



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

NEWSFLASH

June - September 2022



Princess May Pavilion
Suzanne Hood
CRA member

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Supported by the Community
Services Grants Program

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June - September 2022

Planning

Planning proposals of concern for Carlton

1-23 Rathdowne Street Carlton 3053 TP-2022-245

Previous Cancer Council building cnr, Victoria and Rathdowne Streets

This site is within the World Heritage Environs Area
relating to the Royal Exhibition Building

Familiarise yourself with the application on the CoM Planning Permit Register [here](#)



Left: 1-23 Rathdowne Street existing building

Below: 1-23 Rathdowne Street proposed development

*Note: For size comparison
1 Queensberry Street
(circled) is approximately
the same size in both*

Proposal:

Demolition of the existing buildings; construction of a multi-storey development for use as dwellings, office and food and drink premises; exceed the maximum car parking rate under the Parking Overlay.

CRA has objected.

Summary of grounds:

- CRA submits that the proposed building is totally inappropriate for this area and does not comply with the Melbourne Planning Scheme.
- The proposed development for this site fails to meet the heritage and other controls for the site and this area.
- It is a proposal that grossly exceeds the requirements for the area
- Accordingly, the CRA submits that the permit application should be refused.

Read CRA objection on the [CRA website planning objection page](#)

To date there are 62 objections lodged with City of Melbourne



Planning concerns continued

186-190 Lygon Street Carlton 3053 TP-2022-195

Previous Bendigo Bank, cnr Lygon and Pelham Streets

Familiarise yourself with the application on the CoM Planning Permit Register [here](#)



Left: 186-190 Lygon Street existing building

Below left: West elevation, facing Lygon Street

Below right South elevation, facing Pelham Street



Proposal:

Demolition of buildings in a heritage overlay, development of a multi level (6 storeys) commercial building and full waiver of associated car parking requirements.

CRA has submitted an objection

Read CRA objection by scrolling down on the [CRA website Planning Objection Page](#)

NOW is the time to object if you are concerned about this development.

Planning concerns continued

29 Lygon Steet, Curtin Hotel.

CRA has made a submission to the Heritage Council supporting the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria's recommendation that the John Curtin Hotel is of historical and social significance to the State of Victoria and that it satisfies these criteria for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Read the Heritage Victoria Summary of cultural heritage significance [here](#)

Read the CRA submission by scrolling down on the [CRA website heritage page](#)

The John Curtin Hotel, better known as The Curtin, is a pub, bar, and live music venue located in Lygon Street, Carlton, opposite the historic Trades Hall which was built in stages from 1874 to 1925.

Founded c1860, the pub was first named The Lygon Hotel and was renamed The John Curtin Hotel in 1971 after Australia's 14th prime minister, John Curtin.

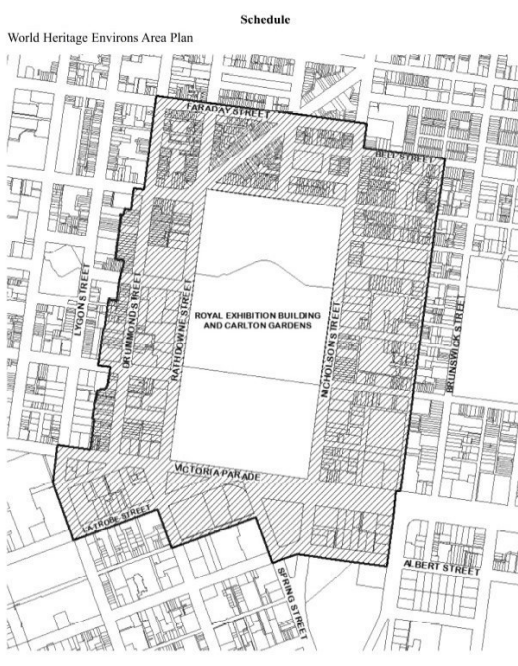
Its heritage value lies not just in the building, but in what the building represents.

Read more in the [March 2022 edition of the CRA Newsflash](#).



World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA)

Extension to the buffer zone gazetted 28 July 2022. This area is shaded below.



View further information on the [CRA website Heritage page](#)

This is a start in the process to give this area the protection it deserves.

Have you renewed your membership to CRA this year?

Every member counts!

Maybe you have never been a member

Now is the time!

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

OR, for an EFT payment—

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

Payment is via bank direct debit or TryBooking EFT only.

Please ensure all details are included for EFT membership payments.

Topical Issues

Arts venues at risk: we must save the Nicholas Building and Curtin Hotel

By Ellen Sandell, State MP for Melbourne

Arts and culture is central to Melbourne's identity. Personally, it's one of the main reasons I love to live here. Hopping on a tram to the Comedy Festival, seeing a show at La Mama, or being able to enjoy a live music gig almost any time of the week or year are some of the great pleasures of being a Melburnian.

It is wonderful to finally see the shows, fun and creativity slowly returning to our city, yet over the past few years, Melbourne has unfortunately lost many of our iconic cultural venues and heritage buildings. The Palace/Metro Theatre is just one example that springs to mind. Worryingly, two more arts and creative species are at imminent risk: the Nicholas Building and the Curtin Hotel.



MPs Ellen Sandell, Tim Read and Adam Bandt with musicians and artists outside the Curtin Hotel

The Curtin Hotel - a heritage live music venue and pub in Carlton that needs little introduction - was sold to an overseas investor earlier this year, and is at risk of being turned into apartments when the venue's lease is up in November.

The Nicholas Building, a gorgeous art deco landmark on Swanston Street, is facing a similar fate. This heritage building houses a community of over 200 artists, creatives and other independent enterprises (think artists, writers, shoemakers and more). But now the building is for sale - at risk of being turned into more apartments.

Heritage arts venues like the Nicholas Building and the Curtin are special and increasingly rare in our city. Once lost, they'll be gone forever. Heritage buildings don't get rebuilt. With the loss of every venue and creative space, Melbourne loses a little more of its cultural heart.

But there is a small window, right now, to save them.

Although it is too late to save the Curtin from being sold, there is a chance for it to be legally protected as an historical and cultural site if it is placed on the heritage register. At the time of writing, that decision is sitting with the State Government's Heritage Council.

For the Nicholas Building, I have been calling on the State Government to help buy this building and ensure it stays a hub for creative industry workers, but disappointingly, this is something the Labor Government is refusing to do.

These are unique buildings. There are very few left in our city, and support and modest funds from the State Government is all it would take to save them. If these buildings are lost, it will be a huge loss to our city, to creative worker jobs, and to Melbourne's culture.

Over the past few months I have been working hard in the community and in Parliament to try and reverse the State Government's position. I will continue to campaign to ensure they are not lost. If you would like to get involved, please contact my office by emailing us office@ellensandell.com

You can also read more about my plans to support the arts and rebuild a thriving Melbourne CBD at <https://greens.org.au/vic/cbd>

As always, if there is anything I can help you with, please get in touch: office@ellensandell.com

Community News

Fringe Parade and Lygon St Block Party
Celebrating
Melbourne Fringe's 40th birthday
Saturday 15 October 2022 - 3pm to 10pm
March for the arts from 3pm.
Celebrate creativity as a vital expressive force, central to our city, our culture and our lives.
It'll be rebellious, ridiculous, and really, really big.
The parade marches through the streets of Carlton and down Lygon street,
ending in a massive block party in Argyle Square.
Further information [here](#)

Argyle Square Carlton

Cr Dr Olivia Ball, local resident and City of Melbourne Councillor writes

Friends and neighbours,

Some news from Melbourne City Council, where there is always a lot going on!

Your priorities and hopes for Carlton

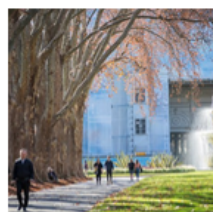
You may already be familiar with Council's [Participate Melbourne](#) website, where you can find out what Council is planning and give your feedback on specific projects (eg the 'Greenline' transformation of the north bank of the Birrarung/Yarra, feedback closes 12 Sept; or the pedestrianisation of our 'Little streets' in the CBD, ie Flinders Lane, Little Collins, etc).

Council is taking a community development approach, ensuring a closer connection with each of the neighbourhoods in our municipality, and recognising that each is distinct, with different needs and priorities.

We are about to launch Carlton's very own information and feedback portal, called [Participate Carlton](#), which will be your go-to resource for information about Carlton and how Council listens to the Carlton community.

Connected neighbourhoods small grants

Council provides small grants of up to \$2,000 for community organisations and individuals with ideas and activities which support community connection, social inclusion, equity, access and participation in your neighbourhood or suburb.



Discover more about Carlton

- Learn about key facts and figures, recent and upcoming City of Melbourne projects.
- Explore the map of important, places, services and people that make Carlton so special.

[Explore and discover >](#)



Community connection

- Read the virtual postcards posted by your community.
- Visit the community wall and read about Carlton's community, strengths and resilience.

[Share and connect >](#)

At the height of this pandemic, with its negative impact on isolation and mental health, we are keen to fund activities that increase people's connection to their community by improving access and participation. Think creatively and [apply here](#).

There is a round of grants every month. Apply by 23 September (or then 21 Oct, and so on).

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Introducing Nasteha (Nas) Mohamud

As part of this community development approach, Council now employs a ‘neighbourhood partner’ or contact point for each suburb in the municipality. Nas Mohamud is Carlton’s neighbourhood partner.

Nas was previously a manager at the Huddle youth program in North Melbourne where she had a vital role promoting COVID vaccination and was [hailed as a ‘community legend’](#). She was recently inducted into the Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll, which recognises unsung heroes for their grassroots work.

If you have Carlton-specific questions, suggestions or ideas, get in touch with Nas. Her email address is nas.mohamud@melbourne.vic.gov.au or you can book a chat with her by filling in this [online form](#).

Plane trees in Lygon Street

In June, you may have noticed 20 Plane trees were removed from the median strip in Lygon Street, between Queensberry & Pelham Streets.

This was because they didn’t have enough room under the road for their roots to grow. As a result, they were in poor health, with stunted growth, and not providing the canopy and shade we need in a warming city.

Council arborists have replaced them with Mediterranean Hackberries (*Celtis australis*) – matching those already planted in the median between Victoria and Queensberry Streets. The growing space and soil quality for the new trees has also been improved.

The Mediterranean Hackberry is a large deciduous canopy tree that is climate resilient, typically grows quickly in Melbourne and does well in streetscapes. There are mature examples of this species in the State Library forecourt.

Plane trees growing in the footpath on either side of Lygon Street are in good health.

Meanwhile, there’s a mature Silky Oak in Carlton Gardens South which needs to be removed and replaced due to defects in its trunk. **It will be replaced with another Silky Oak, in accordance with heritage requirements.**



The new median strip trees



New toilet in Faraday Street

It’s been a long time coming since the 1939 heritage public toilet in Faraday St was decommissioned in 2016. Extensive public consultation showed that the preferred location for a new toilet is right next to the old one, just east of Lygon Street.

Council has purchased the toilet and will now proceed with design, heritage approvals and installation, due to be completed by April 2023.

The new unisex toilet will be fully accessible for people with disabilities.

Pictured at left: The *moderne* style polychrome brick ventilation shaft, with its decorative wrought iron panels, located between the two entrances to the 1939 underground public toilets in Faraday St.

News from Friends of Queen Victoria Market.

Heritage in Peril

Queen Victoria Market is on the Victorian and National Heritage listing. It is a place of special significance.

Mary-Lou Howie - President, Friends of Queen Victoria Market Inc writes:

“PROTECTION Make no mistake, its heritage is in peril.

It is disappointing to say the least when the City of Melbourne (CoM), custodian of Queen Victoria Market, ignores the Victorian Heritage Act.

Shed restoration modifications at Queen Victoria Market (QVM) have taken place without a permit and without the approval of Heritage Victoria.

Unauthorised extended Perspex Panels have been installed without Heritage approval in the newly restored roofs. These unauthorised panels magnify the sun causing spoilage to fresh produce beneath them. The original 19 Century ventilation gaps, which enabled hot air and humidity to escape have also been removed. The combination of the two unauthorised modifications have completely negated the benefits of the insulation in the new roofs.

C Shed produce trader, Rosa Ansaldo states ‘They were supposed to spend all this money to make it cooler in summer but it’s actually much hotter for fruit and veg, eggs and flowers, not to mention traders and customers.’

Nicola Stairmand, Manager, Statutory Approvals, Heritage Victoria stated in an email that “The works were not consistent with the approved plans. Heritage Victoria was not aware of the amendments and they were not approved ... City of Melbourne have been advised that the extended skylights can remain but will be ‘unauthorised’ works. They have also been advised that further non-compliance may result in stronger enforcement actions.” There have been no enforcement actions.

Australian Heritage Advocacy Alliance (AHAA) states ‘Australia’s assets hold meaning for all citizens regardless of state and territory borders and legislation. They have immense value – cultural, environmental, economic and social. Currently there is no effective national heritage policy on any political agenda to preserve, manage and fund Australia’s national heritage assets. They are being squandered in a federal heritage policy vacuum. They are irreplaceable, being lost, or are in jeopardy.’ See <https://ahaa.net.au>

These works at QVM indicate that the CoM is not meeting its obligations.

Custodians, owners and managers of listed places are obliged to comply with the provisions of the Victorian Heritage Act and gain permits and approvals before undertaking alteration works. The City of Melbourne and the QVM management are public authorities and have an even greater obligation to comply with the legislation and regulations that are designed to protect our cultural and built heritage.

QVM management and the CoM have an obligation to demonstrate exemplary compliance as custodians of heritage listed assets. They are required to ensure that these public assets are cared for in an appropriate manner and uphold the provisions within the Heritage Act

Heritage Victoria is seriously under-resourced and relies on the eyes and ears of the public to alert them to heritage transgressions.

The trend within the CoM and QVM management to not seek permission regarding heritage assets, and simply to ask for forgiveness after the fact leads to incremental damage to our precious, irreplaceable heritage. Remember the Corkman Hotel?”

Mary-Lou Howie President, Friends of Queen Victoria Market Inc

www.facebook.com/FriendsofQueenVictoriaMarket