



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSFLASH

March April 2025

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The Flower and Garden Show Returns



Supported by the Community
Services Grants Program

The Carlton Residents Association Inc.
PO Box 1140 Carlton, 3053
carltonresidents@gmail.com
www.carltonresidents.org.au
A0034345G ABN 87 716 923 898

A Message from the President—Trish O’Loughlin

CRA: reflections on 2024 looking forward to 2025



2024 saw CRA involved in many activities – Carlton Conversations, the Lord Mayoral Forum in addition to the usual issues of planning, public housing, mobility, WHEA The Annual Report, presented at the meeting on 17 February, gives this information in detail, and is available on the CRA website:

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

In this issue of Newsflash you will be able to read further on the 2024 Survey, which has been very valuable in giving direction to planning for 2025.

Also included is a ‘Call for Action on Affordable Housing’, and an outline of how the Agenda for Carlton will be helpful in addressing issues raised in the survey,

Ellen Sandell comments on an issue which also concerns CRA –that the process of Melbourne Council elections is undemocratic.

Please take note of requests for feedback on issues of parking and the installation of CCTV along Lygon Street.

The committee values your feedback and looks forward to your involvement in 2025 and beyond.

CRA AGM 17 February 2025

Thank you to all those members who attended the meeting held again at ‘The Studio’ in Melbourne Connect. Our thanks once again go to Phil Callaghan, Director of Operations at Melbourne Connect, for organizing the use of the Studio. Both 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 2025 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 continue to elect up to seven ordinary committee members, four were elected so there are vacancies for three others.

Thanks to the Committee members for their dedicated work in 2024, the year has been very busy with

new projects emerging and a consolidation of ideas. A special thanks to CRA member Ewan Ogilvie for all his dedicated work with planning and Heritage. Ewan has moved from Carlton and hopefully will return.

We appreciate the support members give to this hard working committee and to the working groups of CRA. We are always open to suggestions.

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

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



2024 Survey Summary

1. Survey - The why?

The CRA member survey provides the committee with statistically viable feedback based on valuable local insights from you, our longstanding Carlton residents, members and friends.

Thank you all again for taking the time to respond. The answers and themes were used at a committee strategy session and contributed to the development of 'An Agenda for Carlton.'

2. Survey - What do you care about?

A fairly broad mix of reasons led you all to Carlton initially, with key ones being **convenience** and finding a **suitable home**. Carlton's proximity to the city, work or study was also an important factor in your decision to choose Carlton as your base.

The theme of convenience continues with the selection of **walkability** as one of the top things you love about Carlton.

Heritage and history, eating and shopping locally and the parks and **green space** follow closely behind as most loveable to you.

Inappropriate development is the least liked aspect of the suburb. This was placed firmly alongside **traffic**, **hooning** and noise, **unsafe & unclean** streets and empty shopfronts.

You responded with seeing the three emotive C's of **contribution**, **communication** and **connection** as a valued part of membership.

This was balanced and combined with key practical reasons of the CRA's support for **planning** and **heritage preservation**. Then **mobility** and **services** come as close contenders, tying back to the importance of walkability in Carlton.

Planning, **Heritage** and **Greening** are your absolute key concerns for CRA focus in the suburb with **two thirds** of all respondents ticking these boxes.

"Retaining a **heritage feel** and **challenging** inappropriate development"

"Improving the **green aspect** of parks and streetscapes"

"Improving the **mobility and walkability** of Carlton"

And a close fourth: "**Minimising traffic and noise**"

The reasons you renew are reflective of previous themes from the top cited reason of **planning** and **heritage** added to the 3 x CRA C's of **communication**, **contribution** and **connection**.

3. Survey - How are we doing?

Over 80% of you agreed or strongly agreed that the CRA is delivering on its purpose and aims. This helps us with a **mandate** when approaching local authorities and the council, and gives the committee confidence that we are on the right track to continue **advocating** and **representing** member views.

There is of course always room for **innovation**, **improvement** and **change**, whilst generally we are heading in the right direction with members aims top of mind.

Some of your main suggestions for change:

- *increasing and diversifying membership to better represent our diverse community,*
- *introducing resident meetings and other methods, including website use, for direct feedback and support,*
- *continue to expand thinking, areas and scope and be even more outspoken on issues,*
- *support good development where it is proposed; some change is good for the local area,*
- *give greater priority to environmental challenges,*
- *focus on quality of living in Carlton which includes issues of noise, state of the street scape,*
- *cherish the REB and its World Heritage status, it's wonderful the building & grounds are used for their original purpose: exhibiting*

CRA membership renew or join now:

Use Trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CWHNC>

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.

Summary Brief: A Community Call for Affordable Housing in Carlton

Introduction: Housing is a human right. Yet, in Melbourne, thousands of families, key workers, students, and vulnerable community members are struggling to afford a place to live. We, the Carlton Residents Association and concerned citizens, stand together to demand real action from the State Government. We are in an election year—promises must be kept, and we need guarantees that social and affordable housing remains the priority.

The Crisis at Hand:

- **6,000+ affordable housing units** are needed right now, with demand growing.
- Market rents are **pushing key workers and vulnerable people out** of the communities they serve.
- Decades of underinvestment have created a **housing crisis** that threatens Melbourne's social fabric.
- It's starting with the removal of Social Housing tenants in Elgin Street, leaving the tower blocks empty for years, and having only plans for demolishing and 'plans' for the rebuild. There have been **no answers from Homes Victoria or the State government** regarding any assurances that the rebuild will be solely for social and affordable housing, or what the budget for this will be.
- Alternatives to demolition must be seriously considered. Research from **Melbourne University and architectural organisations** has shown that **refurbishment is a viable alternative**. The State Government has the ability to commit to this option rather than resorting to commercial property developers who have no intent to prioritise social and affordable housing needs.

What We Are Asking For:

1. **Full Transparency on the Rebuild** – The State must confirm that new buildings will be **reserved for social and affordable housing**, not sold to developers.
2. **Serious Investment in Affordable Housing** – The government must commit to **long-term, consistent funding**, not just election-year promises.
3. **A Fairer Housing Market** – Stronger **penalties for vacant properties**, incentives for developers to build affordable housing, and **rental market regulations** to stop price gouging.
4. **Innovative Funding Solutions** – The government must explore **partnerships with superannuation funds, social ventures, and financial institutions** to increase investment.
5. **Planning Reform & Streamlined Approvals** – Affordable housing projects must be **prioritised in planning approvals** to prevent unnecessary delays.
6. **Community- Centred Development** – Housing should be built **near schools, healthcare, transport, and jobs**, ensuring people can thrive, not just survive.
7. **Public Awareness & Education** – We need a **city-wide campaign** to reduce stigma, increase public understanding, and build widespread support for affordable housing.

What's at Stake? If action isn't taken now, we risk losing the diverse, vibrant, and inclusive Carlton we love. Without intervention, families will be forced out, workers will have to commute hours to their jobs, and homelessness will continue to rise.

How You Can Help:

- **Write to your local MP** to demand clear answers and a commitment to affordable housing.
- **Spread the word** – talk to your neighbours, share on social media, and make your voice heard.

We have a choice: to stand by and watch the crisis deepen, or to take action and ensure Melbourne remains a city where everyone has a place to call home.

Let's fight for a fairer future—together.



Agenda for Carlton

The allocation by council portfolios to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and the nine councillors recognises the need to address a range of municipality challenges and opportunities. They include infrastructure, planning, city economy and business, community and city services, finance, governance and risk, safety and cleaning, tourism and events, environment, aboriginal Melbourne, creative and arts, education and innovation.

The allocation of councillor portfolios therefore provides the Carlton Residents Association, residents and local business with the opportunity to direct their issues and interests to a specific councillor and their portfolio responsibilities - <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/future-melbourne-committee>.

This information is useful as it enables us to identify not only the portfolio holder but the responsibilities of each councillor and therefore their deliverables both in words and resultant actions. We have therefore matched the portfolio responsibilities to the Agenda for Carlton priorities. This can be useful in contacting individual councillors - <https://www.carltonresidents.org.au/cra-2012/com/>

Over the next 12 months we will be inviting councillor portfolio holders to write a column in Newsflash setting out their response to the Agenda for Carlton. We believe that this will be of interest to CRA members and friends and will enable all councillors to contribute to the amenity of the Carlton community.

CCTV AND YOU



CCTV cameras were installed in several locations along Lygon Street in 2024

The aim to make Lygon Street safer..

There have been recent statements that a number of lawbreakers have been caught because of these cameras

**Do
you
feel
safer?**

Let CRA know:

carltonresidents@gmail.com

Melbourne's Council elections are undemocratic and need to be fixed

Ellen Sandell, State MP for Melbourne writes:

One resident = one vote is the foundation of our modern democracy. But in the City of Melbourne, while residents get one vote, businesses get two! That includes national and overseas business owners who may have otherwise never set foot in our city.

What this means is that residents living in our city get less say on how their city is run than multinational corporations do. In fact, residents make up just 53% of all votes in the City of Melbourne.

It's not just the voting system that needs fixing. Another serious issue is the lack of regulation of donations to Council candidates and their campaigns. Right now, there is no cap on how much a candidate can receive in donations. Recently, our Lord Mayor made headlines for accepting tens of thousands of dollars from donors with property interests in the City of Melbourne. These donations don't have to be publicly disclosed until *after* the election has finished, so voters are not aware who is funding each candidate.

Our city council should be answerable to the community, not to property developers with deep pockets. Corporate interests shouldn't have more say in council decisions than the people who live here.

We urgently need reforms to ensure that Melbourne's council elections are fair, transparent, and truly democratic. The Greens and I will keep pushing the Labor government to:

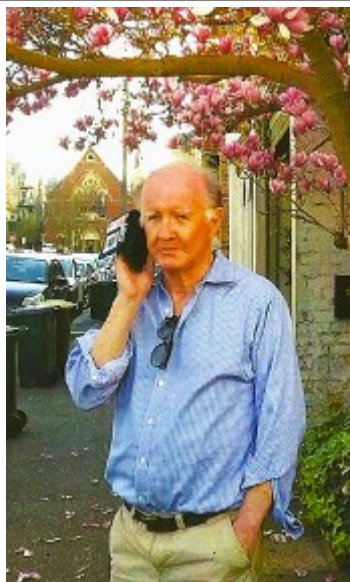
- Cap donations to council candidate campaigns
- Disclose donations in real-time, and
- Amend the City of Melbourne Act so businesses don't get two votes

This would go a long way to restoring people's faith in our local democracy.

If there's anything I can help you with, please get in touch: ellen.sandell@parliament.vic.gov.au



Community News



Late Paul Madden AM, Australia Day Award

We are delighted to learn of the posthumous award to the late Paul Madden, Member of the Order of Australia (AM), Australia Day 2025. Citation: *For significant service to the community through social welfare organisations, social policy development and the arts.*

Paul was a long time, widely respected, CRA member. He died suddenly on 20 November 2022.

A more detailed account of Paul's life was included in his Obituary, published in the CRA Newsflash, December 2022 ([Vale Paul Madden, p5](#))

We rejoice with his family in this nationally significant award. He lives on in our memories.

Takes the cake....

A look at a Lygon Street and a Lygon Street Icon



Carlton has its icons but Brunetti's must take the cake for providing us with an Italian icon in an ever changing Lygon Street. It holds its own in the street as a reflection of a past and a preparedness to grapple with the challenges of the future.

A recent Carlton Conversations evening with Fabio Angele owner of Brunetti Classico was personable, enjoyable and informative. Fabio traversed the history of his family living in Italy to the '56 Melbourne Olympics where his father was a member of the Italian Team. No, not as an athlete but a chef.

The Italian team bought with them food from home wary of what was on offer here in Melbourne. They were rightly prepared. And like the Angele family

many stayed! The rest is a culinary history of the Angele family's contribution to coffee, cakes and Italian fare here in Carlton and across Melbourne.

Carlton was the beneficiary of the Angele family, the Brunetti trade name and the coffee, cakes and Italian fare served in Brunetti Classico in Lygon Street. It was an evening of roaming through Fabio's life with tales and photos of the family, times back home and times here in Melbourne and in Carlton.

We sat in the Brunetti Classico dining room and were treated to antipasto, cakes, by Brunetti and with wine supplied by the Carlton Residents Association (CRA). The Carlton Conversations is a feature of the CRA's contribution to the past and current life and times of Lygon Street and its future.

And the intention is clear; to rejuvenate Lygon Street as a destination for not only Carlton but the people of Melbourne and beyond. The convivial evening concluded with many questions and a commitment to join with the CRA and Carlton Inc in developing a '2035 Vision for Lygon Street'.

We need to reflect on Lygon Street's past and plan for its future as a destination for residents and visitors alike. We need a 24/7 street and not be beholden to a night time economy only. We need diversity in the street that recognises the needs of residents and the interests of visitors both day and night.

The CRA has made a start in the conversation with the recently released draft plan for the rejuvenation of Lygon Street by Committee member, Peter Sanders. The aim would be to create a vibrant, sustainable and accessible retail and entertainment spine for Carlton.

The plan would include a reduction in the speed limit to 30km/h, extensions to the footpath to allow for dining and seating, and a reduction in traffic flows to one lane each way. The conversation shouldn't stop there but start now.

And that conversation should include the continuation of the bluestone paving beyond the east side of Lygon Street between Queensberry to Pelham Street that is expected to commence this month.

Whilst the council has committed funds for this section of bluestone paving there is no guarantee of funding for the paving of the remainder of the street. A patchwork approach will not lead to the rejuvenation of our iconic Lygon Street. We need a collaborative and comprehensive plan.

That would certainly take the cake!



Parking in Carlton

Parking and you???

In 2024 the City of Melbourne circulated the following information in regards to parking.



In residential areas, we will apply controls from 7am–11pm Mon–Sun. This increase will support parking turnover and availability.

- In commercial areas primarily around the Lygon precinct, restrictions will be 7am–9pm Mon–Sun. We will continue to assess if these adjustments support late night dining and shopping activities.
- We aim to align all parking times to 2P Meter or 3P Meter, however some areas with
- existing restrictions such as 1/2P where there is high demand for resident parking will be maintained in the first round of changes
- An off-peak rate will be introduced to help support the adjustment to evening and weekend paid parking.
- This will be set at \$2 per hour.
- We will trial tow away signage in identified laneways across Carlton to support with access across the neighbourhood.
- We will trial phone only payment to lessen the impact of physical meters on the street and in residential areas
- 15 Minutes Free Parking in any 'green sign' space via the EasyPark app will be



introduced in Carlton following the success of this initiative in the central city and Southbank

- Promotion of the significant off-street parking capacity in Carlton through our communications channels.

Parking that won't be changed this round include:

- Number of resident permit exempt bays will not change where there are associated permits
- There will be no additional meters in unmetered segments across Carlton.
- Minimal meters will be introduced on streets where meters exist but do not cover the entire kerbside.

Contact CRA with your thoughts:
carltonresidents@gmail.com

