



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

# NEWSFLASH

December 2023

**Stop Press: 22 November 2023**

**VCAT: No permit was granted for the development at 1-23 Rathdowne Street**

**A Message from our President Page 2**

**Parkland and Streetscapes Page 2**

**Grattan Street Future Plans Page 3**

**News from the City of Melbourne Page 4**

**Queen Vic Market needs your support Page 5**

**The fight to stop Victoria's privatisation of public housing Page 6**

**Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) Page 7**

**Carlton Community History Group (CCHG) Page 7**

**Pickfords - long standing Carlton Pharmacy Page 8**



Supported by the Community  
Services Grants Program

The Carlton Residents Association Inc.  
PO Box 1140 Carlton, 3053  
[carltonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:carltonresidents@gmail.com)  
[www.carltonresidents.org.au](http://www.carltonresidents.org.au)  
A0034345G ABN 87 716 923 898

December 2023

1



### A Message from the President—Trish O’Loughlin

The committee welcomed the appointment of Maissa Doyle to the committee. The now nine CRA Committee members, (Blair, Peter, Philip, Les, Martin, Megan, Marissa, Lyn and Trish) meet monthly, as do the Planning Committee.

Of the 6 working groups, the Planning group is usually the busiest and this year unsurprisingly has been no exception. Two of the Committee members are also on the seven person planning Committee, Blair, Peter, Ewan, Malcolm, Liz, Warren and Dennis.

Most recently there was a two week hearing at VCAT to decide on the contentious development proposal for 1-23 Rathdowne Street - the old CANCER COUNCIL site which has been an eyesore for many years, on the corner of Rathdowne and Nicholson Streets, directly opposite the Royal Exhibition Buildings and Carlton Gardens (REB&CG). We are pleased that the time and effort put in to the lead up to the VCAT Hearing, the two hour presentation as well as daily attendance for the two week hearing has delivered a good outcome, one that will reflect our Heritage values and satisfy our CRA members.



Other recent areas of involvement include:

- Newsflash and e - Flash – Thanks to Lyn for the enormous amount of work she does for these two publications on top of her work as secretary.
- WHEA news, Heritage issues. Friends of the Carlton Gardens & Royal Exhibition Building.
- Grattan Street Closure,
- Local Community Workshop – Parking in the MCC area, specifically in Carlton.
- QVM Queen Victoria Market – Latest developments.
- E Bikes & Scooters.
- Noise Pollution in the Carlton area – particularly “hooning”
- University of Melbourne Neighbourhood Group
- Police Community Consultative Committee Melbourne North Police

Thank you to all the committee members and working group members for their valued contribution throughout 2023.

See you all (with your RAFFLE money) at the Christmas Celebration, Tuesday 12 December

Keep the date of the AGM free – 19 February 2024.

## Working Groups

### Parkland and Streetscapes

The 2023 annual Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show finished on 2 April having locked Melbourne residents out of the southern section of the Carlton Gardens for weeks. Now, more than 7 months later, the damage caused to the precious lawns remains an eyesore for the people who use the gardens every day of the week.

Patches of new lawn such as those in the photo are all too evident throughout the southern section of the gardens and presumably will remain until the next assault on the gardens by the annual show.



Is this an appropriate use of the World Heritage Carlton Gardens?

Is the City of Melbourne a fit custodian of the Gardens?

## Traffic, Transport, Parking and Noise

### GRATTAN STREET

Grattan Street has been closed as part of the new underground rail line works. Queensberry Street was upgraded as an alternate East West link with an undertaking by the City of Melbourne (CoM) that traffic would be reduced when Grattan Street reopened.

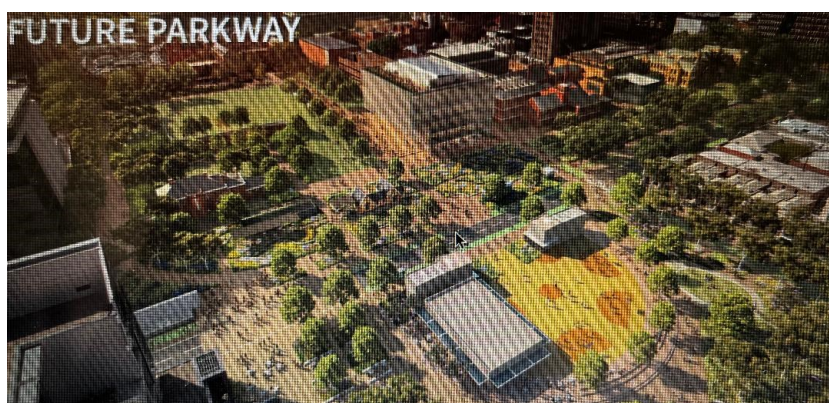
Approximately three years ago the Council released a plan for changes to Grattan Street that included improved cycle and pedestrian access; reduced traffic flows to one lane each way; improved turning lanes; changes to street parking and controlled access to some streets.

The CRA had no objections to the plan except for the removal of basalt pitches (that was completed despite our objections).

The Grattan Street changes are in line with the CRA Mobility Policy.

The University of Melbourne (MU) has now prepared a masterplan covering the main campus, Grattan Street and University Square that includes the opening of Grattan Street in line with the earlier CoM plans. It includes major pedestrian crossovers at University Square.

<https://www.unimelb.edu.au/master-planning>



The plan shows extensive open landscaped areas that are explained in the MU masterplan publicity.

*The aspiration to transform Grattan Street will bring an additional 22,000 sq m of parkland to the City of Melbourne. This new green space will offer a substantial area for recreational activities and community connection. It will serve as a vital biodiversity connector, fostering ecological diversity and*

*complimenting the city's existing green spaces. It will also play a pivotal role in Melbourne's future stormwater design, contributing to sustainable and resilient urban water management.*

*A key element of the future-vision illustrative plan is reinforcement of the public realm. This culminates creation of a green campus core as a central park that provides campus continuity to the north and south of Grattan Street.*

**Now is the time to renew your CRA membership or join:**

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

**OR, for payment—CRA Direct Credit Details:**

Bendigo Bank, BSB: 633 000 Account No.: 146960570.

**Please ensure all details, especially your name, are included for EFT membership payments.**

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

**OR Use the QR code shown on the right**

**You can also pay cash at the party**

**12 December at La Mama**





### City of Melbourne - CoM - your closest level of government

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

#### Cancer Council building: 1-23 Rathdowne Street

Some welcome news for Carlton: the infamous former Cancer Council building on the prominent corner of Rathdowne and Victoria Streets has had a superficial makeover.

As part of Council's Graffiti Management and Prevention Plan, the council has installed a photographic mural on hoardings surrounding this long-vacated and neglected site, which *The Age* has called "one of the city's worst eyesores".



The building fell into disrepair after it was sold by the Cancer Council to a 'billionaire Chinese tycoon' a decade ago. Last year, Council's planners rejected an application to build a 13-storey tower on the site. The city planners cited Victoria Street as delineating a 'clear edge' between low-rise Carlton and a denser CBD.

Prior to 1971, the site boasted a magnificent 6-storey 'coffee palace' built in 1888 at the time of the second of the great International Exhibitions hosted in the Carlton Gardens opposite.

#### Royal Exhibition Building dome reopened

The exquisite dome of our beloved Royal Exhibition Building – said to be the only other dome in the world the same shape as Florence's famed Duomo by Brunelleschi – was in its heyday in the 1880s a superb vantage point from which to view marvellous Melbourne. The dome has been closed to the public for over a century, but is now open again.

You can join a 60-min. guided tour of the dome for \$29/\$15, which includes an exhibition on the building's varied history, as well as entry to Melbourne Museum next door. The underground exhibition and south-facing roof deck are wheelchair accessible, but the promenade circling the dome itself is not, and requires climbing 20+ steps. Book ahead, as it's hugely popular:

[museums.vic.gov.au/melbournemuseum/whats-on/royal-exhibition-building-dome-promenade](https://museums.vic.gov.au/melbournemuseum/whats-on/royal-exhibition-building-dome-promenade)

#### Parkville Heritage Review 2023

On the theme of local history and heritage, Council's Future Melbourne Committee approved the latest Parkville Heritage Review in November, remarking on the intact streetscapes of Victorian Italianate homes in Parkville, while adding significant heritage places from the inter-war and post-war years.

The Review is a treat for bower-birds of local history. Worth looking up are the Aboriginal history of Parkville (pp121-157) and the review's 'thematic' histories of Parkville, such as its military history, commercial history, transport and communication history, community and cultural history, etc. (see p181ff): <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/committees-meetings/meeting-archive/pages/Future-Melbourne-Committee-14-November-2023.aspx>

'Til next time,  
Olivia

**CRA AGM - Monday 19 February, 2024**

**6pm to 7.30pm - The Studio - Melbourne Connect**

**Ground floor - cnr. Swanston and Grattan Streets**



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

Carlton residents have always had a special relationship with Queen Victoria Market (QVM). Its proximity to QVM allows for easy access to a great market whose hallmark is 'value for money', freshness and variety.

It is Australia's biggest 19<sup>th</sup> century open air market; a place of outstanding national cultural heritage significance.



*QVM Deli trader, Michael Caiafa*

QVM's traders have been hurting – first the ravages of COVID, and now the disruption through construction in and around the market. They have noticed that those that live closest to the market have stopped coming.

Trader Michael Caiafa says '*...those who live in North Melbourne, Carlton, Fitzroy, West Melbourne and other surrounding suburbs have dropped off this year especially when we are in the bunkers of disruption! We the traders would love you all back weekly*' - Friends Facebook, 25 October.

And, Joanne, a loyal customer writes (25 October): '*We never miss a weekly shop and will continue to do*

*so for the following reasons. 1 - the prices are so competitive we can't afford to shop anywhere else. 2 - the service and friendship of the traders makes our week. Something that is so missing from major retailers today. 3 - Quality and a range of products that we just can't find locally - Bread that is bread, cheese that is cheese, hommus to die for. The Queen Vic to us is an institution that we cannot go without. The food and atmosphere feeds our souls.*

To those lucky enough to have this marvellous fresh food shopping destination at their doorstep, don't abandon the market and the traders who have served you for decades.

See you at Vic Market!

[www.facebook.com/FriendsofQueenVictoriaMarket](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofQueenVictoriaMarket)

[www.friendsofqvm.org](http://www.friendsofqvm.org)

## New QVM Food hall

More than just a place to grab a bite to eat between shopping, the new Food Hall will showcase Melbourne's unrivalled foodie culture, complete with space for customers to relax and soak up the great market atmosphere.

There will be 8 fresh food and drink offers with a diverse range of cuisines, including Sri Lankan street food; Spanish tapas; traditional Malaysian; American BBQ; authentic Mexican food; a French patisserie; coffee and cocktails; and a sushi and oyster bar.

### Inner City News

Keep up to date with happenings in your area

Get your copy or read it on line at: <https://www.innercitynews.com.au/>

#### Carlton community update from your State MP Ellen Sandell

#### Greens join public housing residents in fight to stop Victoria's privatisation of public housing

You may have heard that the Labor Victorian Government is planning to demolish every public housing tower in Victoria.

That's more than 6,660 homes in 44 towers – 8 of which are in Carlton.

Some of these buildings could certainly do with an upgrade, but unfortunately that's not the government's plan.

Instead, they are going to sell off the majority of this public housing land to private developers to build private apartments for 20,000 people and make mega profits.

They've said they will also replace the demolished towers with 7,100 new 'social' homes on these sites between now and 2051.

Let me explain why this is a lot worse than it seems.

Firstly, Labor wants to knock down 6,600 public housing homes, and build 7,100 social homes over the next 28 years. That's only 440 extra social homes - or 15 new social homes per year! There are 125,000 people on the public housing waiting list in Victoria. 15 new social homes a year isn't going to cut it!

To essentially give public housing land to developers to make a huge profit - and only provide 15 extra new social homes a year - is a bad deal.

Secondly, the Government has refused to commit to any of the newly built 'social homes' being public housing. 'Social housing' can mean either public housing or community housing. Community housing is run by private organisations (sometimes 'non-profits') and can often have higher rents and fewer rights for tenants than public housing. On some other estates where Labor has demolished public housing, none of the new housing has been public housing at all.

Residents are understandably concerned they'll be moved away from the family, hospitals, and community services they rely on.

This plan is going to fundamentally change the nature of our suburb, with more expensive apartments and public housing residents being pushed out.

The Greens and I believe public housing land should never be handed over to private developers. It should be used to build 100% public housing.

A local resident has started a petition to Parliament that calls on Labor to stop the privatisation model of public housing and build more public housing. The Greens are supporting this petition, and if we get 2000 signatures we can force a special debate in Parliament.

In the meantime, we're also supporting residents who need assistance to understand their rights.

If you'd like to join the campaign to save public housing, get in touch at [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com).



*Ellen with concerned residents*



## Jackie Watts former CoM Councillor and CRA member writes

Carlton residents may be interested to learn that post-Council, Jackie has established and continues to chair the **Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN)**

MMHN has commissioned award-winning Wild Dog Publishing to produce the first-ever historically accurate work for young people (ages 7-12 years) entitled *'River to Bay – Victoria's Maritime History'*. The book is hardcover, 40 pages and beautifully illustrated.



*Ted Baillieu, Jackie Watts, Nicholas Reece  
at the launch of River to Bay*

It explores our maritime heritage which encompassed great change and generated prosperity in Victoria over the last 200 years. Prosperity which was essentially based on geographic attributes including our waterways. These same waterways, which sustained indigenous peoples, also attracted European exploration, enabled colonial settlement and later, trade.

Former Premier, Ted Baillieu, maritime enthusiast, Patron of the Museum Ship *Castlemaine* and Chair of the Australian Heritage Council together with Nic Reece, Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne, launched the book at Docklands Library Theatre on October 19th, the first event in the inaugural MMHN Children's Maritime Heritage Festival. CRA members, Trish O'Loughlin (President), Philip Watts (Treasurer) and Greta Bird (Life-member) attended the launch.

MMHN is a non-profit advocacy organisation dedicated to the maritime heritage - past present and future.

See <https://mmhn.org.au>

Please consider ordering the book (\$25) and in doing so, raise awareness in young people in your life-maritime enthusiasts of the future. Email your order to: [info@mmhn.org.au](mailto:info@mmhn.org.au)

Jackie is happy to talk about MMHN at any time and can be contacted on: 0400 305 323.

## Carlton Community History Group (CCHG)

**Find out more about:**

**Carlton 100 years ago:**

- One Strike and You're Out
- Risen from the Dead
- The Ferguson Brothers of Carlton
- The Salvation Army in Carlton

**The City of Melbourne Coat of Arms lives on in North Carlton**

**Access the website for further interesting Carlton History**

<http://www.cchg.asn.au/> .

## Pickfords - long standing Carlton Pharmacy



In the heart of Carlton, on the bustling Elgin Street, there exists a remarkable place that has stood the test of time, serving the community with dedication and care over four decades.

Pickford Pharmacy, is the place you've known and loved, under its owner Tam Nguyen for the last 20 years, following the footsteps of its previous custodian, Bill Pickford, who nurtured it for 18 years. This establishment is not just a pharmacy; it's a lifeline for many – a place where personal care, trust, and community spirit are paramount, in an era when corporate giants dominate the retail and pharmaceutical landscape,

Pickford Pharmacy proudly carries the torch of independence. It's not just a business; it is a family, serving families. Tam, the current owner, has been a pillar of strength for the community for two decades, offering a familiar face and a warm greeting to every customer who walks through the door. His commitment to maintaining a family-owned ethos is not just a slogan; it's a way of life that shines through in every aspect of his pharmacy services.

What truly sets Pickford Pharmacy apart is the personal touch and trust Tam has built with his clientele. In an era of automation and faceless transactions, Tam and his team know their customers by name. They know their preferences, their stories, and their needs. It's a place where your concerns matter, and your choices are respected. The loyalty of their customers speaks volumes about the strong bond that has been forged.

Convenience is not just a buzzword here; it's a way of life. For those who may find it challenging to make it to the pharmacy, Pickford's offers a special service: free deliveries. Whether it's a prescription or over-the-counter medications, they bring the pharmacy to your doorstep, ensuring that everyone in the community has access to the essential pharmaceutical care and the human connection that are often taken for granted. Tam also offers more specialised services including compounding and webster packing.

Pickford Pharmacy remains deeply committed to the community they serve. Their goal is simple: to continue being the heartbeat of Carlton, offering not only pharmaceutical care but also making a meaningful difference in the lives of their community.

Pickford's has been a strong supporter of CRA and its activities for many years.



*Pickford Pharmacy Staff*