, all at La Mama in Faraday Street, from March 5 to March 28. Come to one, stay for all. (Offer does not include the other shows in the triple bill)

**La Mama for Kids** has flourished in recent times to become a hugely successful, regular feature of La Mama's artistic programme. Weekend shows on offer

## Special ticket offer

to coincide with the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival

## THE FEAST OF ARGENTINA GINA CATALINA

Tickets \$20 each  
from Sat Mar 6 – Sun Mar 14 incl. for  
performances Wed – Sat 7 p.m.; Sun  
5 p.m.

Please mention Carlton residents  
when booking.

**Bookings: 9347 6142**

(space permitting; bookings essential;  
normally \$35 full/ \$25 conc)

during February and March, include the enormously popular *Bubblewrap & Boxes* by Asking for Trouble; *Music for Little Monkeys* by the Mudcakes and *All Gone* by Pocketfool Productions. Suitable for all the family, promising to delight children of all ages.

See [www.lamama.com.au](http://www.lamama.com.au) for session dates and times and to book.

On the La Mama 'international' front, 2009 included a tour to Denmark for Liz Jones to perform in the Aphids' production of *Care Instructions* following successful seasons at La Mama and CUB Malthouse. Also *A Quarrelling Pair* became the first play to transfer from La Mama, Melbourne to La Ma Ma, New York. These international tours provide opportunities for artists and affirm La Mama's reputation as a crucible for cutting edge, contemporary theatre in Australia.

## CRA Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member (or a 'friend') of the Carlton Residents Association, contact the Membership Secretary at [secretarycra@gmail.com](mailto:secretarycra@gmail.com) for an application form, or download one from the CRA website: [www.carltonresidents.org.au](http://www.carltonresidents.org.au)

# CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC

## Schedule of Meeting Dates 2010

MEETING	DATE
<i>Planning Committee</i>	Monday March 1
Committee Meeting	Monday March 15
<i>Planning Committee</i>	Monday April 5
Committee Meeting	Monday April 19
<i>Planning Committee</i>	Monday May 3
<b>General Meeting</b>	Monday May 17
<i>Planning Committee</i>	Monday June 7
Committee Meeting	Monday June 21
<i>Planning Committee</i>	Monday July 5
Committee Meeting	Monday July 19
<i>Planning Committee</i>	Monday August 2
<b>General Meeting</b>	Monday August 16
<i>Planning Committee</i>	Monday September 6
Committee Meeting	Monday September 20
<i>Planning Committee</i>	Monday October 4
Committee Meeting	Monday October 18
<i>Planning Committee</i>	Monday November 1
Committee Meeting	Monday November 15
<i>Planning Committee</i>	Monday December 6
Christmas Party	To be confirmed.

### VENUES:

The Planning Sub-committee will meet at 170 Cardigan St.

General meetings will be held at venues to be advised, and commence at 7:30pm.

The Christmas Party venue and date to be advised.

## AGM report cont.

Kenneth Davidson, co-editor of *Dissent* magazine and *Age* columnist, was the guest speaker, his subject: 'How the Brumby government opens up public land for private developers'.

Since the Projects Facilitation Bill was passed by Parliament last October, once a project is 'declared', the community will have no rights of objection and as Ken pointed out, there are many projects that demand our objections. He outlined as threatening, the issues of road planning (e.g. the Westlink road tunnel project) and the questionable handover of public land 'that morally belongs to the most disadvantaged groups in the community (e.g. public housing land in Carlton) and the redevelopment of Kew Cottages

He also discussed at length the additional financial burden imposed on taxpayers by the use of Public- Private Partnerships in lieu of more economical, direct government funding, quoting instances involving hundreds of millions of dollars of potential savings.

## CRA Christmas Party at La Mama

The evening of Monday 7 December was perfect for our (unanticipated) outdoor Christmas Party. Unfortunately, the La Mama inside area was unavailable for our use because of an immovable theatre set (*The Flood*). However, the courtyard and car park provided a wonderful venue in balmy conditions, as the photos show.

We were especially privileged to have Sir James Gobbo, former Governor of Victoria and long-time Carlton resident, as our guest speaker. Sir James regaled us with fascinating anecdotes of life in Carlton in the 1930s and '40s, including his childhood memories of both Italy and Carlton. He outlined the development of Co.As.It and plans for a nearby building to house an Italian Cultural Museum in the near future. We much appreciated his informative talk and social interactions over a glass of wine later. Committee member, Dr George Janko, presented Sir James with an inscribed copy of *Carlton: A History*.

Our guests included Kenneth Davidson (*Age* columnist and *Dissent* co-editor) and partner Lesley Vick (*Dissent* co-editor), Dr Paul Mees (RMIT Senior Lecturer and transport guru), Kevin Chamberlin (former Lord Mayor), Hon. Bronwyn Pike (Member for Melbourne), Mary Drost (Planning Backlash) and many Carlton and CRA identities. Greta Bird provided a brief report on the year and Jackie Watts ran a fund-raising raffle. A good night was enjoyed by all.

Sincere thanks as always to La Mama for a unique venue, Brunetti's for tasty nibbles, and to the dedicated band of CRA volunteers who made it all possible.



*Are new roads the answer to traffic problems?*



*CRA Christmas Party 2009 at La Mama*



*Sir James Gobbo guest speaker, Christmas Party 2009*