

Newsflash

1 October 2005

What an eventful couple of months it's been. In July the Committee was floored by an emailed message from Sue Chambers, announcing her sudden and immediate resignation from her decade long role as President of CRA. During that time Sue has worked tirelessly on behalf of CRA in the interests of our community, across a vast range of issues, in particular in the areas of planning and development. Perhaps her crowning achievement was the publication of *The History of Carlton*. No single individual has contributed more in these areas.

Sue and Don will be moving to Canberra in the new year. There will be occasion at our Christmas Party at La Mama on December 12 to formally farewell and acknowledge the immense contributions both have made to Carlton.

I agreed to fill the role of Acting-President until our AGM next February, in the sincere hope that one of you far more able members will take on this challenge. In the meantime, it's great to have Sue and Don just around the corner, available to lean on for help and advice. The past two months have been extraordinarily hectic and challenging, but most interesting and at times exciting.

To present and future directions:

The Carlton Community should be assured that CRA will strongly continue its traditional activities. All committee members will continue in their roles; we have a brilliant team, comprising Jackie Watts, Anne Ritter, Warren Green, Murray Dovey, and recently Robyn Dalziel. Architects Peter Sanders, Victoria Hamer, Dennis Toth and Murray Dovey review planning applications for postcode 3053 – a vital task, with some developers pushing proposed development envelopes to the destruction of community, heritage and streetscapes.

As Acting-President I see my role as coordinating and delegating. We are establishing subcommittees to harness your considerable expertise in such a way that the work will not be onerous on anyone individually. Jacky Watts and Ian Bird have already expanded their roles. We are seeking broader expertise from the membership, and would like to hear from anyone who would like to contribute. In particular we are seeking replacements for Don as heritage advisor and Police Community Consultative Committee representative.

A number of our recent achievements and current issues are:

- Most important is the **Planning Committee's** constant vigilance over all planning matters.
- We have made representations to MCC's Community and Culture Committee for a centrally situated library.
- We are continuing to lobby strongly for a centrally located community meeting space.
- **Melbourne Transport Committee:** Sue Chambers was representing the Coalition of Residents Associations on this MCC Committee; Ian Bird agreed to temporarily fill the

vacancy following her unexpected resignation. An immediate task was to review a summary document on transport policy and 13 issues papers covering a multitude of matters associated with transport, a response being required from CRA by 30 September. Our draft response was reviewed by Neil Poole, Peter Allen and Lyn Behenna. Generally, MCC proposals are in line with CRA expectations for transport policy in Carlton. A recent controversial proposal by the Committee for Melbourne for a \$10 billion tunnel extension to the Eastern Freeway was challenged, and will be debated at a forthcoming MCC Transport Committee Meeting.

- Our input to the **Carlton Local Agencies Network** and local Federal Member Lindsay Tanner helped retain an essential resource. A localized Centrelink office will remain in Johnson Street.
- Sue Chambers and I met with Professor Glyn Davis, Vice Chancellor of the University of Melbourne. He nominated Professor Loane Skeen to be Liaison Officer between the University and CRA, thus providing a communication link sorely lacking in the past.
- We are pro-actively seeking increased input on the major **redevelopment of the Public Housing Estate** between Lygon and Nicholson Sts. Currently the consultation process tends to call for response rather than genuine consultation.

There are substantial projected increases in Carlton's population. Developers and State Government give virtually no thought to the impact of such a population increase on community resources. Much of this occurs under the guise of *Melbourne 2030*, full of motherhood statements but without commitment to essential community resources. e.g. the Becton student housing on the Eastern Precinct, now rising in horrendous mass and ugliness, will increase our population by 10%, without any increase in community infrastructure. We have one small, totally inadequate supermarket to service a population of more than 10,000.

- We have responded strongly to inappropriate signage and traffic signal glitches, ditto on parking and traffic issues.
- Membership secretary Anne Ritter represents CRA on the **World Heritage Carlton Gardens** Committee. On Sept 13 she contributed a submission on our behalf to MCC's Business and Marketing Committee, to implement recommendations of the Master Plan, and disallow the annual Flower Show, which causes immense damage to the Gardens.
- We are acting in support of parents in the future development of the Carlton Gardens and Neill Street Primary Schools. The former has recently had some assurance that closure is no longer threatened, which was celebrated with a flag-raising event on the last day of term.
- The University of Melbourne applied to MCC for its Cardigan St. underground car park to become available to the public, leaving 72 spaces for unit owners (the required 10%). CRA took the opportunity to request recompense for the 'Becton student ghetto invasion of Carlton' and wrote to Councillors requesting **greening of median strips** nearby; Cr Catherine Ng responded positively and immediately, and set inquiry/feasibility from Council staff in motion. Cr. Fraser Brindley strongly supported this initiative.
- **Carlton Car Parking:** There are currently 2000 on-street parking spaces available to residents in Carlton and around 6000 resident owned vehicles to be parked. Residents living in houses built long before the advent of cars complained of waiting interminably for a convenient parking space. Clearly we had a problem. The Council found it impossible to effectively police the previous parking regime, which was widely rorted and unsustainable. The new street car-parking regime, which MCC began introducing in July 2005, is similar to that already operating successfully in the City of Port Phillip. It aims to achieve equitable and sustainable car parking for Carlton. The issues had been widely discussed since 2002 at Community Forums attended by residents and traders, and in MCC brochures, CRA emails

and newsletters. To date it appears to be working well and is receiving much praise and few complaints. CRA Treasurer Warren Green expressed satisfaction that kerbside parking in his section of Drummond Street is now available for clients/visitors.

This is an overview of issues facing the Carlton Community, which your Committee is actively pursuing. Our heritage is under constant challenge from developers and those with short-term profit motives. Our diverse community and historic streetscapes are our strengths.

Regards and very best wishes

Greta Bird

Acting-President

Meetings: For your diaries:

Our next General Meeting will be on Tuesday Nov. 15, as usual at the Katherine Syme Centre, Cr. Cardigan and Faraday Streets, at 8 p.m.

The CRA Christmas Party and farewell to Don and Sue Chambers is scheduled for Monday, December 12 at La Mama.



Printed with the assistance of the Community
Information Support Scheme of Melbourne
City Council

The Carlton Residents Association Inc.

A0034345G ABN 87 716 923 898 PO Box 1140

9 Lt Elgin St Carlton, Victoria, 3053

Tel 9349 3615 Fax 9347 1411

radiotec@hotmail.net.au

www.carltonresidents.org.au/