

CRA Annual Report 2020

The Carlton Residents Association advocates for the residents of Carlton. CRA is a democratic, non-party political body. This short report highlights what CRA achieved for Carlton and the key activities of the association in 2020.

CRA achievements and activities in 2020

Planning

CRA engaged in mediation and education of possible objectors, this time there was much done over the phone, via zoom and email as most of the year was spent in various states of lockdown.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ewan Ogilvy for his incredible contribution to the planning group and CRA as a whole. On behalf of the CRA Ewan contributed and submitted detailed documents regarding Amendments to Sunlight to Public Parks, Public Open space zoning corrections, and objections or commentary on various planning applications.

In 2020 we were also able to recruit Blair Healy who has assisted Warren Green with the monitoring of planning applications throughout the year.

Traffic, Transport, Parking and Noise Abatement (TTPNA) working group

The Traffic, Transport, Parking and Noise Abatement (TTPNA) working group has made scant progress during a year characterized by Covid-19 controls, lockdowns and curfew.

Absolutely no progress was achieved in terms of our Proposal on Vehicular Noise Abatement to the City of Melbourne (CoM) in late 2018. By mid-2020, little could be expected from a Lord Mayor and councillors focussed on re-election prospects in October 2020. Only our recommendation that motorbike retailers in Elizabeth Street should be brought to heel was achieved by their own commercial decision to quit the central city precinct.

We have been waiting even longer for CoM to confirm in writing its earlier promise of Queensberry Street reverting to a single lane of traffic in each direction once the Metro tunnelling is complete. We feel that this could be achieved most economically by mimicking the configuration of Albert Street in East Melbourne, which would return to the amenity of residents and traders' clients some of the 106 parking spaces lost to "temporary" diversion of traffic from Grattan Street. This redesign could also commence straight away in Lygon and Cardigan Streets in order to diminish their tram-free attraction to exhaust-modified motor bikes, cars and utilities which have integrated these streets into a circuit, that runs mostly from afternoon until the next day's wee small hours between Station Pier, Yarra's Edge and Carlton.

No doubt caused by the state government's need for personnel to help prevent transmission of Covid-19, Victoria Police (VP) has been an abject disappointment in terms of any sense of mission for bringing hooning under control. Apart from two months of curfew, perhaps the most effective brake on hooning has been for half an hour from 11.00 to 11.30 p.m. when Citywide vehicles, or trucks under CoM contract, sweep Lygon Street, robbing hoons of the pleasure of dragging each other off two cars or four bikes abreast. To the extent that VP patrols have apprehended hooning vehicles, it is unwilling so far to provide numbers and the details of the grounds for fining or referral for compulsory EPA testing, or indeed to confirm it maintains lists of offenders. Our participation in Melbourne North Police-Community Consultative Committee bi-monthly meetings, has been rendered less effective by being mostly on-line. And our own small TTPNA group, not having met during 2020, now features loss of a trader member whose iconic Lygon Street business has closed, and is beset by other members ceding interest to the difficulties of the times.

One of the few rays of hope is the emergence in late 2020 of an enthusiastic group of residents in Port Melbourne, including two of the new City of Port Phillip Council councillors, which is seeking to make common cause with CRA, and other city of Melbourne residents' groups.

[Newsflash and Website](#)

The Newsflash: Four editions were produced in 2020. However, because of Covid, the June edition was only distributed electronically. September was printed and the hard copies posted. December was printed and distributed by post and volunteers.

Frank Chamberlain continued to give much appreciated editorial assistance. Maria Teresa Sagaria joined the team and gave valued advice on layout.

There were changes made to the June edition and these changes were further developed for the September issue.

The distribution of the Newsflash to members, politicians, inner city resident groups and other interested parties provides insight into the work of the CRA in the Carlton community. Newsflash editions as far back as 2002 can be found on the CRA website.

If you would prefer to only receive an electronic copy please email secretarycra@gmail.com

The Website: Information on the CRA website encompasses many aspects of Carlton life and activities of CRA. Planning applications are listed and any objections by CRA are also posted. Meetings are advertised and AGM reports are posted. There is information about things to do in the City of Melbourne.

It is worth putting aside a little time to explore the information offered. Members are invited to comment or make suggestions regarding any of the above. Please do so using the secretarycra@gmail.com email address.

The technology review, outlined in the 2019 report, has been addressed. This will hopefully help to avoid access problems encountered in the past.

The Friends of the Carlton Gardens and Carlton Gardens

FREBGC was set up about nine years ago with Margaret O'Brien as the Convener. Its purpose was to fill a perceived gap in public recognition of Melbourne's only World Heritage site. The main goals have been to work towards increasing the public profile and understanding of the World Heritage significance of the Royal Exhibition Buildings (REB) and the Carlton Gardens (CG).

Despite the Pandemic and the huge disruption this has caused, the goals have been actively pursued by the FREBGC led by Margaret O'Brien.

Developments do not cease and the protection of this site and the buffer zone around it are our responsibility.

The two main concerns at present are The St Vincent's Hospital proposed development and the Gertrude Street proposed development.

Margaret O'Brien has put in a submission on both of these proposed developments on behalf of the FREBGC.

The Gertrude Street application is to build a large building with a dominant design in one of the most sensitive parts of the World Heritage Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens' World Heritage Environs Area. The development application is for 1-9 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy (PLN20-0566).

The proposed St Vincent's development is an eleven-storey glass structure. The plan is to demolish the Aikenhead Wing, much of Brenan Hall and the Daly Wing and to build a 93.45 metre building within the Royal Exhibition Building World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA).

Current planning schemes clearly demand that the low-rise development characteristic of the precinct's overwhelmingly Victorian built form be protected. This proposal shows a blatant disregard for its heritage context, a disregard which is shocking given the significance of the World Heritage site of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens. The National Trust and The Royal Historical Society have also submitted objections.

2021 already promises to be a watershed year for potential improvements in the World Heritage laws. That will be a very good thing. The failures and gaps in our present laws are being formally identified in the World Heritage Management Plan review. Unfortunately, there have been losses to World heritage values since the 2004 citation. So much is expected from new laws.

From the FREBCG community perspective, the establishment of a single authority with World Heritage governance and management responsibility over the site and buffer zone will be the best foundation for the REB's future.

2020 AGM

AGM attendees heard The Lord Mayor Sally Capp. The Lord Mayor spoke of the revitalization of Carlton, Lygon Street in particular. At the time there was great excitement around the year ahead and what could be achieved by CRA.

Election of committee and office bearers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Ordinary Committee Members (number of ordinary committee members to be decided at meeting)

- President – Antoinette Sagaria
- Vice President – Farida Fleming
- Treasurer – Philip Watts
- Secretary – No nominee, will discuss how to address this gap at the first committee meeting
- Ordinary Members
 - Maria Teresa
 - Lyn Cracknell
 - Lester Levinson
 - Trish O’Loughlin
 - Margaret Rode
 - Peter Sanders
 - Ivana Csar

2020 Christmas Party

Last year due to Covid-19 restrictions the committee decided it was in the best interest of members that the Christmas Party be held in the Carlton Gardens. It was a delightful event with many new and old faces joining throughout the evening.

We may look to continue to hold the Christmas Party in the park where we can enjoy the outdoor space afforded to us in Carlton, and all are welcome.

**Carlton Residents Association Inc
2020**

	ACTUAL 2020	BUDGET 2020	BUDGET 2021
Income \$			
City of Melbourne Community Grant 2018	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 1,550.00
Donations & Sundry Income	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00
Subscriptions Received/Membership	\$ 3,885.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,700.00
Other revenue (Raffle, tours etc)	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Neighbour Day Donations/Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 5,435.00	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 5,850.00
Expenses \$			
Contributions, Donations & Memberships	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
Licenses & Taxes, Annual Return Fees	\$ 59.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00
Public Liability, Officers Insurance	\$ 1,491.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Newsflash newsletter	\$ 823.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
Postage	\$ 236.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00
Printing & Stationery	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00
Hire of Kathleen Syme room	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Web site maintenance	\$ 206.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Postbox	\$ 139.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 150.00
Miscellaneous & Sundry Expenses	\$ 332.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Neighbour Day Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 4,336.00	\$ 5,790.00	\$ 5,700.00
Surplus/(Loss) 2020	\$ 1,099.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 150.00

BALANCE SHEET as @ 31/12/20

Assets \$

Bendigo Bank trading account	\$ 7,679.00
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit One	\$ 7,270.00
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit Two	\$ 5,970.00
TryBooking account	\$ 166.00
Total Assets \$	\$ 21,085.00

Total Liabilities \$

\$ -

Net Assets \$

\$ 21,085.00