



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

NEWSFLASH

March 2026



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The Swamp Everlasting - Melbourne Floral Emblem



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Services Grants Program

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A Message from the President – Trish O’Loughlin

2026 is in definitely underway for us all and especially for CRA.

We continue 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.

There are plans afoot to further develop the greening of Carlton and a campaign to address the issue of derelict buildings and the associated graffiti, to list just a few. The link to the annual report is available below. Read this report to find out more about the plans for 2026.

In this issue of Newsflash two councillors, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell and Cr Kevin Louey report on their folio responsibilities.

There is also an invitation for members to consider joining the planning committee and also the CRA committee to bring new ideas and energy to the projects planned. Please make contact via the CRA email (carltonresidents@gmail.com) if you would like to meet with members of the committee for a coffee and to find out how CRA works.



AGM held 2026 to report on the work of CRA in 2025 and plans for 2026

The AGM was held on Monday 16 February 2026. Once again CRA was privileged to be able to hold the AGM in ‘The Studio’ at Melbourne Connect.

Our thanks go to Phil Callaghan, Director of Operations at Melbourne Connect and his staff for the welcome and the assistance given. Phil delivered the Acknowledgement of Country and a short history of the site and its context in the Carlton landscape.

The annual report is available on the CRA website at:

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

The committee for 2026 was elected and remains the same as 2025.

President: Trish O’Loughlin, **Vice-president:** Martin Brennan, **Secretary:** Lyn Cracknell, **Treasurer:** Philip Watts, **Ordinary Members:** Peter Sanders, Megan Stevenson, Les Kilmartin, Marissa Doyle.

There are vacancies for 3 more members on the committee – please give serious consideration to serving the community of Carlton in this way. There are many ideas for the future – more heads are needed to help these come to fruition.

CRA 2026 Focus areas

Mobility and Greening

Walkability and Traffic

Lygon Street rejuvenation

Pocket Parks

Planning

Heritage consultation

Derelict Buildings

Queensberry Street

Melbourne Proposal

Melbourne City Council – Parking in Carlton

Melbourne City Council - Presidents meetings

City of Melbourne’s People’s Panel: Affordable

Housing

Friends of the Queen Victoria Market

PCCC – Police Community Consultation.

Planning: next meeting 14 April

Planning group usually meets the first Tuesday of each month. The April meeting will however be as above.

Recent focus has been on Heritage issues, related specifically to derelict buildings and demolition of Heritage listed buildings. In addition the group is active in addressing issues of concern for wellbeing and the environment where planning can make a difference. These include the rejuvenation of Lygon St, the threat to Carlton with RMIT expansion, the reopening of Queensberry St given Grattan St is again open to traffic. The major responsibility to review town planning applications relevant to postcode 3053 continues in order to decide whether the CRA should lodge objections. Generally objections relate to non-compliance, erosion of amenity, height, heritage, Design Overlay.

Please make contact via the CRA email (carltonresidents@gmail.com) if you would like to meet with members of the planning committee for a coffee and to find out how CRA works.

Greening



Members of the CRA committee walked Carlton on Monday 16 March 2026 with Cr Davydd Griffiths and council officers.

Ideas to green areas shown in the map on the left were discussed.

Read more on the [CRA website](#)

Let us know your thoughts

Send your ideas to the CRA gmail:

carltonresidents@gmail.com

**Next Lygon St Market Sunday 5 April 2026
10am to 3pm**

CoM

Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell

Portfolios:

Planning Deputy for Tourism and Events.



Cr Campbell, Deputy Lord Mayor

There's been a lot happening around Carlton lately – from a focus on cleaner streets to protecting the neighbourhood's wonderful heritage. Here's a look at some of the work we have been doing in this beloved area.

Cleaner streets

Keeping our streets looking their best is a shared effort, and we've made it easier for you to report unwanted graffiti using the free Snap Send Solve app. While our Rapid Response Clean Team do a wonderful job spotting and removing graffiti – removing racist graffiti in under 1 hour and resolving standard reports within 24 hours – community reports help us respond faster.

With a few taps on your phone, you can send a photo and track the clean-up progress. The app also assists with reporting rubbish, abandoned trolleys and signage issues, and we're already seeing more reports resolved quickly. I would love to hear about your experiences using Snap Send Solve.

Respecting heritage

At our Future Melbourne Committee meeting on 11 November 2025, we considered a proposal for a new student accommodation tower at 43 Mackenzie Street within our beloved Royal Exhibition Building World Heritage Environs Area.

While we strongly support well-located student housing, Councillors raised serious concerns about the proposal – particularly the heritage impacts and its height within the World Heritage Environs Area, limited setbacks, reduced daylight access for neighbours, small communal areas and inadequate sustainability measures. Council unanimously resolved not to support the proposal in its current state and advocated for significant improvements.

Since then, the Minister for Planning has approved the development, but with important conditions. These include reducing the building height to meet mandatory controls, redesigning internal layouts, achieving a minimum 5-star Green Star rating, improving flow of natural light and formalising affordable housing and student accommodation use plans. We hope that these amendments result in a better outcome for the entire community.

I want to personally take this opportunity to thank the CRA for your advocacy, submission and participation at the council meeting.

Taking action on dilapidated buildings

We all want a neighbourhood we can be proud of. Vacant or rundown sites affect safety and amenity. That's why Council is taking a more proactive approach to lifting standards.

A small number of sites, such as the former Cancer Council office on Rathdowne Street have remained vacant for years. The prominent location highlights just how extensive the neighbourhood impacts can be when buildings are left in this state. It shapes how the wider neighbourhood looks and feels.

Council is looking at levers to act on vacant and dilapidated buildings like the Cancer Council site. I would be delighted to hear directly from you about what you would like to see happen in these cases.

roshina.campbell@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Cr Louey

Portfolio: City Economy and Business

Carlton's renowned dining, retail and cultural scene continues to shine, supported by ongoing streetscape upgrades and the hard work of our local traders. Below are some of the recent initiatives helping to connect businesses and the community that give Carlton its unique energy.

Lygon St footpaths

We're continuing to improve safety, accessibility and the overall experience for everyone who visits, shops and dines along Lygon Street. As part of our long-term upgrade program, the ageing asphalt footpaths are being replaced with bluestone pavers between Queensberry and Elgin streets. The first stage of works – the eastern side of Lygon Street between Queensberry and Pelham – was completed mid-2025. The second stage of works will begin in April, upgrading the western side between Queensberry and Argyle Place south, due to finish mid-year. You can look forward to rebuilt kerbs, refreshed street furniture, enlarged tree plots and improved access ramps.

Find more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/footpath-improvement-program.



Cr Louey

Supporting local business

Carlton is known for its dynamic dining and retail culture, defined by unique local traders that draw visitation from far and wide. Cafés, restaurants, bookstores, boutiques and grocers make Carlton a place people can't get enough of. A big thank you to Carlton Inc, your local trader precinct group, for championing and connecting local businesses. Their work has helped continue activating the area, attracting visitors and strengthening the local economy. We're proud to support Carlton Inc with this important work through our Precinct Business Association Program 2025–27.

Lygon Street Market continues to be a monthly staple, with Piazza Italia (Argyle Square) transforming into a bustling showcase of locally made art, handcrafted goods and delicious food from independent makers. This market is expertly delivered by the team behind Rose Street Market, with support from Carlton Inc. Carlton's event calendar continues to grow too, with the Melbourne Italian Festa set to draw thousands to the Royal Exhibition Building and Museum Plaza in October.

While we're on business, a warm welcome to a few new Carlton businesses who opened recently, supported by our Business Concierge team.

- PT Studio at 84 Elgin Street
- Posh Nails Boutique at 65 Pelham Street
- Cafe de Armani at 144 Rathdowne Street
- Atsu Restaurant at 15-17 Lincoln Square South

Our Business Concierge team – the largest council-run service of its kind in Australia – is here to help anyone starting or running a local business. The team offers tailored support online or in person, helping new operators navigate permits and regulations, connecting people with mentoring and events and assisting existing businesses with Council-related processes. If you're thinking of starting a business, I highly recommend reaching out to our Business Concierge at businessconcierge@melbourne.vic.gov.au and also connecting with Carlton Inc.

NOW

is the time to join or renew your CRA membership

Do it [here](#)

OR, Direct Credit to Carlton Residents Association

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

Please include all details, especially your name, for EFT payments

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



We all care about heritage. It tells us about our past, enriches our present and informs our future. It can be our buildings and an expression of our intangible values.

Queen Victoria Market proudly encompasses both – built heritage and living culture – and its significance to our Australian society has been recognised by being listed as a National Heritage site.

How is it possible that its custodian, the City of Melbourne, believes it can appropriate one third of the National Heritage site for its own purpose as a developer?

The Council, under the leadership of Nick Reece, in partnership with private developer Lendlease, will convert the Market’s car park, essential to the Market’s viability, into a forecourt for the towers of Gurrowa Place on Franklin St, and incorporate the southern storage sheds into the proposed development. These storage sheds, as they have historically, are currently used for storage by the fruit and vegetable traders of the Market.

The new replacement underground storage facility on Queen St between the two halves of the market, nearing completion, is not-fit for-purpose according to produce traders who refuse to rent space there. Traders have told Council for years that it will be an impractical, logistical nightmare. The so-called ‘QVM Renewal’ is anything but.

Will we remember the heritage Queen Victoria Market in sepia photographs like so many other lost Melbourne gems? Is the heritage of Carlton safe?

Heritage issues to ponder:

Olivia Ball local resident, CRA member, CoM councillor



Some thoughts to ponder next time you are out walking.

Our footpaths

Bluestone is the iconic building material of Melbourne, the world’s greatest Victorian-era city.

However, bluestone is a finite natural resource and will one day run out. Our sources of bluestone are quarries in western Victoria and China. What bluestone remains should be reserved for heritage purposes, restoring and repairing the bluestone buildings and features we cherish. Like that beloved Melbourne landmark [Princes Bridge, which has just undergone a major restoration.](#)

The City of Melbourne has spent recent decades incrementally rolling out bluestone onto our city footpaths, only as they needed to be dug up for some other reason. Melbourne’s footpaths were previously a patchwork of concrete, asphalt and other forms of paving, even wooden blocks.*

This is now [extending to Carlton, with the east side of Lygon St](#) (between Queensberry & Pelham) repaved in bluestone last year, and the footpath opposite due to commence in April.

Maintaining our existing bluestone footpaths is unsustainable, let alone continuing the expansion of bluestone footpaths.

Being a dark coloured material, bluestone absorbs rather than reflects heat. This is a significant problem in a heating climate, as we need to find ways to cool our streets and public spaces.

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A climate-adapted city needs footpaths with these defining features:

- pale-coloured (to reflect heat)
- porous (to reduce run-off and flood risk, while helping water our street trees and greenery)
- made from recycled and recyclable materials.

They should also be durable, easy to clean and maintain, and as low-noise as practicable.

There are also high-tech options, whereby footpaths can generate renewable electricity, either through footfalls in high-traffic areas ('kinetic pavement' trialled in Sydney's Central Station in 2024) or photovoltaics in sunny areas. Yes, our footpaths could be made of solar panels (as trialled in the Netherlands in 2023 and Canada since 2017).

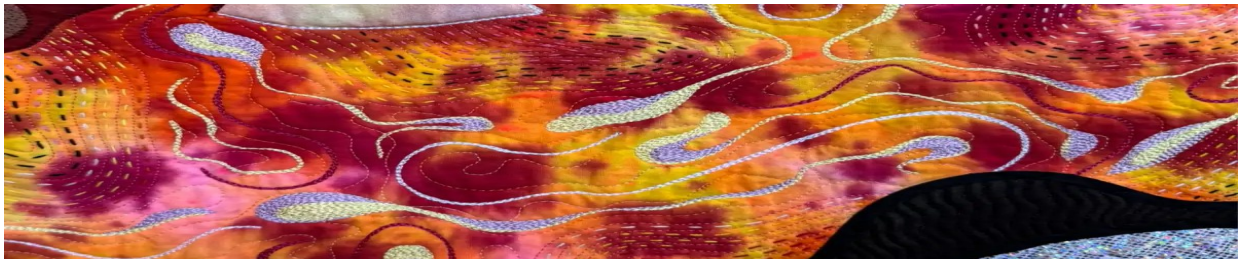
There are lots of options, and maybe multiple solutions for different parts of the City of Melbourne. Council has recognised the need to identify the best material(s) that meet the above criteria and we put this task in our *Council Plan 2025-29* (p50).

*Footnote: In 1897, 45 hectares of Melbourne streets were paved with wood, which was coated with tar annually. By the 1930s, it was replaced with concrete. Council gave the tarred wooden blocks to pensioners for firewood. (Melb Uni School of Historical & Philosophical Studies, 2008) <<https://www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM01639b.htm>>

International exhibitions at REB

The flower show, 25-29 March 2026.

For those of us who enjoy walking in and through Carlton Gardens South, this annual disruption is annoying. But it's quite extraordinary that after more than a century, the Royal Exhibition Building (REB) is still being used for its original purpose: international exhibitions.



Following the flower show will be the **Quilt Convention** at REB, 9-12 April, which will exhibit quilts from around the world, and offer one-, two- and 4-day quilting classes. Details: aqc.com.au

Melbourne trivia: Why is Exhibition St in the city is so named? Because it leads to the exhibitions! Previously called Stephen St in Robert Hoddle's schema, it was renamed by Melbourne City Council in 1898, after the REB was built and had hosted its first two great exhibitions.



Bluestone footpaths are a recent addition to Melbourne streetscapes. (Photo: Mark Strizic, 1954, from the City of Melbourne art collection)

CCTV – a police request

To improve service delivery and investigative efficiency, Victoria Police is partnering with the local community to record the location of private and business owned CCTV cameras.

CCTV owners have the option to provide Victoria Police their contact details, and in the event an incident occurs, police may contact registered CCTV owners in the vicinity of an incident to request access to CCTV footage. All personal details will be stored in a secure police database.

This is being rolled out into the Melbourne North and Melbourne police service areas (Carlton, Parkville, North Melbourne, Kensington, Docklands, East Melbourne, CBD).

The document found [here](#) on the CRA website can be completed and returned to the Melbourne North Police Station via MELBOURNENORTH-SECT@police.vic.gov.au

A new memorial for Melbourne

The Victorian Government has revealed artist drawings for a proposed memorial to honour the lives of workers killed in the workplace and their families

The memorial will be located on the corner of Victoria and Russell streets in Melbourne beside the Eight Hour Monument — built in 1903 to mark Victoria's place as the first in the world to mandate the 8-hour workday.

Find more information [here](#)



Carlton State School, number 112, in Faraday Street, Carlton



Kathleen Syme Community Centre and Library 2008

Grace Pullar established the school in 1858 and actually had the first classroom, a wooden structure, built at her own expense.

Originally known as Nell's School and redesignated as a State School in 1873, it used the building which had been completed in 1864.

For half a century, beginning in 1900, the top floor was used by the Melbourne Teachers' College. The school closed in 1972 and was used by the Royal Women's Hospital Teaching Unit.

Read more in [Inner City News 6 March](#) 2026 – courtesy of Carlton Community History Group

Melbourne Connect:

The doors opened five years ago with an ambitious idea that to bring researchers, founders and industry together under one roof could create something greater than the sum of its parts.

Explore those five years [here](#)

