



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

NEWSFLASH

Autumn 2010

In this edition

Justifiable envy?
Kathleen Syme Centre Update
VCAT changes
Community News
PCC meeting
"Transport for suburbia"
CoRBA - Melbourne - and
Planning Chaos
Opportunities for Carlton
Trivia Night
Carlton Gardens
Municipal Strategic Statement
Public Housing Development
Planning Sub-Committee
Membership
Melbourne Cemetery
Save our parklands

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

Supported by the
Community Services Grants
Program



Justifiable envy?

Some precincts are more equal than others

You will all be aware that CRA has been begging the State Government to allow the Council to acquire the Kathleen Syme Centre for a community space (we have none) and a library (we have none – and worse, we have to piggyback on neighbouring City of Yarra services). We have got nowhere with the State politicians and bureaucrats. They claim that the cooperation required in order to meet community needs is just too difficult.



Kathleen Syme Centre

So imagine our dismay upon discovering (City of Melbourne press release 4/5/2010) that the CoM is all set to provide community space and a library in a disused heritage building, the J.H. Boyd School, in Southbank. This is, of course, *exactly* what CRA has been pressing for in Carlton for a decade or more.

Like Southbank, Carlton also has a disused heritage school – the Kathleen Syme Centre. And like the Southbank J.H. Boyd School, Carlton's KSC also has adjacent property (the vacant Royal Women's Hospital) that is available for redevelopment in order to fund the new community infrastructure. To add insult to injury, *The Age* (10/5) reports that the CoM is to provide Docklands with a \$2.5 million library!

We genuinely rejoice that the Southbank community will benefit from this Council investment. We were equally pleased when the Council provided our neighbours in East Melbourne with their new library and community space several years ago. In addition, the East Melbourne community has yet another building known as 'The Hut' in the Powlett Reserve, refurbished by the CoM for use by the East Melbourne Residents Group. And we have no doubt that Southbank and Docklands well deserve their libraries.

However, we would like to know just when our elected representatives in the State Government will see fit to address entrenched social disadvantage in Carlton and provide the community infrastructure we lack. After all, this social disadvantage did not appear overnight – it has been with us for decades. And now we see an already disadvantaged Carlton community becoming even more marginalised. Social disadvantage needs to be addressed in a variety of ways. It takes more than health and employment initiatives and an annually funded 'Harmony Day' to create community.

There must be *places* where people can gather to share in the life of the wider community *as equals*. Where can this happen in Carlton right now? In the coffee shops on Lygon St. that the poor in our community cannot afford to visit? In some chilly room underneath the redeveloped high-rise? We think not!

We need a community space and we need a library. We want the State Government to expedite this by permitting the CoM to acquire the KSC. We are assured by the CoM that if the State Government co-operates and permits the acquisition of the KSC, Council will fulfil its commitment to Carlton and provide us the community infrastructure we so badly need. Yet all appeals to the relevant State Government politicians to collaborate to facilitate this outcome have fallen on deaf ears.

We congratulate Southbank and East Melbourne and Docklands. We wish them well. BUT we feel justifiably envious and increasingly disillusioned. Where there is the political will, there should also be a way.

Kathleen Syme Centre Update

We are gratified that, despite many obstacles, Council has confirmed yet again its willingness to acquire the Kathleen Syme Centre (KSC) as a community centre for Carlton (Council Meeting 27 April).

We understand that the University of Melbourne has staked its claim to KSC as a component of its policy to acquire the entire Royal Women's Hospital site, and is claiming 'Government Department' status and priority with regard to its acquisition. Council is approaching the State ALP, asking that it take precedence. We urge the Government to put Council and Carlton community interests above that of the University. KSC represents just 2% of the floor area of the entire site. The University already occupies substantial off-campus areas in Carlton.

VCAT changes

Planning Backlash have alerted CRA to a Forum being held to explain the new rules for the 'reformed' VCAT' .

VCAT was originally conceived as the mechanism or 'Hearings' process through which ordinary citizens could present their objections to inappropriate developments.

More recently a deeply regrettable pattern has evolved. VCAT Hearings have generally supported developers, tending to 'listen' to highly paid experts retained by developers and more often than not, dismissing the citizens' objections. At the increasingly legalistic and sophisticated VCAT Hearings, cases in dispute are 'heard' by VCAT Panel members, the outcome generally favouring developers. who can afford to play the system . They engage lawyers and hire other expert opinion to present evidence which favours developers' These expenses are part of the cost of doing 'business'. Objections presented by citizens just cannot compete with such 'fire-power'.

Finally a review of VCAT process was undertaken. The VCAT Melbourne Community Forum on Thursday

27th May offered a chance to find out just how this 'new' VCAT process will operate and presented a rare opportunity to express our views. Information arising from the Forum is likely to appear on the web.

Community news

- **La Dolce Italia Festival**



Singers on the Argyle Square stage at la Dolce Festival

On Sunday 28 February we saw a return to a Lygon Street Festa of old, with Italian music, street theatre, food, etc. Crowds were down, but the event successfully captured the traditional Festa atmosphere. Even *The Three Tenors* dropped by! The photos capture something of the festive spirit of the day.

It gave us all a taste of how a car-free Lygon Street Mall could work. Many traders were of course horrified at the street closure and the loss of through traffic which they believe is essential to business success, despite booming restaurant trade on the day. The future of the Festa remains under a cloud amid trader discontent and funding problems.



Billy Cart race at La Dolce Festival

- **First Australian woman to reach both the North and South Poles**

Linda Beilharz (daughter of Carlton residents Myrna and Rolf Beilharz) has become the first Australian woman to reach both the South and North Poles.

On 25 April 2010, Linda, her husband Rob and their 23-year old Canadian guide, Sarah McNair, reached the North Pole (Linda had previously trekked to the South Pole in 2004.) The 780 km journey, from Ward Hunt Island (83° N, northern tip of Canada) to the North Pole (90°N and 0° E/W) began on the 28 February and took 55 days.

When the journey began, the time difference between sunrise and sunset was only a matter of minutes. This meant that walking was limited to 6-8 hours per day, during dusk and twilight. But 24 hour daylight began on the 1 April, and so by the end of the journey, the group was able to walk for up to 11 hours per day. In fact, they needed to, because the last possible day for pick up was the 26 April. After that date, with higher temperatures and melting snow, the opportunity to land on the snow lessens dramatically. During the last 3 days, the group averaged only 5 hours sleep per day, in order to ensure arrival at the North Pole by their pick up date.

The group took 14 days to walk from 83° to 84°; however, the next 2 degrees was completed in 9 days. The snow is constantly moving and grinding, thus making walking in a straight line virtually impossible. One morning they woke up to discover that they had moved westwards overnight and had to spend valuable time making up the lost distance.

Ablutions consisted of a 'body wash' with warm water in a plastic bag – other bodily functions were 'as quick as possible'!

Each person pulled a sled weighing approximately 80kgs. It became lighter as food was eaten, but when re-supply took place (and there were 2 re-supplies during the trek), it was heavy again! Linda trained for the expedition by pulling a wheel around a nature trail in forests near her home in Bendigo, much to the bemusement of locals. Linda and Rob also spent 3 weeks in Canada before the trip started, training with Sarah – getting used to each other, the equipment, the conditions, and knowing who would do what and when. Each person had their particular chores and these were rotated – and done as quickly and efficiently as possible. The average time taken from choosing a campsite to then having everyone sitting inside with 3 stoves on was 30-40 minutes. Amazingly, the inside temperature was the 33°C; outside, it was -30°C, plus wind chill factor!

Myrna and Rolf were able to regularly track the group's progress online. Linda, Rob and Sarah carried a satellite phone and were in constant contact with Sarah's parents, who are experienced Alpine trekkers. Sarah's mother was then able to post information and comments online, as well as update the map which

showed their route and progress.

Eleven groups started their journeys at approximately the same time, and of those, 4 groups successfully completed the journey. Linda attributes the successful journey to 'simplicity' (ie using simple equipment as some modern equipment is not suitable for the Arctic), knowledge, preparation and management. She is proud of her achievements, although sad that while she is the first Australian woman to reach both the South and North Poles, she may also be the last. Because of the increasing instability of the ice, the 'window of time' available to do the trek is getting smaller and smaller.

- **Church of All Nations celebrates 150 years**

On 11 April 2010, the Church of All Nations celebrated its 150th Anniversary in a special service. A commemorative stone marking the occasion (together with the foundation stone of the current church) was unveiled. Previously, at a special Anniversary dinner on Saturday 27 March 2010, the history of the congregation, *The Need is the Call: 150 Years of Service in Carlton* (edited by David and Shirley Johnson) was launched by Rev John Rickard, a former minister.

The first service of the Carlton Wesleyan Methodist Church was held in a shop in Lygon Street, Carlton on 7 April 1860. In 1861 a small church on the current site was opened and then subsequently extended. In 1870 the present bluestone church, designed by the famous colonial architect, Joseph Reed, was opened. During the Great Depression, the current mission buildings were opened.

Over the years, 10 congregations of Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian origins in the suburbs of Carlton and North Carlton have merged to form the current Carlton Parish Mission, known as the Church of All Nations. This name was adopted by the congregation in the 1960s as it developed its extensive and innovative ministry with the migrants and refugees who came to live in the tower blocks of the Carlton Housing Estate.



Church of All Nations 150 years old

PCCC meeting

The following key points were discussed at the April meeting:

- Senior Sergeant Frank Sells has been promoted to the rank of Inspector and will henceforth be stationed at Headquarters.
- The TWO new senior sergeants in charge of the new Wreckyn St station are Joy Arbuthnot and Mick Wimal.
- PCCC has applied to Woolworths (for \$5,000) and RACV (\$500) in the hope that they will once again support the kids' camp.
- Carlton Rotary has offered \$5,000 for a special camp for disadvantaged kids at risk.
- A representative from the Department of Justice (DoJ) talked about the installation of speed/red light cameras in Lygon Street (at the request of Frank Sells). A case needs to be presented to a committee of the DoJ and the police said they would gather relevant information such as the number of incidents. A possible site for a camera would be the corner of Lygon and Princes Streets.
- There was a suggestion for a 'golf day' (or something similar) where Police, PCCC members and local residents could meet and socialize. It could also be used as a mini fund-raising event for PCCC.
- The station's move to the new site is scheduled for 16 August. The Government intends to sell the current building as money is needed to fund the new station site. It will initially be offered for a community group tender (probable cost \$4 million); if there is no offer, it will be then open for general tender. As the building is covered by an historical overlay its conversion to a new use could prove very difficult (and costly).



The New Police Station
Wreckyn Street North Melbourne

- The new station will have greater resources than the present one, although the area it serves will also be greater. Foot patrols are planned for the Carlton area.
- Bernie Michel (acting senior sergeant at Carlton) is developing a senior citizens register. Seniors can register at the station if they wish to be contacted regularly, have welfare checks, help or visits (similar to the current Red Cross service).
- Nick Parissis continues to provide information sessions at the Colleges and is available to speak to any community group.
- The historical material collated about the Carlton station will be placed in the foyer of the new station.

Transport for suburbia

This is the title of a recently released book by Dr Paul Mees of RMIT. Paul is a well known and widely respected transport academic who has provided much helpful policy advice to CRA over many years. Dr Barry Jones launched the book at Readings on 27 April before a large and enthusiastic crowd of well-wishers. Dr Jones commended Paul on his eminent academic career, including his vision and outstanding contributions to the transport debate. He recalled how Paul 'was hung out to dry' by Melbourne University for daring to question the competence of senior bureaucrats in charge of Melbourne's public transport system (see *Newsflash*, Winter 2008). As Paul notes in his excellent book, 'The truth really does matter, no matter how upsetting it is to the powers that be'.

The Age (27 & 28 April) reported how the State Government has retained highly paid consultants to discredit the work of Dr Mees over an eight-year period. Where does this leave the 1100-strong Transport Ministry?

Transport for Suburbia is available at a special Readings price of \$65 (RRP \$80). It is a highly recommended read for all those concerned about transport policy in Melbourne and beyond.

CoRBA - Melbourne – and Planning Chaos

- **Planning Chaos – please explain?**
CoRBA – Melbourne (Coalition of Resident and Business Associations – Melbourne) is the peak body bringing together a range of resident and business associations within the City of Melbourne.

Minister Madden's current planning policy, which has seen him take control of planning decisions for projects in excess of \$5 million, is obviously of concern throughout the municipality since all large-scale developments (and consequently those with the greatest potential for negative impact) will exceed this amount. Council and ratepayers have been sidelined and are now irrelevant in the planning approval process.

What are we to do? The consensus at CoRBA is that we should, at the very least, remind the Minister that he has an obligation to explain the rationale of his decisions to the marginalised community and explain what role, if any, he sees for community input.

As it stands we appear to have no input at all. VCAT seems to work against the community interest and our Council has no influence. If the Minister is intent on altering the 'ground' rules in relation to planning processes, then he must surely be able to clarify for us his vision for new ways in which Council and State Government will respond appropriately to the community.

CoRBA has invited the Minister to meet with delegates to explain exactly how the State Government envisages representation will work in the absence of any mechanisms for consultation. We will be asking the Minister to establish an effective tool or conduit for engagement between his bureaucrats and local resident and business associations. We hope that the Minister will respond to this invitation in order to address the mounting community disquiet around planning matters in our municipality.

CoRBA is obviously keen to have this discussion with the Minister well before the State election. Stay tuned.

- **State Election – candidates say what?**

CoRBA is working on election strategies designed to:

- a remind the candidates of the importance of local government in this state (particularly in relation to equitable representation and grass roots democracy)
- b raise specific issues of concern in our municipality
- c determine candidates' policy position on these key concerns before the election (all responses will be placed on the CoRBA website).

- **Our Federal Member - Minister for Finance Lindsay Tanner – Help!**

A delegation from CoRBA will meet with Minister Tanner on 8 June.

The consensus at CoRBA is that since so much Federal funding is now being channeled through the State Government (e.g. education building, social housing, roads, transport, community health, etc) it is entirely appropriate that we call upon the Federal Government to intervene when the Brumby State Government is inflaming the community on so many fronts. One example was last week's announcement that the Brumby Government initially sought Federal funds to build WestLink, even though our public transport is in diabolical trouble and in need of funding. (Note that this request for Westlink funding has since been rejected by the Federal Government - but this doesn't not seem to have discouraged the Premier!)

CoRBA will also raise with Minister Tanner the continuing saga of electoral reform in our municipality. The State Government will not act on this matter despite our Council having written TWICE to the Minister for Local

Government, Richard Wynne, calling for a review. No action.

CoRBA has also written to the State government on this matter, urging the Minister to respond to community concerns. No action.

Although it is clear that the Federal Government is not responsible for such State reforms, they do have influence.

CoRBA will remind Minister Tanner that:

- a the Federal Government distributes a great deal of funding to the States
- b the Federal Government is currently funding a State Government which is showing contempt for local democracy.

Opportunities For Carlton Project (OFC)

The OFC project is a City of Melbourne community strengthening initiative in partnership with the Victorian State Government. It is a three-year project due to be completed in 2012. OFC is supporting the Carlton community to collectively plan its own future, thereby making Carlton a more vibrant and inclusive place to live, work, study and visit.

Through a process of consultation, network building and workshops, the local community has successfully identified the major issues, worked through possible solutions and agreed upon themes, priorities and actions.

At an OFC network meeting held on 4 May, 'The Carlton Community Plan' was reviewed and is being redrafted in several areas, to be consistent with the need to treat it as a living document that will change over time. Two new priorities have been identified: volunteering and ecological sustainability.

On 8 June, the Plan will be presented to a new body known as the Inter-government Group which represents key departments and agencies. Its main role is to facilitate co-ordinated implementation which is beyond the capacity of the community to undertake unassisted.

If you have a passion for Carlton's future and would like to become involved, please email Brian Falconer, brian@tercel.com.au

CRA Trivia Night

- Who was the last Carlton footballer to win a Brownlow Medal?
- When was the Carlton Residents Association established?
- What World Heritage site is located in Carlton?

These were some the questions at the CRA Trivia Night held at the Clare Castle Hotel. About 40 people, including some Clare Castle regulars, gathered for the quiz on Wednesday 19 May. It was an enjoyable evening – a good way to find out more about our suburb and at the same time relax and share time with other residents.

Stay tuned, there may be another trivia night soon!

Carlton Gardens

CRA's Carlton Gardens Group has written to Councillors with responsibility for Council finances and environmental issues, to raise three matters of concern:

1. Carlton Gardens gates

We are advised by Parks and Gardens staff, that new gates/barriers are being erected in the Carlton Gardens at Canning St. to address the bicycle problem. We are alarmed to learn that Council is planning to commission new modern barriers. Council is aware that the original gates still exist. Given that the Carlton Gardens are World Heritage listed, Council should source and re-install the appropriate original gates rather than invest unnecessarily in new gates. To install a new modern fence is clearly counter to the principles of World Heritage conservation and restoration. Obviously, certain adjustments to the original gates would need to be made but these are entirely possible, as was the case with repairs to the fence around Guilfoyle's Cottage. Council is, no doubt, already aware of the UNESCO World Heritage restoration principles which permit 30% new components in any restoration works.

We would prefer that our rates go towards proper restoration works and not some knee-jerk quick-fix option.

2. Expenditure on Gardens throughout the municipality.

Council investment (of various types) in our parks and gardens is not distributed in an equitable manner. It seems that some sort of ranking system occurs which results in preferential support for certain gardens and less support for others.

So, we hope to find out:

- the expenditures for each area
- the criteria that Council adopts in distributing the Parks and Gardens funding, for both maintenance and new works.



Bike riders beware

3. Flower Show.

The CoM Parks and Gardens Committee advises that Council provides financial support of various kinds to the commercial operators managing the Flower Show. This financial support takes the form of a substantial outright dollar donation, in-kind support including provision and distribution of resident notices, forgone parking revenue, increased parking attendant costs, and increased parks staff costs before, during and after the event.

We have requested:

- the total costs incurred by Council
- an estimate of the costs embedded in other services provided and forgone income.

Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS)

Have you heard about this? It is a crucial planning document that WILL impact on Carlton.

CoM administration has devised a major strategic planning document for our entire municipality – a Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS).

The MSS is part of the Melbourne Planning Scheme and includes strategy perspectives i.e. zones, overlays and policies, such as student housing, parkland, defined areas of growth, areas defined as 'stable' or with low levels of change, heritage controls, etc. It sets broad objectives for the municipality and is required to be reviewed every four years. It attempts to marry State policy with Council policy – e.g. *Melbourne 2030 (Council policy)* with *Melbourne @five million (State Government policy)* and includes a number of inputs such as freight futures and a bicycle strategy, Departments of Planning and Transport, and VicUrban.

Although crucial planning work has been undertaken without community consultation, it seems that 'community consultation' will occur 'in the fullness of time', once the parameters are set and the document very far advanced.

There will be a **Public Exhibition** on the MSS (this is couple of months away) followed by an **MSS Briefing Session** and then constituents can, over a six week period, make submissions directly on the CoM website.

CoRBA has been advised that the MSS is a process for amending the Planning Scheme. The standard process for making amendments via the MSS process is as follows:

- The CoM officer's draft of the MSS goes to Council (presumably approved? Constituent input? - **nil**).
- The approved MSS is then forwarded to the Minister of Planning with a request to take the draft to Public Exhibition. (Constituents and others now get to see what has been decided for them.)

- The Council will then engage with its constituencies, seeking consultations and submissions, before referring the MSS back to the Minister.
- The Minister then sets up an Independent Panel (membership unknown) to consider the amendments and submissions and to hear from submitters (constituents and others).
- The outcome is then referred back to the Council (and then adopted).

The underlying assumptions of this MSS (and the reasons why you should be aware of it) are:

- It allows for a doubling of the City's residential population over the next 20 years and an increase in the user profile (visitors/workers) from 790,000 to 1 million per day.
- It indicates where there is likely to be shrinkage due to a decline in average household size.
- It specifies incremental change where demolition and new medium-density (4-storey) developments would be encouraged.
- It specifies areas of urban renewal, where industrial activity may have outlived its useful life, e.g. E-gate, Moonee Ponds Creek between Kensington and North Melbourne, and may include a mix of uses, not necessarily residential. Other examples include Elizabeth St between Victoria St and the Haymarket, Carlton Housing Estate, west end of CBD, The Age building and power station.

Transport issues referred to in the document:

- Rail from Footscray to Caulfield – first stage to Domain – underground with a station at the Haymarket is intended to relieve congestion along St Kilda Road.
- High speed connection to Footscray Activity Centre
- Two new rail links to the north-west.
- Bicycle trails, e.g. city to Footscray.
- New main thoroughfares to west and south-west.

Stay tuned. It is important for CoRBA members (i.e. you, as CRA members) to respond to the 'draft' MSS regarding how it impacts on Carlton – let alone the rest of the municipality.

Public housing development

CRA has been protesting strongly to Federal and State Government members about this issue. Recent letters to Lindsay Tanner (Federal Member for Melbourne) and Jenny Mikakos (Upper House Member for Northern Metropolitan Region) expressed CRA's grave concerns about the current development plans. The full text of the letters is available on the CRA website, as is the response from Jenny Mikakos.

Key points raised in the CRA's letters are:

- The State Government promised an integrated public/private, 'salt and pepper' housing mix.
- There now appears to be a model of intentional segregation on the Estates. Private housing will take the form of two gated communities with

exclusive green space, secured against public tenants by a 2.5-metre fence. Public housing is isolated in one very large building on the western edge of the precinct.

- The amount of accessible green space totals around one hectare for 4500 people, in spite of a pre-election promise in 2006 by the State Member for Melbourne, Hon Bronwyn Pike, that 'there will be no loss of open space'.



New Public Housing under construction

CRA Planning Sub-Committee

The City of Melbourne has an easy-to-use online search facility for the Planning Register, which provides up-to-date information on the status of a Planning Permit or Application. Searching by date or suburb is also possible.

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/BuildingandPlanning/Planning/Pages/PlanningRegisterSearch.aspx>

Summary

Since the last Newsflash, the Planning Sub-Committee has reviewed 11 Planning Applications for Carlton, and submitted no objections to the City of Melbourne.

Membership

**HELP PROTECT YOUR AREA
DO YOUR BIT FOR CARLTON
Join the Carlton Residents Association
CRA
NOW**

**Annual Membership subscription!
Full member (if you live in 3053):
Single \$25 Family \$40
Concession: Single \$15 Family \$25
Friend (if not in 3053): \$15**

**CONTACT: Secretary: secretarycra@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.carltonresidents.org.au
PO Box 1140, Carlton 3053**

Strange lights in the Melbourne Cemetery!

A group of 17 intrepid CRA Members rugged up on a cold Friday night in April for a fascinating three-hour torchlight stroll through one of Melbourne's most unique public parks!

The National Trust volunteer guide led us through the graves, pointing out the famous and the humble; memorials of architectural merit, sheer folly or crumbling neglect. We learned much about colonial and more recent social history. We also caught a glimpse of the 'practicalities' of cemeteries, the way things are done, the symbolic language, the strange juxtapositions of graves; the downright peculiar and the poignant.



The Cemetery Tour



Such a rich place – and so neglected, perhaps inadvertently so. **Are you aware that if you (or your family members) have ever purchased a plot, then the owners/descendants are legally responsible forever!** One massively impressive memorial of a notable public figure is in a sad state due to its towering granite obelisk splitting and tumbling down. Why? It seems such obelisks have a slim metal rod running down the centre of the column. This rod struck the water table and the metal expanded enough to crack the entire memorial and down it crashed some time ago – and so it remains. Why is this grave of an important public figure still a chaotic mess of rubble? It seems that neither the government nor the descendants are ready to foot the hefty restoration bill for this famous but not universally honoured fellow.

The CRA 'Friends of the Melbourne General Cemetery (MGC)' group will meet again soon to learn more about the MGC and hopefully support restoration in some way. If you would like to register your interest, contact jackiewatts@netspace.net.au.

(Note that The National Trust will conduct Halloween tours on the night of 31 October and are currently recruiting new guides – any history buffs interested?)

Save our parklands

Widespread concerns about the handover of precious inner-urban parkland and open space to service the needs of developers, for road construction and for private profit-making enterprises, continues to raise the ire of resident groups. Speakers and community members gave vent to their heartfelt concerns at a public meeting, on 17 April, convened by Protectors of Public Lands (PPL) in Flemington and chaired by Brian Walters, SC, (President of PPL (and Greens candidate for Melbourne). Speakers included Cr Rose Iser, Mooney Valley Councillor, and Gabriella Pretto of the Mt Alexander Rd. Group. Of concern in Flemington is the handover to VicRoads of a slab of Debneys Park for road widening to service a massive private housing development, *Travancore*, across the road.

Local Member, Hon Bronwyn Pike, arrived unexpectedly at the meeting and became embroiled in a lively debate about the protection of parkland and open space. The meeting requested that Ms Pike convey to the Brumby Government the need for clear planning guidelines to protect open space to make it sacrosanct and give the community a meaningful voice in all planning decisions, including at VCAT.

In Carlton, we continue to confront the sell-off of public housing land for 'gated' private housing development on the Housing Estates and the misuse of Carlton Gardens for the destructive annual Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. In nearby Royal Park, progressive incursions for the Parkville Gardens private housing estate, State Hockey Centre and Royal Children's Hospital redevelopment, have occurred in recent years. These developments represent a major loss of parkland and amenity.



PPL, Meeting:: Hon. Bronwyn Pike, Ms Gabriella Pretto, Cr. Rose Iser, Mr. Brian Walters SC (Chair)