



The Carlton Residents Association Inc

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Carlton Resident's Association

30th ANNUAL REPORT for 2025

Presented at the AGM held 16 February 2026

At The Studio, Melbourne Connect

CRA is a democratic, non-party-political association which acts to sustain Carlton's identity and improve its assets and liveability.

2025 CRA Committee

Martin Brennan – Vice President

Lyn Cracknell – Secretary

Marissa Doyle - Information Technology

Leslie Kilmartin - Active member

Trish O'Loughlin- President

Megan Stevenson - Active member

Peter Sanders - Planning

Philip Watts - Treasurer

2025 CRA Planning Committee –

Malcolm Foo

Warren Green

Blair Healy – Convenor

Ewan Oglivy

Elizabeth Pearce

Dennis Toth

Peter Sanders - Convenor

Presidents Report:

In 2025 we have continued to live out our values of:

Contribution Communication and Connection

Keeping our focus on priorities of:

- **Getting the fundamentals right,**
- **Putting people first by being welcoming to everyone,**
- **Showing kindness and respect to all regardless of race, religion, social status or wealth.**
- **Maintaining and creating a beautiful environment.**

CRA Areas of Involvement in 2025 – an overview

COMMUNICATION

Our main ways of communicating with CRA members, friends and community members have been through our Website, NewsFlash, eflash , Inner City News and word of mouth.

Our community connections include:

Carlton Inc - Sergio Anderlucci

Melbourne Connect,

PCCC - Nick Parissis

Presidents of Residents

EVENTS

Carlton Conversations: Fabio Angele, Jeff Atkinson, Nigel Watson

Our most recent Carlton Conversations gathering was a tremendous success — a lively dinner upstairs at Jimmy Watson's, followed by an entertaining and insightful talk from Nigel, Jimmy's grandson, who shared history, humour and community spirit in equal measure. A wonderful night out!

Full House for the History Walk – lead by Jeff Atkinson

Our local History Walk was completely booked out, with residents and visitors alike spilling into the streets to enjoy a fascinating tour led by our brilliant local historian. It's clear that Carlton's stories continue to inspire and unite our community.

Christmas Party – Thanks to La Mama for hosting once again

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT Planning issues, other Resident Associations, PCCC, Friends of Queen Victoria Market, Friends of Carlton Gardens, Lygon Street Market, La Mama, University Estate Plan, CoM Parking,

World Heritage and planning issues often overlap and are intertwined

Members of the Committee, along with local community leaders, met with the Hon. Ellen Sandell to request she raise questions at the Victorian Government Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Hearings.

We also met recently with Sarah Witty MP at her Johnson Street office to discuss heritage protections and the Draft Strategy Plan for the Royal Exhibition Building. We remain deeply concerned about timelines and the path to implementation — and we'll keep working hard for a clear, community-focused result.

At the Melbourne Futures Committee meeting, we lodged a submission opposing the proposal at 43 MacKenzie Street — and Council agreed not to support it. A huge relief, and a win for Carlton's heritage fabric.

The CRA continues to support a review of the City of Melbourne Act and the electoral provisions and calls on the Minister to announce the schedule and terms of reference. There should be an open and transparent review of the Act.

Strengthening Community Connections

We've stepped up our outreach this year — engaging more frequently and proactively with residents, local representatives, and organisations.
Building these relationships is a core focus for us moving into 2026.

Please take time to read the reports from the working groups for more information about the work of CRA in 2025

A warm greeting to newcomers and a proud celebration of this diverse, dynamic neighbourhood we all love

We're proud to reflect on how we've continued to live out our values of Contribution, Communication, and Connection.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the CRA throughout 2025, whether by supporting with membership, attending an event, lending expertise, or simply staying informed and engaged.

Trish O'Loughlin
President

REPORTS

Planning **Convenors** – Peter Sanders and Blair Healy

The focus has been on Heritage issues, related specifically to derelict buildings and demolition of Heritage listed buildings. There are continued discussions around C405 the Carlton Heritage Review and its implications..

Other issues include:

- A proposal regarding rejuvenation of Lygon Street. The aim is to reduce through traffic, widen footpaths, increase planting, increase on street parking, make the street pedestrian friendly.

Consultation with Carlton Inc. is ongoing

- the threat to Carlton with RMIT expansion

- the reopening of Queensberry Street has not proceeded as planned- the works are to reduce traffic flow by having one lane in each direction. Bicycle lanes will be introduced and tree planting increased.

Mobility **Convenors** – Peter Sanders, Martin Brennan and other members as appropriate.

The Carlton Residents Association has expressed strong support for mobility across our suburb and the municipality that is sustainable, integrated and accessible. The Carlton Residents Association sees the integration of walking, public transport, motor vehicles and electric bicycles as important to efficient and effective mobility across there municipality

The works are to reduce traffic flow by having one lane in each direction. Bicycle lanes will be introduced and tree planting increased.

Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens

Convenors Trish O'Loughlin & Martin Brennan

Melbourne International Festival of Flowers

The Royal Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens hold a special place in the history of Carlton and the City of Melbourne. As a heritage listed building and gardens it is the responsibility of the State Government and the Melbourne City Council to protect the Royal Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens from developments and activities that would damage both their reputation and standing as a World Heritage listed site.

For this reason the Carlton Residents Association has forwarded to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and councillors in April 2025 a submission calling on the Council to review the use of the Carlton Gardens for the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show now undertaken by MARI Group, a new global company.

We have also requested that the Council undertake a feasibility study into moving a Melbourne International Festival of Flowers to central city venues both public and private. The Melbourne International Festival of Flowers would still use the Royal Exhibition Building and surrounding hard surfaces but not continue to damage the grass, trees and plantings in the Carlton Gardens in the medium and long term. The Council has yet to respond to our submission for a review and a feasibility study.

Communication Newsflash, eFlash, ICN, Website

Convenor Lyn Cracknell

The Newsflash:

Newsflash, published quarterly, is distributed to members and the community in hard copy and electronically. Currently the distribution covers, CRA members, politicians, inner city resident groups and other interested parties. Politicians (Local, State and Federal) and those who request it receive a hard copy in the mail.

The CRA website also has copies of each issue back to 2002. You can access these, along with the current edition, on the website: <https://www.carltonresidents.org.au/cra-2012/newsflash-archive-3/>

Ideally Newsflash is the voice of CRA to communicate areas of interest and involvement.

Currently CRA is asking two City of Melbourne Councillors to write in each issue, identifying their portfolio in relation to Carlton, and CRA's Agenda for Carlton. The Lord Mayor and Cr Gladys Liu contributed to the December 2025 issue. In addition, other Councillors may contribute throughout the year on items they deem of interest to the people of Carlton. Cr Olivia Ball has continued to alert the people of Carlton in this context.

The contribution of all those who have submitted articles is greatly appreciated as is the work of Mary Healy as proof reader.

If you would like to receive a hard copy, or cancel this delivery in the future, please email CRA at carltonresidents@gmail.com

As in 2024 we have continued to feature a view of Carlton on the front page of each edition in 2025. If you have a photo you think might be appropriate for the front page, usually best in portrait layout, please email it to: carltonresidents@gmail.com

The Website:

The CRA website provides information for you to stay informed about the work of CRA and broader aspects of life in Carlton. It also provides an archive of activities and past projects

HOME - Current news, activities and events,

ABOUT US – About CRA, How CRA Works, Meetings, Achievements

NEWS – Community News, Newsflash

EVENTS –

LIVING IN CARLTON – CoM, A History, Walks, Links, Map

JOIN US – Join CRA Now, Make a Donation, Meetings

CONTACT US – Contact CRA, CRA Committee Members, Join CRA Now

Please take some time to become familiar with our website there is wealth of information to discover. Members are invited to comment or make suggestions regarding any of the above. Please do so using the carltonresidents@gmail.com email address.

eflash: The circulation of eflash has continued to be used as a means of circulating information about current and approaching events, both CRA and community related.

Inner City News:

The Carlton Residents Association has taken advantage of having a monthly column in the Inner City News. The Inner City News provides the Carlton, Parkville and East Melbourne communities with a unique window into the workings of the Melbourne City Council, local business activities and resident issues and concerns. Sean Car, publisher of the Hyperlocal newspapers, provides resident associations across the Melbourne municipality with access to multiple newspapers covering the municipality. The Carlton Residents Association recognises the importance of a local newspaper to community connectedness.

Greening and Pocket Parks

Convenors Marissa Doyle Megan Stevenson

Faraday Street, Pelham Streets, tree maintenance, urban forest coverage across Carlton

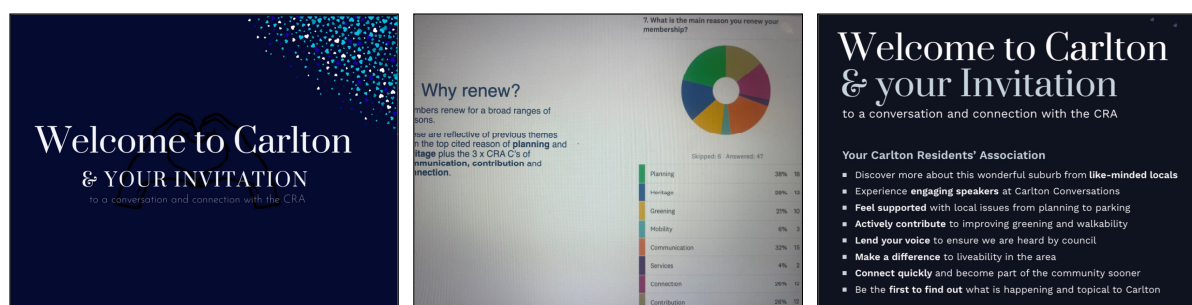
The Carlton Residents Association has requested the Council to continue to enhance and grow our urban forest in new and innovative ways and to maintain existing trees, plantings and our gardens and parks to aesthetically and environmentally add to the amenity and health of residents and visitors.

The heat island effect is clearly playing out in our urban environment and the continued and additional tree planting and creation of green spaces in Carlton such as in Faraday Street outside the Kathleen Syme Library are necessary additions to our green environment.

Marketing & Awareness

Convenor Marissa Doyle

Promoting the benefits of CRA membership by connecting Carlton Residents



Building on *our* reasons for membership

Your response to the research study is pivotal to the way we are marketing the CRA to the Carlton community. The things that matter to you, and the reasons you renew membership have been applied to showcase the many and varied practical and emotional benefits of becoming a member of the CRA.

Our tone of voice for these benefits and our 'why' is intentionally conversational and warm, we seek to be an inviting association open to all. There are opportunities in 2026 and beyond to build beyond broad awareness and actively seek newly arrived Carlton Residents through various tactics and approaches. The first small use of this approach in 2025 included a full page advert in the Carlton Directory circulated to over 10,000 Carlton Community members and local businesses. We secured a prime spot at the front of the publication and are testing a call to action, again a welcoming approach open to all, with a simple coffee and conversation in Carlton

Finance

Convenor Philip Watts

Carlton Residents Association Inc 2025

	ACTUAL 2025	BUDGET 2025	BUDGET 2026
Income \$			
City of Melbourne Community Grant	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Donations & Sundry Income	\$ 390.00	\$ -	
Carlton Conversation Income	\$ 1,540.00		\$ 500.00
Subscriptions Received/Membership	\$ 5,184.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Other revenue (Raffle, cards, drinks etc)	\$ 603.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 600.00
Walking Tours	\$ 454.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00
Total Income	\$ 10,171.00	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 8,500.00
Expenses \$			
Contributions, Donations & Memberships		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Licenses & Taxes, Annual Return Fees	\$ 49.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Public Liability, Officers Insurance	\$ 1,148.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,300.00
Newsflash newsletter	\$ 2,044.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00
Postage	\$ 170.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Printing & Stationery	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Web site hosting, maintenance, Zoom	\$ 549.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00
Postbox	\$ 159.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 170.00
Carlton Conversation Expenses	\$ 2,937.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 2,000.00
Miscellaneous & Sundry Expenses	\$ 292.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Neighbour Day Expenses		\$ 100.00	\$ 500.00
Christmas Party Expenses	\$ 747.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
Membership Promotion	\$ 550.00		\$ 600.00
Total Expenses	\$ 8,745.00	\$ 6,360.00	\$ 8,470.00
Surplus/(Loss) 2025	\$ 1,426.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00

BALANCE SHEET as @ 31/12/25

Assets \$	
Bendigo Bank trading account	\$ 6,875.00
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit One	\$ 8,288.00
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit Two	\$ 6,791.00
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit Three	\$ 7,578.00
TryBooking account	\$ 5.00
Total Assets \$	\$ 29,537.00
Total Liabilities \$	\$ -
Net Assets \$	\$ 29,537.00

Governance Melbourne City Council & Carlton Residents Association

Martin Brennan

Agenda for Carlton, councillor portfolios and reform of the council

The Carlton Residents Association is supportive of the Council's request to the Minister for Local Government, Hon Nick Staikos, to review the City of Melbourne Act.

The Minister has not made his intentions clear as to his understanding of the issues nor appreciated the urgent need for reform of the electoral provisions or structure of the current Council. We therefore call on the Minister to make clear his intentions prior to the election of a new government and member of Melbourne in November. 2026

The Agenda for Carlton established in 2024 remains a guiding document for the Carlton Residents Association. We will continue to advocate for the Agenda for Carlton and develop new approaches to issues of interest and concern during 2026.

In 2025 we negotiated with the Council a positive response to our request for councillors to report on their portfolio responsibilities in our Newsflash.

We look forward in 2026 to inviting each of the councillors to report on their portfolio responsibilities to Carlton residents and local traders and to respond to wider issues that impact on the City of Melbourne

CRA 2026 Focus areas

Mobility and Greening	Melbourne Proposal
Walkability and Traffic	Melbourne City Council – Parking in Carlton
Lygon Street rejuvenation	Melbourne City Council - Presidents meetings
Pocket Parks	City of Melbourne’s People’s Panel: Affordable Housing
Planning	Friends of the Queen Victoria Market.
Heritage consultation	PCCC – Police Community Consultation.
Derelict Buildings	
Queensberry Street	