

Introduction by the President Antoinette Sagaria

Thank you for attending. Most unfortunate it's not in person.

I'd like to formally begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we each and all meet this evening. I would also like to pay my respects to Elders past and present and emerging.

While we can't meet in person it's important to acknowledge that we are fortunate to have the means to meet in alternative ways, and we can continue the good work of the CRA.

2021 was a challenging year, the second that I was president and the second that we were in lockdown ...it's safe to say there were many challenges as a result.

Unfortunately we had Ivana Czar, Lester Levinson, and Marianne Christopolous step down from the CRA committee. I would like to thank them for their hard work, passion for Carlton and generous contributions made to CRA and the community. Most recently we have also had Margaret Rode unfortunately step down from the committee also and again I would like to thank Margaret for her time, commitment and friendship. We wish them all the very best and we hope that when circumstances allow, they will return.

We at least were able to end the year with a lovely Christmas Party in Carlton Gardens. It was so nice to meet in person and hopefully this is the very last zoom meeting for CRA.

I hope that 2022 is a productive year for CRA. We are so keen to see Carlton prosper after two years of lockdowns.

The Carlton Residents Association advocates for the residents of Carlton. CRA is a democratic, non-party political body. This short report highlights the following:

CRA achievements and activities in 2021

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.

Planning Report for CRA Annual General Meeting February 2022

Planning Scheme Amendment C396 Finalisation of Heritage Places Inventory

This amendment relates to heritage protection in the City of Melbourne. In 2020, a separate amendment (Amendment C258) converted the heritage gradings for properties in the Heritage Overlay from the existing heritage grading system to a new system. The gradings for approximately 7,000 heritage properties were converted to the new system with around 350 remaining. Amendment C396 now proposes to convert the heritage gradings of these remaining properties to the new system.

Although the focus of this Amendment is on those Heritage Places located in the City North Area, since this Amendment is also intended to address other "properties which were inadvertently not included or were incorrect in the exhibited 'Heritage Places Inventory' (Am C258)", it is extremely disappointing that the Amendment documentation is so riddled with errors. These errors include important Heritage Places that have been OMITTED from the exhibited Inventory and Heritage Places that have been mapped incorrectly.

Unfortunately, many of these problems were reported in earlier submissions to the Council from the CRA.

The Panel Report in relation to this Amendment was released in January 2022. Sadly for the Association, most of the Association's concerns are to be addressed in subsequent Amendments to the Planning Scheme, including the Carlton Heritage Review Amendment, which is scheduled to be exhibited in 2022.

Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C278 Sunlight to Public Parks

Two of the major issues of concern to the Association included the "treatment" of Carlton's historic median strips and Argyle Square:

- For the Carlton area, our historic and generous median strips have provided valuable open space for our residents for decades. Because Am C278 only applied to those spaces zoned as Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ), these valuable spaces receive no protection at all with the current Amendment. Although the current Planning Scheme includes provisions that address Sunlight to other important public spaces, the Association could not understand why the current Amendment had to be so restrictive.

- The decision of the Council to designate Argyle Square as a Type 2 Park (with less onerous sunlight protection) was justified by the Council’s representatives at the Panel Hearing by limiting the application of the Type 1 typology to parks in “low-scale areas of 3 storeys or less”. To treat Argyle Square, which is covered with a preferred (but discretionary) maximum height of 4 storeys, as a GROWTH area is contentious. It will only encourage applicants to exceed the preferred maximum height of four storeys. We don't believe that this is the intention, given the cultural and economic importance to Carlton of respecting the low-rise mixed use buildings in that iconic part of Lygon Street bordering Argyle Square. Designating Argyle Square a Type 1 Park would be more respectful of this cultural and economic context.

Planning Scheme Amendment C380 Zoning Corrections of public open space and anomalies in the Planning Scheme.

Although this Amendment was related to the Sunlight to Public Parks Amendment, its focus was much narrower. One of the major issues in contention concerned the need, or otherwise, of any statutory process to confirm the status of these spaces:

- From the Association’s perspective open space reservations associated with full or partial street closures would require a statutory process. In this context, the Association does not understand why this statutory process has not been completed in those situations where open space reservations have been in place for ten or more years. In our original Submission, the CRA gave the example of the Lytton Reserve which closed off Cardigan Street at Cemetery Road East.
- In relation to Carlton’s centre of the road median strips, the CRA believes that the historical context is important. Since, many of Carlton’s medians were established over eighty years ago, and since the Council has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars (if not millions of dollars) over the decades maintaining and extending these valuable assets, we do not understand how their legal status as primarily parks can be in doubt. Further, since the streets where they are located were not discontinued (but reconfigured) we do not understand how any current discontinuance of road process can be applied retrospectively after so many decades of use.
- Further, the Association noted that most of the streets of Carlton are NOT actually zoned as road reservations; instead, most road space is zoned for residential, commercial and mixed uses. Since buildings of any description are rarely located on roads, this extension of zones beyond the building line is very misleading. In this context, it would be much more accurate to replace these zoning categories with a Public Park and Recreation zone in those situations where the primary purpose of the reservation is not traffic control.

Sadly, the Council did not accept any of the Association’s arguments.

Objection to TP-2020-464, Relocation of M Pavilion to University Square, 190-192 Pelham St, Carlton

Key concerns of the Association in relation to this Application included the following:

- Given that the proposed location for the 2019 M Pavilion at University Square involves such a major departure from the 2016 University Master Plan, the Applicant should be required to provide evidence that alternative sites were examined thoroughly before settling upon the more informal open lawn of 'The Green' at University Square.
- More particularly, the Council must acknowledge that the single most important Heritage attribute of University Square has to be the extent of the remaining valuable open space for both passive and more formal recreation. In the Association’s view ANY reduction in the area available for informal passive recreation would be a tragedy.
- Further, given the number of key issues still to be resolved, the Applicant should be required to provide a detailed Management Plan before any Notice of Determination is issued, rather than require such a basic document to be a condition of permit.

In the event, the Council approved this Planning Application from the University of Melbourne.

Ewan Ogilvy 9 January 2022

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

A Committee has been formed to prepare a Transport Policy that will replace the existing CRA Traffic and Transport Report 2015.

The new policy will respond to the City of Melbourne Transport Policy 2030 and will reflect our particular ideas for Carlton residents.

Our initial response to the Melbourne Council document is that we are generally in agreement with their detailed policies, particularly as the CRA responded to the consultation process undertaken by Council.

Our Committee is currently Peter Sanders, coordinator, Blair Healy and Antoinette Sagaria. We welcome any input from members and will distribute drafts for comment.

Please contact us if you would like to join the Committee.

Peter Sanders

Newsflash and Website

The Newsflash: Four editions were produced in 2021. 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. CRA welcomes contributions and ideas for content. Please don't be shy with telling CRA what would be of interest and where possible contributing.

Lyn Cracknell

The Friends of the Carlton Gardens and Carlton Gardens - FREBGC was set up about 10 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).

The significance of this site, taken as a whole....the Royal Exhibition Building, the Carlton Gardens, and the surrounds, cannot be overestimated. 'The expositional ensemble comprising the Melbourne Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens is a unique, magnificent and outstanding survivor from this great age of great exhibitions. There is nothing like it anywhere else in the world today', wrote the eminent UK historian, Professor David Cannadine. All this was recognised in its nomination as a World Heritage site.

March 2021 – Prepared a submission to Yarra Council to state our concern about two proposed developments in this World Heritage Area:

1. St. Vincent's Hospital PLN20/0567: 27 & 31 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy
2. Gertrude St. PLN20/0566: 1-9 Gertrude Street. Fitzroy

The fact that this was necessary highlights the fact that perhaps the time has come for the whole of the WHEA area to be managed under one umbrella instead of the present unwieldy situation with both Melbourne and Yarra Councils.

September 2021 – Prepared a Submission to the Heritage Council of Victoria.

Draft World Heritage Strategy plan for the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens World Heritage Environs Area.

Peter Sanders and Ewan Ogilvy gave me a great deal of assistance on this submission and I thank them for their expertise.

The Melbourne City Councillors voted unanimously to extend the boundary of the West and South of the Royal Exhibition Buildings and to introduce height controls for sections of Rathdowne Street. We presume this includes the corner of Victoria Parade and Rathdowne Street opposite the Carlton Gardens – where the unsafe former Cancer Council building sits neglected and unsightly.

October 2021 Question to Melbourne City Council regarding Future Planned events.....which received a generic response.

November 2021 – Another discussion with MCC regarding the state of the former Cancer Council building – apparently it is due for demolition – but when? – I haven't received an answer...yet.

Conclusion- Thanks to Margaret O'Brien, convener of the FCG&REB, for her unwavering and enthusiastic support.

Because the Royal Exhibition Building, the Carlton Gardens and the surrounds are an incredibly important part of Carlton and Melbourne in general, and because Ewan Ogilvy and Peter Sanders have so much more expertise and experience in the area of planning, I plan to step away from planning issues and divide my time and energy into improving, changing and finding solutions in these two areas in 2022 -

1. The parlous state of the trees in the Carlton Gardens.
2. The unsafe and unsightly former Cancer Council building.

Any suggestions and or solutions will be gratefully received.

Trish O'Loughlin

Treasurer's Report

The second year of Covid has continued to affect the operations of CRA. From a financial perspective, we have managed to keep expenses below our income and therefore for the second year in a row, we have added to our reserves.

The financial situation of CRA as of the end of 2021 has been circulated to members. This covers actual income and expenses against the 2021 budget, a budget for the 2022 year and a simplified balance sheet which shows the net assets of CRA to be over \$22,000.

A 2022 budget has been prepared, which is included in the document. It is in line with our broad objective of living within our means, with expenses not exceeding our income. This has been assisted by a modest increase in the City of Melbourne Community Grant which has increased from \$1550 to \$2000.

Any questions can be directed to the Treasurer via carltonresidents@gmail.com

Philip Watts