



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

# NEWSFLASH

March 2021

A message from the president Page 2

CRA AGM 2021 Page 3

Hoon behavior in Carlton—will it improve with the Victoria Police crack down?  
Our treed and grassed open spaces—are they protected?  
Where to, with the Corkman? Pages 3,4,5

Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence recipients in our community  
Pages 5,6

Ellen Sandell writes on Inner-city life after the Pandemic  
Pages 6,7

New life in Lygon Street with extended outdoor dining  
A new community paper Page 7

Carlton History—courtesy of Carlton Community History Group Page 8



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## A message from the president, Antoinette Sagaria

I am honoured and delighted to have been re-elected President of the CRA for 2021 and it is with great pleasure that I announce the following roles and committee members:

**Vice President:** Lester Levinson

**Treasurer:** Philip Watts

**Secretary:** Ian Howie

**Ordinary Committee Members:**

Margaret Rode, Lyn Cracknell, Gillian McIntosh, Peter Sanders, Marianne Christopoulos, Trish O'Loughlin, Ivana Csar



It's very exciting to see some new names added to our list, and of course, it's with sadness that some have left the ranks due to life commitments.

I take this opportunity to especially thank Farida Fleming for her dedication to CRA over the years. Farida has held the role of vice president and secretary for many years. We wish Farida all the best and no doubt I'll still be calling her for advice and consolation throughout the year ahead.

While this time last year I was full of excitement imagining all the wonderful things CRA could achieve, it was only weeks later that under the guidance of our Premier Daniel Andrews, we were forced into lockdown and CRA activities were relegated to zoom conference calls.

I am so proud of what we were still able to do without meeting in person.

Personally, I focused on what I know I can do well with just three tools: my phone, my laptop, and my voice. I fostered relationships with those around and made it my mission to, at the very least, be heard at a few "tables."

I have taken on a formal role in the Carlton Traders Association, directly giving a voice, and consideration to residents within the traders forum. I see it as being critical that not only do we have eyes and ears over what is being planned by the Carlton commercial sector, but it gives us the opportunity to have our opinion, needs and concerns taken into consideration. Working together is always going to be better than adversary.

I attended various zoom meetings with community groups, such as North Melbourne Police Station and the City of Melbourne where we discussed our interests and concerns. It was reassuring and extremely helpful to understand what was happening around us and I am grateful for that opportunity.

The regular zoom meetings with various residential groups throughout 2020 really helped consolidate our friendship and shared needs with neighbouring communities and no doubt this will progress further in 2021.

I have become a regular contributor to our new local newspaper Community News produced by Hyper Local Media, informing residents, and neighbouring suburbs of the happenings in our local area. It gives us a voice that can be heard by the broader community which is an exciting prospect.

Most of all I would like to thank you for entrusting me with this role over the last year and allowing me to continue on for a second term. I am grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community and I sincerely hope that this year is a good one for the residents of Carlton.

### IT'S TIME TO JOIN CRA OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

<https://www.trybooking.com/BMVJD>

OR, for an EFT payment—

CRA Direct Credit Details: Bendigo Bank,  
BSB: 633 000 Account No.: 146960570.

Due to COVID-19 membership payment is via bank direct debit or TryBooking EFT only.

**Please ensure all details are included for EFT membership payments.**

**Find a membership form [here](#)**

## AGM 2021

The AGM was held on Monday 15 February. Due to Covid restrictions the venue was changed from Bendigo Bank to a zoom meeting.

**The report for 2020**, presented at the AGM, can be accessed on the CRA website - <https://www.carltonresidents.org.au/cra-2012/meetings/>

If you are unable to access this platform please contact the Secretary on [carltonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:carltonresidents@gmail.com)

Jacque Watts, retiring councilor with the City of Melbourne, expressed her wish to stay in touch and continue to work with the community. Olivia Ball, newly elected councilor to City of Melbourne introduced herself. Her primary portfolio is Health, Wellbeing and Safety, with a deputy portfolio of Aboriginal Melbourne. She is enthusiastically beginning her time as a councilor.

### Guest Speaker

Professor Rob Adams attended as guest speaker. He has worked with the City of Melbourne as an urban planner since 1983 and in that time has had an extraordinary influence. Among his contributions to Melbourne were the introduction of the first Urban Design Strategy for Melbourne; Postcode 3000 that encouraged residential use in the CBD; Council House that was the first 6 star Australian building; protecting the small lots in the CBD to maintain a fine grain; and the development of parks including urban forests, and new libraries including our Kathleen Syme centre. He prepared city wide plans to increase residential densities along transport routes to reduce urban sprawl.

He spoke of the 'Residential future of Carlton and Melbourne'. The impact of Covid for example on the use of student accommodation, hospitality, the work force in the city and how people have become more locally focused. The key is to use assets cleverly. The City of Melbourne has managed this in the past with developments in Carlton eg Tyne Street. Looking to the future involves consideration of heritage along with economic, social and sustainability issues and to support those things that have local value.

Learn more about Council House 2: [Council House 2 - City of Melbourne](#)

The video of the AGM is available on the link below: (Professor Adams speaks in the last 10 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSyVnW4deVk&feature=youtu.be>

## Working Groups

### Traffic, Transport, Parking and Noise Abatement

Victoria Police has announced Operation Achilles, a crack down on hoon drivers.

This will involve:

- Investigators across the state working together to reduce hoon activity
- Police continuing to monitor known groups and persons of interest
- Engaging with a range of stakeholders to discuss possible infrastructure enhancements.

Read the details here:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-19/police-arrest-14-people-over-hoon-meet-in-st-kilda/13171126>



In Carlton, we face and listen to the sonic output of Maserati, Lamborghini and Ferrari accompanying lower vehicle classes. And curiously, the word motor cycle or motor bike does not feature in the article.

CRA's Traffic and transport group looks to more evidence of Victoria Police lifting its game, and also to local government taking some responsibility for impairment of community health caused by wanton noise making.



## Parkland and Streetscapes

### The Carlton Urban Forest Precinct Plan 2013-23 and our centre medians, roundabouts and tree islands

Carlton Streets have been a key location for tree planting and greening initiatives in the municipality for decades. The following extracts from the Council Report: *Carlton Urban Forest Precinct Plan 2013-23* provides an important historical perspective.

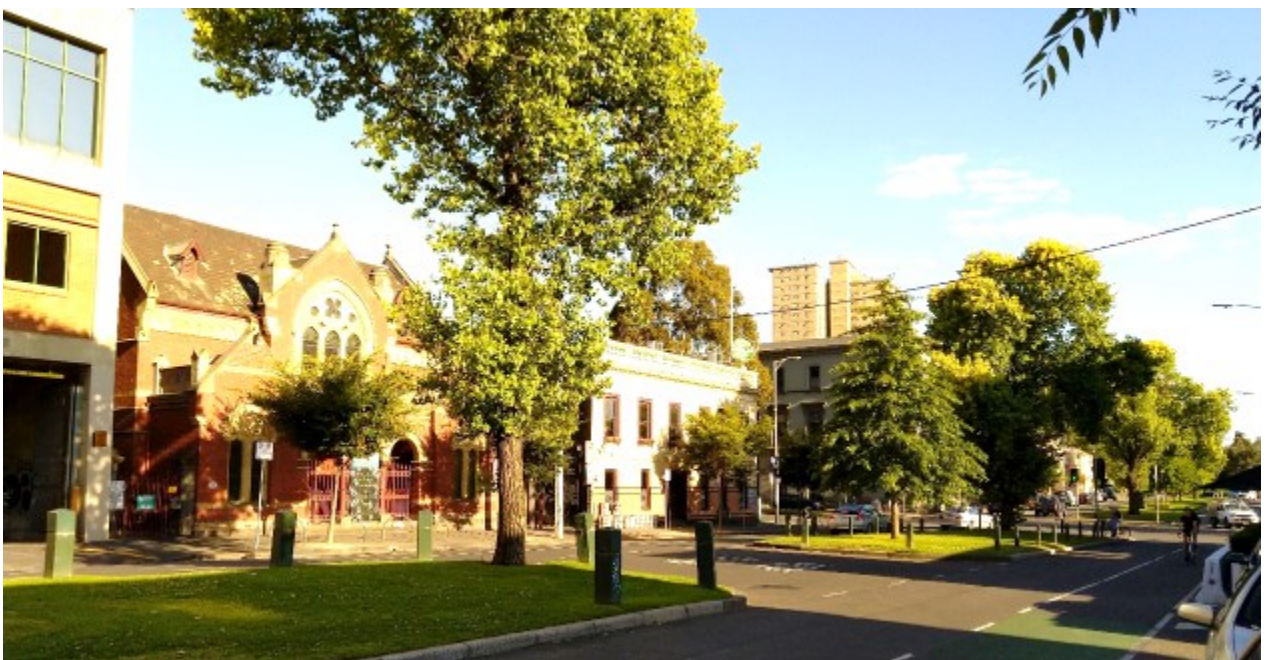
*In response to calls from the public to beautify streets and plant for the health benefits of trees, Melbourne City Council initiated a program of systematic street tree planting in 1878; Swanston Street (Madeline St), Drummond Street and Sydney Road (Grattan to Brunswick Road) were budgeted for planting. An 1879 Argus letter to the editor calls for higher tree guards in Carlton due to horses and cows feeding on young elms. Historic photos indicate College Crescent (then Madeline St) was planted with elms in the 1880s or 1890s and that planting had occurred outside the Children's Hospital in Rathdowne Street around that time as well.*

*Other significant periods of street tree planting occurred in the 1930s when many tree islands and medians were constructed. Much of this work occurred in Carlton, with Neill Street, Kay Street, Rathdowne Street, Palmerston Street, Keppel Street and Drummond Street reportedly planted as part of this program. Another wave of planting occurred from the 1970s onward and this period saw a greater emphasis on the use of native trees.*

*The Carlton precinct is distinguished by several inherent geometries in its streetscapes - a north-south oriented grid, strong diagonals, crescents, and notably the five formally laid out squares which form an integral part of the street system. Most streets in Carlton are 30 metres wide, with relatively narrow footpaths and no nature strips (Grattan Street being an exception). Centre medians, roundabouts and tree islands are present in the majority of streets. This configuration provides fantastic opportunities for planting large trees in streets.*

Many of the Carlton Streets identified above have retained well developed and utilised centre of road medians and roundabouts; these spaces include mature trees and generous grassed areas.

The following image illustrates the quality of these open spaces; in the Association's view, they should be formally designated as Public Park and Recreation Zones AND afforded further protection through the more extensive use of the Overlay Controls introduced by *Amendment C278 Sunlight to public parks*.



*Drummond Street median opposite La Mama (ex Court House) Photo – Ewan Ogilvy*

## Planning

### City of Melbourne Media release

#### Corkman pub developers sentenced for contempt of court

**Wednesday 16 December 2020**

The owners responsible for the illegal demolition of the Corkman Irish Pub have been ordered to pay \$250,000 in legal costs, fined \$150,000 and sentenced to one month in prison for failing to comply with an order from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

Melbourne City Council and the Victorian Government successfully pursued the contempt of court convictions in the planning tribunal last month and welcomed the sentencing following the guilty verdict from the President of the tribunal, Justice Michelle Quigley.

The new penalty applies to Stefce Kutlesovski, Raman Shaqiri and the company that owns the property, 160 Leicester Pty Ltd (of which Stefce Kutlesovski and Raman Shaqiri are both Directors).

Justice Quigley found the company and its two directors had wilfully and deliberately failed to comply with the terms of a May 2019 VCAT order requiring them to clear the site in Carlton and make it available for public recreation.

The State Government and Melbourne City Council were awarded \$250,000 legal costs from the owners in light of their failure to comply with the Orders.

#### Attributable to Lord Mayor Sally Capp:

“We took on these proceedings in the public interest because it’s completely unacceptable to ignore a court ruling.

Today’s decision vindicates the court’s authority and sends a clear message that we won’t tolerate developers disobeying a court order.

We look forward to seeing the site cleaned up and available for the public to enjoy.”

#### Attributable to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne:

“These developers deserve this outcome. They have trashed Victoria’s heritage, refused to build a park, and shirked their legal obligations at every step.”

Find the release here: <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/news-and-media/Pages/Corkman-pub-developers-sentenced-for-contempt-of-court.aspx>

## Topical Issues

### CRA congratulates locals who won at this year’s Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence

Congratulations to the following winners of the Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence. We highly value the outstanding work of these talented and dedicated people in our community.

The **Carlton Local Agency Network** won in the **Community Response and Recovery Award** category. The nomination focused on the swift action of CLAN’s COVID-19 Coordination Committee, chaired by Elle Morrell, and co-chaired by Chantelle Higgins and Alex Jovanovski, and made up of many key agencies and individuals to respond proactively to the COVID-19 preparedness for the Carlton public housing residents. The Award of Excellence for CLAN highlighted what is possible with community-led engagement, and how putting the community at the centre of any response yields better outcomes. It also highlights the power of rapid-response network collaboration and multi-agency partnerships.

*continued on page 6*



*Drawing by Fiona Cracknell  
Of  
Cracknell Chalk Drawings*

*continued from page 5*

**Leading Senior Constable Nektarios Parissis** won the **Victorian Multicultural Police Award**. For the past 23 years Leading Senior Constable Nick Parissis has devoted his police career to community engagement in the inner north (including Carlton) and north-western Melbourne, particularly with Horn of Africa communities. In early July 2020 during heightened restrictions at the Flemington and North Melbourne public housing high rises he facilitated dialogue between residents and Victoria Police. Leading Senior Constable Parissis runs the annual toy drive for terminally ill children at the Royal Children's Hospital and he has engaged with international students at Melbourne University and RMIT University.

**Aseel Tayah** won the **Victorian Multicultural Commission Award for Excellence in the Arts**. Aseel Tayah is an installation artist and curator who has worked tirelessly since her arrival in Melbourne in 2016 to give a platform to refugee and asylum seeker stories through her signature project Bukjeh. Aseel is the artistic director and co-producer of Bukjeh, as well as a featured artist. Bukjeh has highlighted the experience of refugee and asylum seeker stories within the arts establishment, demonstrating their diversity, richness and power to move. Aseel delivered Bukjeh at the 2018 Carlton Neighbour Day, held in Faraday St. Thank you for your work!

## Inner-city life after the pandemic – where to now?

**by Ellen Sandell, State MP for Melbourne**

This COVID-19 pandemic has hit us all hard, but for those who spend their lives in the inner city, it's really changed things dramatically.

Before the pandemic, inner-city Melbourne was the bustling, busy, vibrant heart of our state. But now, we are having to grapple with streets that are emptier and quieter than we're used to, and so many businesses, cafes, bars and arts venues that have fallen silent.

With the fall in tourism and international students, the exodus of workers from office blocks, and our favourite bars and cafes closed, the city is a very different place than we remember.

Along with the challenges, the pandemic and lockdown has also forced us to really take notice of what we value about our local area: the little pockets of green space, the hidden delights down a laneway, the smile of our local barista, our neighbours and community.

Now, as Governments and Councils start to grapple with how we rebuild our vibrant inner-city, it's the perfect time to think about what we actually want our inner-city to be and how we make it a great place for people to live, work and play.

This is exactly what I've been doing in Parliament these last few months.

Do we have to go back to a city where so many people are forced to sleep on the streets, or do we want a city where everyone has a safe home and safe streets?

While apartment and higher-density living has many benefits, do we need to rethink how much power we give developers to design our cities, often at the expense of the residents who actually live there? Maybe it's time to change our Owners Corporations laws, remove developer donations from our politics and think about creating quality homes for people in the inner city, not just unregulated quasi-hotels or tiny shoe boxes in the sky.

Do we need to give over so much of our streets to cars, or can we do transport and outdoor living and dining better?

And maybe it's time we re-thought about how we look at work - so that casual workers and people in insecure work are better protected through the bumps and shocks our world faces.

*continued on page 7*



*Ellen Sandell MP in the Carlton Gardens with local passers by (on rollerskates!) before the pandemic*



*continued from page 6*

These are the questions I've been taking to the Government recently. In Parliament my colleagues and I moved for changes to the outdated Owners Corporation laws to make things fairer for residents and limit developers locking in residents to long, unfair contracts, and to make it easier for residents to do things like put solar on their roofs. These are laws which haven't changed in the last 15 years!

We've also pushed again for donations reforms and for the Government to break ties with Crown Casino after the damning findings of money laundering and other illegal behaviour coming out of the NSW inquiry. We've also (successfully!) increased our campaign for more money for public housing and homelessness services, with the Government finally committing over \$5 billion for social housing in the last Budget (now the challenge is to make sure it's done well, and is public housing, not just private).

We've also called for more support for casual workers and small businesses affected by lockdowns.

While this pandemic isn't quite over, I sincerely hope that 2021 brings us a lot more joy (and less pain) than 2020. Our city still has some challenges ahead, but I'm confident that inner Melbourne will bounce back. But as it does, we should also use this opportunity to fix some of the inequalities and problems we have faced for a long time. We can build back better, not just go back to the exact same way, things were before.

I'd love to hear about your experiences of lockdown in the inner city, and what you want to see for the city going forward. If you have questions or ideas, don't hesitate to get in touch at 146 Peel Street, North Melbourne by emailing [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com) or calling us on 9328 4637.

## **Community News**

### **Outdoor dining extended to provide certainty to businesses**

**In February** the City of Melbourne announced a decision to extend the outdoor dining program until mid-2021. This means that the outdoor spaces will remain until Wednesday 30 June.

Some 1500 permits have been issued for outdoor dining and more than 200 outdoor dining 'parklets' have been installed.

Councillors will consider a comprehensive evaluation of the program in March, 2021.



*Bring back the people*

### **A New Community Paper**

# **INNER CITY NEWS**

- Published monthly by Hyperlocal News
- Currently distributing 5,000 hard copies per month to all homes and businesses in East Melbourne, Carlton and Parkville
- Public pickup points (newspaper stands) in Carlton currently include Kathleen Syme and IGA X-Press Lygon Street
- The website will go live by the end of March: [innercitynews.com.au](http://innercitynews.com.au)
- Subscribe now at the above website
- Hyperlocal News also publishes Docklands News, Southbank News, CBD News and in 2021, North West City News (covering North and West Melbourne, Kensington and Parkville Gardens)

## Carlton Community History Group (CCHG)

### Drummond Street

The southern end of Drummond Street, Carlton, contains some of the earliest extant buildings in Melbourne and many that are of historic or architectural importance.

The latest CCHG newsletter looks at some of the more important buildings in the short stretch of Drummond Street between Grattan and Victoria Streets and at their cultural, architectural and historical significance.

It does so in the hope that their value might be more appreciated by the community and their protection given a higher priority by local and state governments.

This is an area of great historic and architectural value and any loss or damage to it would be a significant loss to the cultural heritage of the city.

Read this in Newsletter 20 on the Carlton Community History Group website.: <http://www.cchg.asn.au/>



*Drummond Street to the South West  
from the corner of Pelham and Drummond Streets*

### The Courthouse



*Carlton Courthouse Drummond Street today*

Carlton has always been a crime hotspot, so it may come as a surprise that it did not have a dedicated and purpose built courthouse until 1888. Prior to that year, cases were heard in the city courts, or at the temporary court of petty sessions opened at Carlton Hall in July 1878. The hall in Reilly (later Princes) Street was built in record time by John Pigdon for James Munro in February 1877, and was popularly known as “Munro’s Hall”.

Read this in Newsletter 17 on the Carlton Community History Group website. <http://www.cchg.asn.au/>

Read CCHG Newsletters on the following topics at: <http://www.cchg.asn.au/>

**History of Carlton Football Club**

**Trams in Carlton**

**Crime in Carlton**

**The Anti-Conscription Campaign of 1917**

**State Education in Carlton**

**Bakeries in Carlton**

**Larrikin Gangs in Carlton**

**Cabs and Omnibuses**

**Sport and Recreation in Carlton**

**Jewish Carlton**

**Hotels in Carlton**

**Carlton's Forgotten Railway Line**

**Carlton's Squares**

**Melbourne General Cemetery**

**Trades Hall**

**Dairies and milk distribution in Carlton**

**CRA Newsflash** published an article in the June 2017 edition, covering the inside features of the historic Police Station. <https://www.carltonresidents.org.au/cra-2012/newsflash-june-2017/>