



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSFLASH

March 2024

Lygon Street Festa 2008



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A Message from the President—Trish O’Loughlin



Reflection on the achievements, challenges and general business of 2023.

The AGM was held on Monday 19 February to report to the members on the work of CRA during 2023

Monthly meetings were held at various committee members’ homes which lasted approximately an hour and a half. They were well attended despite the frequent travels of the members who joined with Zoom when and where possible.

The CRA operates in an inclusive non- hierarchical way through a series of reference or working groups.

There is always some overlap between working groups such as Heritage issues. The need for a close working committee is invaluable.

Committee members are all involved in community issues between monthly meetings.

The main areas of CRA involvement during 2023 were:

Communication

Community Involvement

Planning Working Group

Traffic, Transport, Parking and Noise Pollution

Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens

Finance & Membership

AGM at the Studio, Melbourne Connect, 19 February 2024

The AGM reported on the work of CRA during 2023.

Our thanks once again go to Phil Callaghan, Director of Operations at Melbourne Connect, for organizing the use of the Studio at that venue. The setting and the facilities make it a pleasure to participate in the AGM

Phil delivered an Acknowledgement of Country and a welcome to the precinct, reminding us too of the history of the site.

The committee for 2024 was elected:

President: Trish O’Loughlin,

Vice-president: Martin Brennan,

Secretary: Lyn Cracknell,

Treasurer: Philip Watts,

Ordinary Members: Peter Sanders, Megan Stevenson, Les Kilmartin, Marissa Doyle.

The meeting voted to have up to seven ordinary committee members, as four were elected—there are vacancies for three others.

Thanks to the Committee members for 2023 with special thanks to Blair Healy for his dedicated work on the committee over the past 2 years. Blair remains on the Planning Working Group.

Please support this committee and the working groups in the work of CRA.

The Annual Report, presented at the meeting, is available on the CRA website:

<https://www.carltonresidents.org.au/cra-2012/meetings/>



Phil Callaghan addresses the CRA AGM

CRA Christmas Party 2023 - Back at La Mama!



The weather was hot, the conversation lively, the food fantastic and the raffle, once again, amazing.

Thank you to all those who made this event exceptional.:

La Mama for the venue and bar, Trish and others for organising the raffle, the donors for their generous prize contributions,

Marissa for organising the food and Megan, committee members and others pitching in on the evening.

Our thanks also to the members for supporting the Association throughout the year.



2024 CRA Proposed Areas of Engagement

- Grattan St. – monitor opening and bike lanes
- Queensberry St. – monitor reinstatement and bike lanes
- Melbourne University Estate Plan
- Pelham Street proposal. – greening Pelham Street
- Heritage issues re Planning, Carlton Gardens, Flower & Garden Show
- Melbourne General Cemetery connection
- Rent rises, affordable housing & Social Housing issues.
- Carlton Conversations
- Carlton History Walks
- Continued involvement with other resident groups
- Continued involvement with Melbourne City Council
- Parklands, Streetscapes, Graffiti,
- Mobility Issues – hooning, scooters, ebikes
- Participation in CoM meetings of Presidents of Resident Groups

In addition the following were put forward by members at the AGM

- **CoM elections coming up** – CRA should put a list of issues to prospective councillors for opinions -then publish these on the CRA website
- **Greening** – appoint a sub committee to formalize and raise awareness
- **Battery Projects** – Power Melbourne <https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne>
- **Hooning** – speed humps - are they possible in Lygon Street?
- **Lygon St cameras** – monitor the progress
- **Publish a list of councillors and their responsibilities** - see page 4
- **Invite councillors to respond to community issues**

Please assist in making CRA's work in 2024 a success by emailing carltonresidents@gmail.com and volunteer to work with the committee on the issues that are of interest to you.

Councillors and their Responsibilities

[Lord Mayor Sally Capp AO](#)
[Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece](#)
[Councillor Dr Olivia Ball](#)
[Councillor Roshena Campbell](#)
[Councillor Jason Chang](#)
[Councillor Elizabeth Mary Doidge](#)
[Councillor Davydd Griffiths](#)
[Councillor Jamal Hakim](#)
[Councillor Philip Le Liu](#)
[Councillor Rohan Leppert](#)
[Councillor Kevin Louey](#)

Access the links on the left for detailed information on each councillor, including their responsibilities and the link below for details of each portfolio.

[Councillor portfolios](#)

Also on the CRA website, City of Melbourne Page: www.carltonresidents.org.au/cra-2012/com/

Working Groups

Parkland and Streetscapes

Carlton Gardens and the Flower and Garden Show

MIFGS v MIFoF

CRA's Proposal - to conduct a review of the use of the Carlton Gardens as the venue for the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) and to consider a City based alternative venue for the Melbourne International Festival of Flowers (MIFoF) following the conclusion of the current contract in 2026.

Background

In September 2022 a 3 year licence was granted to MIFGS (2024 – 2026) with a 3 year option (2027 – 2029) by mutual agreement. As reported in the Inner City News (September, 2022) under the

headline, 'Flower and Garden Show issued new licence for Carlton Gardens, but heritage concerns remain'.

The article stated 'City of Melbourne councillors have given the all clear for the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) to continue to be held in Carlton Gardens despite continued concerns from heritage groups over the event's "damaging impact" on the World Heritage-listed site.'

How would it work?

The Carlton Residents Association believes that following three decades of locating the MIFGS in the Carlton Gardens it is time to consult on the future of the MIFGS and provide an evaluation of the short and long term impact of the use of the Carlton Gardens as a venue and how the City of Melbourne can gain additional value from hosting the MIFGS in the future.

Could MIFGS become MIFoF?

This could be derived by staging the show in a central city location such as Birrarung Marr, a purpose built event venue, the leveraging of this show into a 14 day festival, and the refocusing on Greenline and its staging posts including Federation Square.

CRA therefore believes that there is an arguable case for the Melbourne City Council to give consideration during the current contract to relocating the MIFGS to Birrarung Marr in 2027. The CRA has identified a number of advantages that we believe the Council and the community and stakeholders should consider in an appraisal of the current location and a relocation of the MIFGS to become MIFoF in 2027.

What do you think? Could this be a solution?



Damage to the Carlton Gardens after MIFGS

Affordable housing Social Housing Public Housing

City of Melbourne People's Panel on Affordable Housing

INTRODUCTION

The City of Melbourne's People's Panel on Affordable Housing was held over four sessions from 26th October to 18th November 2023. The aim of the project was to recommend solutions to the shortage of affordable housing in the City of Melbourne area. Eleven recommendations were formulated over this period from a group of 40 participants. These participants reflected the demographic of the council area, across age, gender, background and socio-economic status. CRA was represented by Megan Stevenson.

'Affordable housing' is a specific type of housing for very low to moderate-income earners, where rents are no more than 30% of gross household income. This comprises both community and public housing and is also known as 'social housing'. Housing of this type is needed as market rents have exceeded the ability of key workers and lower-income earners to be able to live in the communities they serve. Unfortunately, decades of under-investment have resulted in a shortfall of over 6,000 affordable housing dwellings relative to current need, with that shortfall projected to increase unless something is done. Addressing this need is essential to the City of Melbourne's aims to create a more cohesive, safe, and accessible society for residents.

Recommendations were presented at a Special Future Melbourne Committee meeting on Tuesday 5 March.

Read more about the City of Melbourne Affordable Housing Strategy [here](#)

CRA has written to the Minister for Housing regarding: 20 Elgin Street and 141 Nicholson Street Housing Towers

The towers at this site have been unoccupied for a significant period and their appearance and immediate surrounds have deteriorated markedly due to boarding up and graffiti.

We understand from media reports in September last year that these towers are to be demolished and that new construction on the site is scheduled to be completed by 2028.

Can you advise on the timetable for demolition and construction and provide information on the planned new construction including its height and proposed public/private ratio?

Until they are demolished, the towers will continue to deteriorate and become an even greater eyesore as well as a public safety issue for local residents, most especially those living in adjacent housing. Surely, too, the presence of the towers will devalue adjacent properties, including those currently being constructed.



Deserted Nicholson Street towers, scheduled for demolition

Can you advise what plans the department has to address these issues? We look forward to your early advice on these matters.

The reply from Homes Victoria includes the following statement:

'A careful process of deconstruction will be underway in the second half of 2024.

Construction is then expected to commence in 2026 with new homes available to welcome renters in 2028.

An extensive program of renter and community engagement will be undertaken this year to support good design and regular sharing of information. A range of community engagement opportunities will be promoted to surrounding residents, organisations, and businesses as well as local community and support services. This includes establishing a representative community consultative committee. Importantly, it will draw on the lived experience of renters currently living in high-rise public housing.'

City of Melbourne - CoM - your closest level of government

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

Friends and neighbours,

Checking in on the Carlton community

You may be familiar with Melbourne City Council's [2-way online portal just for Carlton](https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Neighbourhood-Survey-2024), where you can find interesting and useful local information and send your thoughts and feedback to Council.

This new model of 'listening' to the community has made apparent the distinct priorities of each suburb within the municipality. This method of distilling the community's priorities is being refined over time, to ensure it's current, accurate and all demographics are heard and represented. Council now wants to take a 'pulse check' of Carlton to test the neighbourhood model and its conclusions.

Whether you live, work or study in Carlton, Council would very much like you to **complete a short survey to help shape the future of Carlton**.

Go to www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Neighbourhood-Survey-2024

The results will feed into Council's next 4-year plan.

You could win a \$200 voucher to spend at the Vic Market if you complete the survey. Survey closes: 31 March.

Our global city

Melbourne City Council was in the spotlight recently when a councillor proposed a motion concerning an international armed conflict. Community opinion was very divided, as was Council's: the motion split councillors 5:5, with the chair voting the motion down.

It did raise the question: is it local government's place to comment on international affairs at all? An opinion piece published in CBD News made this case (an excerpt):

"Politicians are being asked to use federal, state or local chambers to take symbolic and practical steps to contribute to global efforts to establish peace. Only one of these levels of government is charged with managing foreign affairs.

Why then, in October, did the Victorian Legislative Assembly resolve on the motion of the Premier, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, that the State Parliament "stands with Israel"?

Why too, in October, was Melbourne Town Hall lit up in white and blue in solidarity with Israel? Various councils have since passed motions in solidarity with affected communities in Israel, Palestine and in their municipal communities.

The answer is straightforward: politicians seek to give voice to the communities they represent. The outrage and outpouring of grief in response to the horrific attacks by Hamas on Israelis on October 7 were felt everywhere, and all levels of government stood up to be counted. Not because of a misunderstanding of jurisdictional responsibilities, but because, in the best judgment of the elected representatives, that was what their constituents expected.

In the City of Melbourne, community members have ties with all parts of the world. We claim our greatest strength to be our multicultural diversity.

The council has an International Engagement Strategy, a trade office in Tianjin, China, 5 sister cities, plans to attract and support international students and tourists, and an elaborate network of international exchanges between Melbourne's creative and cultural institutions across the globe.

These programs exist to enrich and benefit Melbourne and its people, and all of them require an understanding of what is happening in the world. Put simply, we are a global city and that requires a global outlook.

When Victoria's former Liberal Leader Matthew Guy was asked to comment on the City of Melbourne's suspension of its sister city relationship with St Petersburg in March 2022, Mr Guy said the council did not go far enough."

'Til next time,
Olivia

Carlton community update from your State MP Ellen Sandell

All are welcome at Camp Sovereignty



**Samantha Ratnam, Uncle Robbie Thorpe
Ellen Sandell
at Camp Sovereignty**

Right in the heart of our city - in between the NGV and Myer Music Bowl - is a patch of land where the remains of First Nations people from 38 clans have been laid to rest. Yet, this place is still, insensitively, called 'King's Domain'.

This burial ground, which includes remains of Aboriginal people brought back from overseas museums and institutions, is a sacred and calm place, right in the middle of our busy city.

On January 26 this year, Uncle Robbie Thorpe, along with several other First Nations people set up Camp Sovereignty on this site, and I recently joined a smoking ceremony there at sunset. I was welcomed with warm smiles and cups of tea. It's clear it's a very special and healing place.

The camp has been set up to reignite calls for a piece of this land to be returned to Aboriginal people to use for ceremonial purposes, and as a place for Aboriginal people to invite the broader community to be part of cultural practices. They also want the place to be renamed, so it's no longer 'King's Domain', but something more culturally appropriate.

"This is a very significant site for Aboriginal people," says Uncle Robbie. "Under that rock there are fragments of our people. That makes it a burial ground. There's an amazing history of the site. It's a former Aboriginal reserve."

First Nations people have been asking for this land back for decades. Some people may remember Uncle Robbie set up the original Camp Sovereignty here in 2006, at the time of the Commonwealth Games. Uncle Robbie says that what prompted them to set up camp this time was feeling devastated about what was happening in Gaza, and the poor response from our governments. As well as reigniting the call for Aboriginal land back, they've welcomed protesters for peace in Palestine onto the site. "Under our sovereignty we want to protect them," said Uncle Robbie. It's shocking that such a significant site is still known as 'King's Domain'.

We still have so much to do when it comes to justice for First Nations people. I was disgusted to learn in January that the Liberals and Nationals have pulled out of their support for Treaty. Victorians have shown time and time again that they want to see Treaties deliver peace, justice, rights and healing for First Peoples. The Greens and I will keep pushing the Labor Government to ensure a thorough and fair Treaty process that delivers meaningful change.

Camp Sovereignty is open to all who wish to join. They are hosting a whole range of activities including film screenings, art sessions, workshops, and smoking ceremonies. You can find weekly schedules at @old.country.calling on Instagram.

CRA membership renew or or join now:

<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.**

**OR Use the QR code
shown on the right
Find a membership
form [here](#)**



'Recollections of Lygon Street' 70's and 80's
Read a wonderful article [here](#).
PTO for more recollections



Café Paradiso Café Sport Notturmo
Johnny's Green Room The Festa
LÁlba Bug House Twins
Genevieve The Whitehouse

