



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

# NEWSFLASH

June 2026

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Argyle Square Autumn 2026



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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

### June 2026 What’s Happening at the Carlton Residents Association?

Hello Members, all Residents and Friends,

I hope you’re all keeping cosy, and enjoying what Melbourne offers at this time of the year. We are already halfway through 2026 and some of us are planning the family Christmas.

While continuing to be a strong voice for the good of Carlton, much of our work at the CRA takes place behind the scenes. There is always plenty to do, and we are always grateful to the members who contact us with ideas, concerns, and feedback.

At times, it may appear that little is happening, but our volunteers are constantly working collaboratively on behalf of the community. As with any voluntary community organisation, keeping all the balls in the air can be a challenge, but it is one we (mostly) willingly embrace.

Our working groups remain active between meetings, communicating regularly and addressing a wide range of projects and initiatives as well as participating and contributing in meetings with local and Federal Politicians, City of Melbourne Councillors, City of Melbourne Presidents of Residents meetings, Future Melbourne Meetings, Nick Parissis, APM (Australian Police Medal) at the Police Community Consultative Committee, Fitzroy Residents Association and collaborating with Carlton Organisations such as the ever welcoming Carlton Traders and La Mama and of course our wonderful Inner City News and others!

As usual the busiest groups are.....all of them!

#### **Working Groups are:**

- Planning and Heritage
- Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton Gardens and Heritage
- Greening
- Lygon Street Activities District
- Mobility
- City of Melbourne Liaison
- Communications
- Community Engagement
- Finance

Naturally, there is considerable overlap between many of these groups, reflecting the interconnected nature of the issues and opportunities that shape our community.

**Together, these groups help ensure that Carlton remains a vibrant, inclusive, and well-supported place to live, work, and visit.**

Keep a lookout for the next Carlton Conversations.

*We always welcome input and feedback from anyone in the Carlton community and beyond.*

Stay safe and stay cosy.

Trish



***Working groups***

**Planning**

**Liquor Licensing Law changes**

In Victoria, a major reform to liquor laws has removed the requirement for a separate local council planning permit to sell and consume liquor at venues. This means businesses will only need to apply for a licence to serve alcohol through Liquor Council Victoria (LCV).

So City of Melbourne planning application notices will no longer provide this information. The easiest way to obtain this information is to read planning notices which appear on a building when an application is made. Keep your eyes open. Let CRA know of any potential issues.

**CoM - City of Melbourne**

**THE BUDGET- City of Melbourne 2026 – 2027**

The budget has just been adopted by Council with the statement that it invests in greener spaces, cleaner streets and more active laneways, while also aiming to make the city easier to get around and better connected.

Read the budget 2026-27 Fast Facts [here](#)

**Meet Councillor Rafael Camillo**

**Portfolio:** Head - Safety and Cleaning, Deputy- Infrastructure,

How we deliver for inner-Melbourne communities affects all Victorians. Carlton is a great example of a neighbourhood which is both strongly community focused, while also attracting both local and international visitors.

When Carlton shines, when Melbourne delivers, then all of Victoria benefits. We must protect Melbourne’s world-famous liveability, and I am passionate about giving our inner-city residents a voice on how we go about doing this.

You only have to visit Di Stasio in Carlton and drink a coffee in its magical garden before heading to Cinema Nova to know the unique experiences Carlton offers. From beautiful Carlton Gardens, to the cultural hub that is La Mama, to vibrant Lygon Street, Carlton is a neighbourhood which has it all.

But there’s still work to do, and I know for many of you, safety is an issue. As City of Melbourne’s lead for the portfolio which has delivered record spending on community safety, graffiti removal and street cleaning, I am committed to building safer streets through a visible safety presence.



*Cr. Camillo*

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I moved to Melbourne as an international student from Brazil so have always supported the many international students who call Melbourne home. My hope is that through me they can see just what is possible if you dedicate yourself to this city.

I am a big supporter of Festa, which has been a part of how Carlton celebrates its Italian community for more than four decades in several forms. I know there are calls for it to return to its street festival roots – I believe that the future of this festival must come with community backing so would encourage you to show your support, so that Council can have the debate it needs, around this issue.

Safety is a big concern for me. We already have 11 Community Safety Officers out on streets, and this number will double in the next few months with Council’s commitment to increase funding. Our CSOs, as they are known, are here to support our vulnerable community members and are trained to manage complex on street situations.

We want everyone in Melbourne to feel safer on our streets, but we can’t do it alone. We must partner with State Government and Victoria Police to improve investment into early intervention and acute support services to strengthen community mental and physical health.

Similarly, our Safe City Camera program is an important step forward in reducing crime and keeping our streets cleaner. Footage captured across the camera network can be used to enforce local laws and issue fines. We also share this footage with Victoria Police. To be efficient in how we manage public space, we must ensure we have the right technology in place.

I also am concerned about hooning in the area and that people are not respecting the speed limits. Perhaps an increase in cameras could help to catch some of the culprits, if not help to reduce it altogether. I’m more than happy to advocate to State Government through the Department of Transport and Planning and Victoria Police, around this issue.

We all know how special Carlton is – having civic pride is important and part of that includes doing your part to keep it clean and safe through reporting graffiti. Many of you would have heard about the Snap Send Solve app, which helps you report unwanted graffiti straight from your phone.

I recently put forward an idea to Council to investigate how we can improve using our park benches to commemorate and remember our local heroes. Council has successfully backed this and I am excited to see results from the current investigation into how we can democratise our public space. I believe it is important to create connectivity between local people and our parks and the result will create a sense of pride and commitment to protecting our wonderful public spaces.

## **Meet Councillor Mark Scott**

**Portfolio : Head - Tourism and Events, Deputy - Creative and Arts,  
a Council representative on Melbourne Arts Trust.**

I want to make Melbourne one of the world’s most attractive and exciting places to live, but most of all one of the safest places to live. Through hard work and strong partnerships, I believe we can get there.

How we deliver for our inner-Melbourne communities affects all Victorians. As a lifelong resident of Melbourne, I’ve always seen Carlton as a hub for arts, entertainment and dining. From my 30 years’ professional experience in entertainment and publishing, I really admire long-standing businesses like Readings bookshop and Cinema Nova. They are critical to Carlton’s vibrant arts and culture scene.

For me Carlton still reflects a neighbourhood made up of thriving small business, which all do their bit to make up the cultural fabric of the area. For independent businesses to survive for so long is both a legacy to Carlton’s uniqueness and really Melbourne as a whole.

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As a small business owner myself, I believe it is an important time for small business to have a strong voice within Council because small businesses really are the heartbeat of the city economy. It is our retail shops and businesses that deliver the soul of our neighbourhoods' culture and the vitality that attracts tourists.

But, it is not only these small businesses which make Carlton the thriving neighbourhood it is. Institutions such as the University of Melbourne, La Mama, Carlton Gardens and the Royal Exhibition Building, all add to the amazing and accessible heritage on offer.

I am lucky to have a close connection with Carlton through my association with Queen Victoria Market. I started at the market initially in management as Head of Marketing, and since 2017, I have been a business owner.

I currently co-own Ripe-cheese and & Cured delicatessens in the Dairy Produce Hall. Most weekends I'm behind the counter chatting to local people, many of whom come from Carlton – the market really is an institution. This has given me huge empathy for how tough it is for small businesses. This was a big driver for taking on the role to champion and advocate for small businesses as part of my portfolio work as a City of Melbourne Councillor.

I am proud of the work we are doing to guide the strategic direction of major events for the City run by Council, including Melbourne Fashion Week, Now or Never, Moomba and the Christmas festival. This is on top of events we support through funding such as the Comedy Festival, the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival, and Cinema Nova's own Melbourne Queer Film Festival.

All these events help drive our city's economy but more importantly they connect our community to the lifeblood of our city. It is so great to see residents coming out and participating and I would encourage you to take advantage of all there is to offer on your doorstep. Our unique creative events and venues really do need your support.



*Cr. Scott*

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



A recent ABC News report highlighted a new initiative at Queen Victoria Market that redirects unsold produce from traders to food relief organisations helping vulnerable Melburnians.

The program deserves recognition. At a time when food insecurity is becoming a serious issue in Melbourne, it is heartening to see the Market and its traders supporting people doing it tough.

The ABC report noted that almost half of Melbourne residents are experiencing some level of food insecurity. This includes many public housing residents, students, pensioners and low-income workers struggling with rising living costs.

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Queen Victoria Market (QVM) has always played an important social role in Melbourne. For generations it has provided affordable fresh food and supported hundreds of small independent traders. It is one of the few places left in the city where ordinary people can still buy good quality produce at competitive prices.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece described food insecurity as ‘an absolutely shocking and unacceptable situation in an Australian city’. Most people would agree with him.

But this raises an important question. If food affordability and food security are now recognised as major issues, why are planning decisions continuing that may undermine the long-term accessibility and viability of Queen Victoria Market itself?

The City of Melbourne is proceeding with a major commercial redevelopment partnership with Lendlease in the southern precinct of the Market. At the same time, the Market continues to face years of disruption, loss of open space, traffic impacts and reduction of accessible parking.



*Vic Market is essential in protecting Melbourne's food security*

Many residents and traders are concerned that the gradual commercialisation of the precinct is changing the balance between public market functions and property development priorities.

This is not simply a heritage issue. It is about the future role of Queen Victoria Market as essential civic infrastructure.

Queen Victoria Market is National Heritage listed for good reason. It is not just a tourist attraction. It is one of Melbourne's most significant public marketplaces and remains critically important to the social and economic life of the city.

As Melbourne grows and living costs rise, protecting affordable food access should become more important, not less.

There is now a strong argument for an independent, dedicated QVM Master Plan

focused primarily on protecting the Market's long-term operation, accessibility and public value of the Market itself, free from the conflicts that arise when the same authority is both commercial development partner and steward of the Market.

The ABC story about food rescue highlights something much bigger. Queen Victoria Market is already helping address food insecurity in Melbourne. The question is whether future planning decisions will strengthen that role or slowly weaken it.

ABC News, 'Leftover Queen Victoria Market produce to be donated to hungry Melburnians', 21 May 2026.

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

### **Victoria Police Community Sentiment Survey 2026**

**Share your key safety concerns, how and when you want to interact with police, and where Victoria Police can focus efforts to prevent and deter crime**

**The survey closes Tuesday June 30**

**Complete the Survey [here](#)**

**Ellen Sandell, State MP for Melbourne writes:**

**Making the trip to school safe for Carlton Kids**



*Ellen Sandell State MP  
Cnr. Grattan and Rathdowne Sts.*

Carlton Gardens Primary School is a leader in sustainable transport. More kids ride and walk to school than any other school in Melbourne. This is a fantastic achievement and shows the values of our local community.

But right now, the Government is letting those kids down.

At the intersection of Grattan Street and Rathdowne Street, right in front of the school, there have been repeated traffic safety incidents and near misses. The intersection is confusing and chaotic, with cars, buses, bikes and pedestrians all competing for space with a confusing road design which creates real danger. On top of this, the pedestrian lights children use to cross the road change way too quickly for them to make it across to the other side in time before traffic moves again. For young kids on foot or on a bike, that is simply not good enough and both the state Labor government and the City of Melbourne have known about this for far too long without acting.

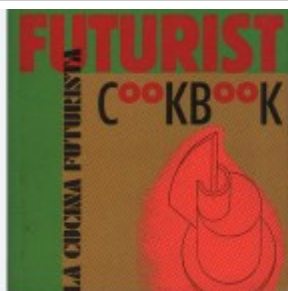
I have been calling on both levels of government to visit this intersection and take action. I visited the site with

local community members last month, and there has finally been some movement. The City of Melbourne has indicated it will undertake community consultation, beginning in July, on a neighbourhood redesign project covering these intersections, including improvements to traffic signals, signage and intersection design. A funding application for an additional crossing guard has also been submitted. These are welcome steps, but let's be clear: they are overdue, and we need to see some real action quickly.

That is exactly why local voices are so crucial in the consultation process. I am pushing for the school community to be formally engaged as a stakeholder, and I will keep pushing, but the more parents, carers, teachers and residents of Carlton participate in this process, the harder it becomes for the government to water things down or walk away from real improvements.

We cannot wait for a child to be seriously hurt before action is taken. Please reach out to my office to find out how you can get involved and help make these streets safer for our local kids at:

[office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com).



**COASIT**  
Cultural program  
events  
[here](#)  
199 Faraday  
Street, Carlton

*Prohibit Pasta July 10    Commedia dell'Arte July 14    Recurring Echos To 15 Aug*

## 9 May 1901 – 9 May 2026 – 125 years apart

**9 May 1901** – a date to remember and one to celebrate, the opening of the Federal Parliament of Australia, held in a building befitting the occasion, the Royal Exhibition Building.

Twelve thousand attended and the Royal Exhibition Building was the only building in Melbourne large enough to hold so many.

**9 May 2026** - Invited guests from government and community attended the gathering held to celebrate the 125th opening of Parliament in this grand space. There were fewer than 12000 this time, however, speeches from those at all levels of government and historical displays marked the occasion appropriately. The included photo was taken to represent the original painting of the ceremony in 1901, by artist Tom Roberts.

On this day, 125 years later, a great crowd of interested visitors viewed the building and visited the promenade after the official ceremony ended.



**The Past – the Royal Exhibition Building (REB)** - Built 1879 to 1880 as the venue for one of the great exhibitions of the time, the Melbourne International Exhibition 1880 to 1881 and then in 1888, the Centennial International Exhibition, celebrating 100 years of European settlement in Australia.

After a chequered history involving use as an exhibition space, an aquarium, a hospital and almost total demolition in the late 1940s the heritage of the building was finally recognised when given a UNESCO World Heritage listing in 2004.

**The Present**—Moves to protect and restore the building and the surrounding gardens are ongoing. The Dome Promenade and the German Garden have been restored but the building is in great need of close attention both inside and out.

In addition the task is to protect the streetscapes surrounding the site to place it in its rightful environment.

There are 3 bodies involved in maintenance of this great site:

- Federal Government - ensuring international and national heritage laws are followed to retain UNESCO status;
- State Government (Museums Victoria) - overseeing day-to-day management, conservation and operation of the building;
- City of Melbourne - managing the Carlton Gardens.

**The Urgent Call** -These three bodies are called on to waste no time and to work in unison, to seriously address the many issues involved with this responsibility.