



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSFLASH

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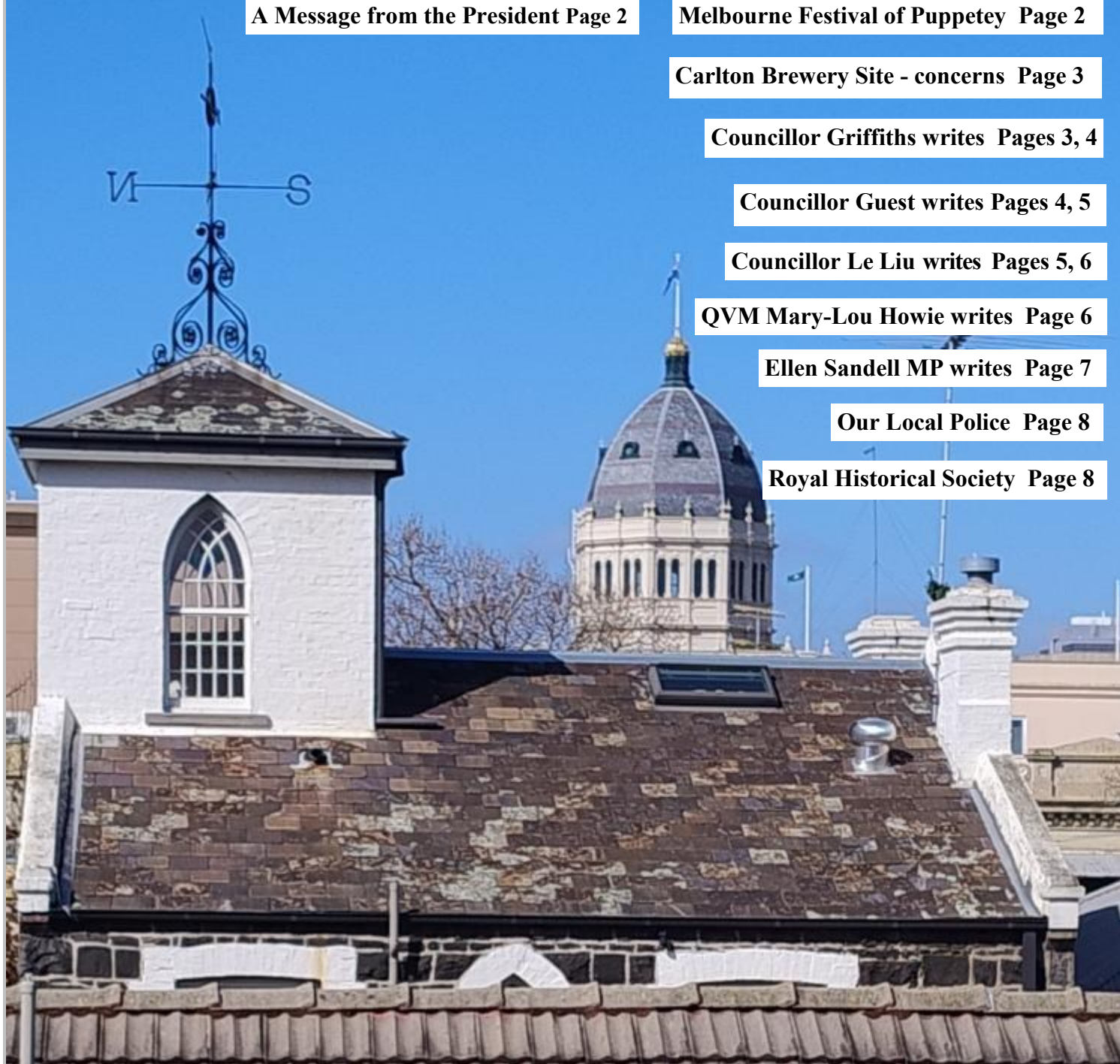
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Supported by the Community
Services Grants Program

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A Message from the President – Trish O’Loughlin

September 2026

Hello Everyone, Spring is here. Yay! Time to reconnect.

Finding connection in our modern age - particularly in Carlton.

It’s not out of nowhere that people are talking about the loneliness epidemic. People are disconnected. All over the western world we have become socially atrophied and profoundly lonely. Data shows Gen Z and the elderly report record high rates of loneliness and anxiety, but the generations in between aren’t far behind.

We are deeply aware of the de-socialisation that’s taking place in our society as we become more over-connected digitally and under-connected relationally. People don’t meet in person. People don’t party. People don’t just work remote, they live remote. Universities have lectures online only.

And with the collapse of shared communal structures and social safety nets, and as many true social networks have been replaced by social media and family members move further and further away from each other, people became freer but more alone.

Because Carlton is such a diverse suburb it’s more difficult to relate to all the different ages and cultures.

However, and this is important to know, we are very fortunate to have our meeting places here in Carlton - The Kathleen Syme Centre with its Library, Café, meeting rooms and Makers room as well as the Pubs in our area, the cafes and coffee places along Lygon St., and the parks and green spaces.

All of these areas make it easier to connect but how do we actually do it?

Belonging has never existed without responsibility to others. Building connections takes effort.

Some small ways we can connect actively and take responsibility not just for ourselves but for our community.

- Make use of all our communal places such as the library.
- Say Hello, familiarity grows from these tiny acknowledgements.
- Smile at a stranger, as you look them in the eye.
- Check on a neighbour.
- Support local places like the local cafes and bookshops.
- Look up from our phones
- Make room for different opinions.
- Take an interest in the suburb we share.
- Thank people - the tram driver, the cleaner, and the shop assistant.
- Be courageous and vulnerable.

Trish O’Loughlin CRA President



Melbourne Festival of Puppetry presented by CO.AS.IT. and La Mama Theatre

KIDS WORKSHOPS AT CO.AS.IT. 199 FARADAY ST, CARLTON

Ages 4–10 | Duration 60’ | Parents / Carers stay onsite | Cost: \$ 15 | Registration essential

Tue 22 Sep 2026

- 10:30–11:30AM – SOCK PUPPETS: Registration [here](#)
- 2:30–3:30PM – JUNK PUPPETS: Registration [here](#)

Wed 23 Sep 2026

- 10:30–11:30AM – MARIONETTE PUPPETS: Registration [here](#)
- 2:30–3:30PM – CARDBOARD CREATURES: Registration [here](#)

Thu 24 Sep 2026

- 10:30–11:30AM – SHADOW PUPPETS: Registration [here](#)
- 2:30–3:30PM – ROBOT PUPPETS: Registration [here](#)

Working groups

Planning

Carlton Brewery Site—concerns

CRA is conveying concerns directly to the Premier, the Planning Minister and the Lord Mayor relating to the development at the former Carlton Brewery site and surrounding streets

While there have been developments on both the former Carlton Brewery site and surrounding streets that have exceeded the height guidance established in the Planning Scheme, the current proposal from Setia Carlton Pty Ltd constitutes such a significant departure from the preferred nominal heights for the northern area of the site of 11, 13 and 11 storeys, one must query how this development, which includes three slender towers up to 4 times the preferred nominal heights, can be approved through a permit process which includes no formal objection or review rights.

If approved through the current process, it would be difficult to imagine the current planning scheme retaining ANY credibility.

Read the initial assessment of this development on the [CRA website](#):

CoM - City of Melbourne

Meet Councillor Davydd Griffiths

Portfolio Head: Environment **Deputy:** Environment Community and City Services



Cr Davydd Griffiths

Cr Griffiths: Local Government has a Vital Role in Climate Action

Our Environment portfolio head explains how local government can take a leading role in tackling climate change. Re-elected in 2024, I am serving my second term on Council and believe the City of Melbourne is rising to the challenges of climate change, even as others around the world are backing away.

City Greening

Creating greener, cooler and more liveable neighbourhoods is a key priority for me, including in Carlton, where residents are helping shape the future of local parks, gardens and open spaces. We're investing \$44.3 million in the 2025–26 Budget to make Melbourne a greener city, which I believe will also support the physical and mental wellbeing of our growing population. The funding will go towards reinvigorating many of our much-loved parks and gardens, as well as creating six new green open spaces across our neighbourhoods. Carlton residents are already playing an important role in these conversations.

It was great to have the opportunity to walk the streets of Carlton with representatives of the Residents Association recently to hear both the concerns and aspirations of the community in regard to its parks and gardens. I believe listening to local communities is essential to ensuring Melbourne's public spaces continue to meet the needs of both current and future residents. I want Melburnians to have their say about our open spaces, from new parks to the Urban Forest Precinct Plans in each neighbourhood and our Gardens for Wildlife program. I believe it's important to hear and understand how the community uses our parks and gardens so Council can get the balance right.

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I also want to highlight the role of the Community Greening Grants program in helping local communities contribute to a greener Melbourne. The program supports community-led greening projects that increase urban greenery, biodiversity, tree canopy and welcoming shared spaces across Melbourne.

Supporting Vulnerable Communities

I also serve as deputy of the Community and City Services portfolio, which I believe goes hand in hand with my work in the Environment portfolio.

A critical policy area for Council to lead on is supporting vulnerable members of our community. They are often the ones most impacted by all the issues associated with climate change. People experiencing food insecurity are often also experiencing energy poverty, and in some cases in our municipality, this also overlaps with communities at risk of flooding.

I stood for Council election for a second time to amplify the voice of the community. I believe a good example of this was the announcement that Council will be upgrading the bike lanes on Rathdowne Street following a meeting with Carlton Gardens Primary School. I wanted to follow up some of those big programs and projects that had arisen during the last Council, and to make sure that there was a progressive voice around the table when big decisions were being made.

We have opportunities and challenges as a community around health, wellbeing and fitness for everyone.

Listening to the Community

I am passionate about community participation and believe this approach has connected the different stages of my career.

I have been a publican, teacher and public servant and now run an online beer and media business. I am also president and life member of my local bowls club.

There's always an opportunity to talk to the community and to hear what's important to them. When I'm working the bowls club bar, I have hundreds of members of the community telling me what's important to them.

So I'm really lucky as a councillor that I can get a huge amount of feedback.

Meet Councillor Owen Guest –

Portfolio Head: Finance, Governance and Risk **Deputy:** Education and Innovation



Cr. Owen Guest

When Owen Guest was elected to the City of Melbourne last year, he brought with him decades of experience in economics and finance, but more importantly, a desire to give back to the city he has called home for much of his life.

Now leading Council's Finance, Governance and Risk portfolio, Cr Guest is focused on ensuring decisions are made transparently, responsibly and with residents firmly in mind.

"I've lived here for much of my life, and I got to the stage where I really wanted to give something back," Cr Guest said.

After years working in finance and economics, Cr Guest said local government offered an opportunity to apply his professional expertise to issues that directly affect residents and neighbourhoods.

A former funds manager, business analyst and PhD-qualified economist, Cr Guest believes his professional background provides a useful perspective around accountability and long-term planning.

"Someone with my way of thinking brings accountability, transparency and financial acumen to the City of Melbourne," he said.

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While he acknowledges finance and governance can represent the "hard, pointy end of council business", Cr Guest says the decisions made in those areas affect the services residents rely on every day.

From neighbourhood parks and community facilities to libraries, streets, events and local infrastructure, Council's work touches almost every aspect of daily life. With competing priorities and limited resources, Cr Guest believes clear decision-making is essential. "Some things should be prioritised over others. I will always call for transparency in those decisions," he said.

"I do think we should have a back-to-basics approach, but I also accept the City of Melbourne has a greater role to play in the activation of our capital city than a smaller municipality would."

Part of his role involves asking difficult questions about where Council should focus its efforts.

"However, I think we should ask questions about everything we do and whether it's for us to do or for other levels of government. We need to operate sustainably," he said.

Community feedback remains a key influence on those decisions. In recent neighbourhood consultations, residents highlighted cleaner streets, graffiti removal, improved open spaces, better roads and footpaths, parking and support for community events as important priorities.

For Cr Guest, listening to residents is fundamental to effective local government.

"Those who pay the bills deserve to be listened to and respected, and if we can lower the burden on them, we should," he said.

Away from Council meetings and financial discussions, Cr Guest's appreciation for Melbourne is rooted in the everyday experiences that make local neighbourhoods feel connected.

"A morning coffee or two, friendly neighbours and baristas make Melbourne great for me, even trumping places such as the MCG, which is pretty good too," he said.

As he settles into his first term in Council, Cr Guest says his priorities remain straightforward: listening to the community, making decisions transparently and helping ensure Melbourne remains a well-managed and vibrant place to live.

Meet Councillor Philip Le Liu –

Portfolio Head: Creative Arts **Deputy:** Planning

Whether it's attending a festival, exploring a gallery or discovering a local theatre production, Melburnians are never far from a creative experience. Councillor Philip Le Liu wants to ensure that remains one of the city's defining strengths.

As the City of Melbourne's Creative and Arts portfolio lead, Cr Le Liu is focused on supporting artists, creative organisations and the cultural experiences that help make Melbourne unique.

"It was the depth and vitality of Melbourne's arts landscape that attracted me to the portfolio," he said.

"We're lucky there are so many arts organisations here. We are spoiled for choice."

A veteran of nearly 10 years, Cr Le Liu has held a range of portfolios during his time on Council, including international student engagement and finance and governance. He says the Creative and Arts portfolio has given him the opportunity to champion an area that has long been central to Melbourne's story.

"I enjoy the arts, and the works I see in our Arts and Heritage Collection reinforce for me that we are a city of arts and people shouldn't forget that."

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Cr. Philip Le Lui

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He believes creativity should play a bigger role in how Melbourne sees itself and plans for the future.

"I want to embed the thinking that arts and creativity are not an afterthought but can be at the forefront of our city," he said.

Melbourne's creative energy can be seen throughout the year, but particularly during the cooler months when major festivals take over streets, venues and public spaces across the city.

Now or Never is the City of Melbourne's festival of art, ideas, sound and technology. Held each August, the festival showcases installations, performances and experiences from some of the world's most imaginative artists.

For Cr Le Liu, events like these not only celebrate creativity but also encourage people to explore the city, support local businesses and experience new ideas. "I want us to think globally as well as locally and create opportunities for artistic exchanges and also strengthen our Melbourne brand," he said.

"I would like us to look at other cities and how they embrace the arts."

"Why not try to attract the best arts ideas in the world?" he said.

"It would be wonderful if Melbourne came to mind alongside New York, London, Tokyo or Shanghai when people think about global arts destinations."

While major festivals attract large crowds, Cr Le Liu says supporting artists throughout the year is just as important. He points to Council-supported venues including ArtPlay, Signal, Meat Market and Arts House, along with more than 100 creative spaces across Melbourne, as important places where artists can learn, create and exhibit their work.

In Carlton, venues such as La Mama Theatre demonstrate the importance of supporting artists at every stage of their careers. For more than 50 years, the iconic theatre has provided a platform for emerging and independent performers and remains a much-loved part of the local arts community.

"We play a big role in supporting emerging artists and organisations, to have our own ecosystem," he said

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



Yet again the Queen Vic Market is fighting for its survival. Imagine our market with no open-air car park. Every commercial shopping precinct has accessible, affordable parking to cater for the needs of all its customer – volume shoppers, day trippers, short-term pickups, Seniors, those with disabilities and families. The proposed replacement underground parking to replace the open-air car park will not meet customer needs. Customer accessibility is vital for the viability of the market. When the building of the City of Melbourne/ Lendlease development begins, construction will choke access to the Market. The traders are already doing it tough.

The Queen Vic Market is of national heritage significance. It has equal standing with the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. Decisions made by the State and Federal governments and the Council of Melbourne are deleterious to the viability of our marvellous Market. Access for customers is paramount.

Consultation sessions were held 31 August but if you missed this opportunity you can still contribute.

You can help keep the car park.

Traders, customers, community members and other interested stakeholders can provide a written submission and complete a survey until Sunday 20 September.

You can:

- **Make a written submission by email:** Does not need to be long.
Review inbox – qvmreview@melbourne.vic.gov.au
- **Complete a survey:** available now at
<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/qvm-review>

Ellen Sandell, State MP for Melbourne writes:

Fighting for La Mama

If you ask anyone in Melbourne why they love living in Melbourne - without a doubt one of the top things they'll say is because of our arts and culture. It's what sets our city apart from the rest of Australia and the world.

Earlier this month, I again visited one of Carlton's true creative treasures, La Mama Theatre, to meet with their CEO and Board members. This small, independent theatre has been an incubator for new Australian talent for decades. As just an example, Cate Blanchett got her start there. So did countless writers, directors and performers who've gone on to shape our national arts scene.



With CEO Caitlin Dullard at La Mama

But right now, La Mama's future is far from secure.

In the last round of Creative Victoria funding, La Mama received only two years of funding instead of the usual four. That makes things very difficult to plan. And without this state investment, when they try to apply to Federal Government funding early next year, they likely won't get it because they cannot demonstrate matched state government investment. So it creates a vicious cycle.

And they're not the only ones. The Labor State Government has made cuts to creative institutions across the board through cut backs in investment in small and medium organisations.

Writers Victoria, Musica Viva, our live music venues and even Abbotsford Convent have all faced funding cutbacks under this Labor Government. Meanwhile, the same government has found \$400 million for luxury corporate box upgrades at the Grand Prix and \$500 million for greyhound racing.

'Last week, I held a special event with Gabrielle de Vietri in Fitzroy to talk about how we can save our small and medium arts organisations in Melbourne, and pressure the Government to reverse their funding cuts. Through talking with many different people in the arts sector, I received great insights and feedback that I will bring with me to Parliament.'

It's time we valued and invested in the arts. Without local theatres like La Mama, we lose the training ground for stage managers, writers and technicians who keep our whole creative industry running. One in ten working Victorians is employed in the creative

sector, that's a huge part of our economy and our identity as a city.

I'll keep pushing in Parliament for longer-term, sustainable funding for organisations like La Mama. If you want to support them directly, consider seeing a show, becoming a member, or making a donation, every bit helps keep this Carlton institution alive.



Readings' 24-hour celebration of books, culture and community is back for 2026!

Friday 13 — Saturday 14 November

TAKE A SNEAK PEAK AT THE PROGRAM

<https://www.readings.com.au/a-day-in-carlton>

Building relationships and changing lives

Nick and Jo Parissis both recipients of the Australian Police Medal

Nick is the Community Liaison Officer at the Melbourne North Police Station and works in the Carlton Area.

Jo has spend the the majority of her time as a Police Youth Resource Officer in Melbourne's north.

Both have worked to keep the community safe and to respond to crimes and prevent them.

Their story was published 14 April 2026 at:

<https://www.police.vic.gov.au/building-relationships-and-changing-lives>

To quote: "Nick and Jo Parissis are officers who are renowned for the prevention side of policing.

They have devoted their long careers to developing life-changing relationships with disadvantaged kids, marginalised communities, the elderly and more.

They also happen to be married.

Nick, now an acting sergeant, started his policing career at Carlton Police Station in the early 1990s and was joined there by Jo, now a sergeant, in 1995."

Please take the time to read their inspiring story on the web site above.



Photo used with Nick's permission

Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV)



The Newsletter of the RHSV bookshop. Find it [here](#)

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[Secondhand](#)

The RHSV website is available [here](#):

Carlton Community History Group

Do you have family or other connections with SOUTH-WEST CARLTON. This is the area bounded by Grattan, Swanston, Victoria and Elizabeth Streets that contains Lincoln Square, University Square, Bouverie St, Leicester St and part of Queensberry St. If you do, let us know.

Carlton Community History Group is currently working with the History Workshop at Melbourne University to undertake detailed research of this area, with a particular focus on the working-class population that has now been displaced.

Evidence of this population are the schools that were built for the children of the area but are no longer used as such. On Queensberry Street is this former State Primary School, now used as a child-care centre by staff of Melbourne University".

Read more on the [facebook](#) page. Make contact by email cchg@y7mail.com