



This edition: highlights

Working groups

Traffic, Transport & Parking

- *Public transport funding*
- *East West link update*

Planning and planning applications

VCAT Fees Review

Topical Issues

City of Melbourne

- *Election funding*
- *Budget adopted*

Community News

- *Walks in Carlton*
- *Readings London win*
- *Some Carlton history*
- *La Mama courtyard*

The Carlton Residents Association Inc.
 A0034345G
 ABN 87 716 923 898
 PO Box 1140
 Carlton, 3053
 carltonresidents@gmail.com
 www.carltonresidents.org.au

Supported by the Community
 Services Grants Program



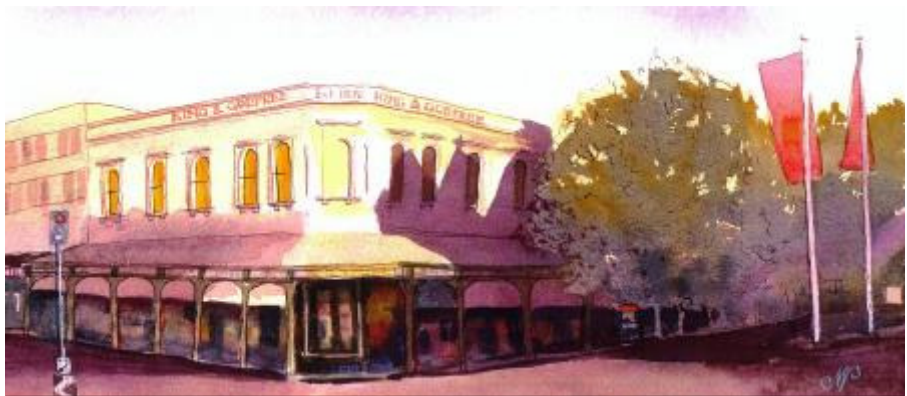
Working groups

Planning

King & Godfree: a rooftop 'live music' venue?

An innocuous-looking Planning Application posted on the windows of King & Godfree (cnr Lygon & Faraday Streets) in April, masked a major change in usage of the historic (1870) heritage-listed building. Its traditional long-term use as a liquor and delicatessen outlet will be replaced by a multi-level restaurant complex, including a rooftop open-air 'live music' venue, operating up to 1am, and catering for some 200 patrons. The outdoor live music aspect was buried within copious Planning Application documents: it failed to rate a mention on the publically posted Planning Notice. Planning documents for this application are available at: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/building-and-development/property-information/planning-building-registers/Pages/town-planning-permits-register-search-results.aspx?permit=TP-2016-188>

The potential noise and nuisance impacts of an outdoor late-night live music venue adjacent to long-established residential areas in Faraday, Tyne and Little Elgin Streets, Carlton, are horrendous. The current Application could be Stage 1 of more extensive developments likely on nearby properties also owned by King & Godfree.



*Historic King & Godfree building
 (painting by Margaret Nicoll, CRA friend)*

A partisan, optimistic and inadequate acoustic impact assessment accompanied the Application. The developer-appointed acoustic consultants foreshadowed 'noise events' some 30 times above background noise, claiming such disruptive noise is 'not likely to affect health and wellbeing significantly'. The consultants contend that amelioration will deal with noise problems arising from the rooftop venue after construction. However CRA's experience confirms it is near impossible to solve such problems after the event. A well-resourced developer will sideline residents' noise objections via the costly VCAT Appeals process.

Working Groups

Large, noisy, nightclub style music venues are often associated with alcohol and drug abuse, and with a potential for violence spilling onto our streets. The face of the family-friendly Lygon Street Precinct could dramatically change. It will set a development precedent likely to be emulated by others. We long remember similar issues with the Lemon Tree and Pugg Mahones hotels and other disruptive late night venues, even without the outdoor live music aspects. These nightclub activities are better suited to King Street rather than central Carlton.

The King & Godfree Application is now with the City of Melbourne for review. CRA has lodged an Objection and has encouraged residents to do likewise. A similar rooftop music venue at Rydges Hotel (701 Swanston St) was approved by the Council subject to conditions which aim to limit noise impacts beyond the Hotel boundaries. We trust the Council will take a similar 'hard line' with King & Godfree, including at VCAT if necessary.

Traffic, Transport & Parking

East West Link homes occupied

Several vacant homes in Bendigo Street Collingwood, compulsorily acquired by the Napthine Government for the now abandoned East West Link, have recently been occupied by homeless squatters from the Homeless Persons' Union.



Community rally, Bendigo Street Collingwood, supporting the Homeless Persons' Union (Courtesy YCAT)

Around 100 families in Collingwood and West Parkville were prematurely forced from their homes by compulsory acquisition, in a crude attempt to break the back of local community opposition to the destructive Link. These perfectly good homes, some with heritage listing, have remained vacant for the past year despite an unprecedented demand for public housing. The squatters shamed the Andrews Government into making good on its 2014 promise to hand over the houses to 'some of the most vulnerable in our community'. The Salvation Army has now been appointed to manage the properties. The squatters claim they are not leaving any time soon (*The Age*, 21 April 2016)

Public transport funded at last!

Decades long campaigns for significant public transport funding finally bore fruit in the Andrews State Budget, handed down on 27 April, 2016. Substantial State funding, largely for new rail projects over the next four years, includes:

- Metro Rail fully funded (\$10.9 billion; \$2.9 billion near-term)
- Completion of Mernda rail extension by 2019 (\$588 million)
- Hurstbridge and Ballarat lines duplication (\$658 million)
- New trains and carriages (\$1.3 billion)

Immediate transport funding priorities are largely centred on roads projects, such as the Transurban-inspired Western Distributor, widening of the Monash Freeway and the Ring Road, and many railroad grade separations (also important for train operations). A recent visit to Victoria by Prime Minister Turnbull again emphasised Federal funding priorities for roads. \$1.5 billion previously tied to the now cancelled East West Link was re-badged for Monash Freeway widening and other roads projects. Although a \$4.5 billion Federal funding contribution was sought for Melbourne Metro Rail, an initial \$10 million allocation by the Turnbull Government was later uplifted to \$857 million in the Federal Budget (asset recycling grant).

While road widening might provide some short-term traffic congestion relief, it is no long-term solution. Traffic inevitably expands to fill the available roads space. Effective, high capacity public transport offers a vital alternative travel mode for driver-only commuters who congest the roads, particularly at peak travel times.

In response to lobbying by several prominent Liberal politicians occupying marginal Federal Eastern and South Eastern electorates, the PM placed the controversial East West Link back on the roads agenda, rebooting an earlier \$3 billion grant for it. These Federal politicians see pre-election political mileage in myths extolling the cost-benefit virtues of the Link, despite evidence to the contrary in its publically available Business Case. However the State Coalition's current priority roads project is a 'missing link' joining the Metropolitan Ring Road to the Eastern Freeway. This project will impact environmentally and politically sensitive 'greenbelt' areas in the outer East.

Unlike the Napthine Government era, there are now numerous worthwhile rail and roads projects on the transport agenda, not just solely the East West Link. Many important projects are underway or will be progressed in the near term. However long-sought rail projects such as Doncaster, Airport and Rowville are no longer even discussed. Congestion will continue to clog the Eastern Freeway without Doncaster Rail as a viable public transport alternative for thousands of driver-only commuters to the CBD and its environs.

Population growth (2000 per week for Melbourne) is the main economic driver for the State. Roads and public transport overload will ever increase under existing infrastructure funding levels. Historically low interest rates and a triple-A credit rating should encourage State Government debt and Bond funded support for priority construction of infrastructure, vital to the future liveability of Melbourne. Victoria's infrastructure funding woes are exacerbated by its minimal share (just 9%) of Federal infrastructure funding, despite its 25% share of Australia's population.

On 4 May 2016, the State Government advertised an *Expression of Interest* for Melbourne Metro Rail as a PPP (Public Private Partnership), thus ensuring taxpayer funded interest payments around three times that of a direct Government contract for the project. Victoria has a First World credit rating yet chooses to pay Third World interest rates through PPP arrangements. It makes no economic sense!

Check out the CRA website:

www.carltonresidents.org.au

Planning (cont)

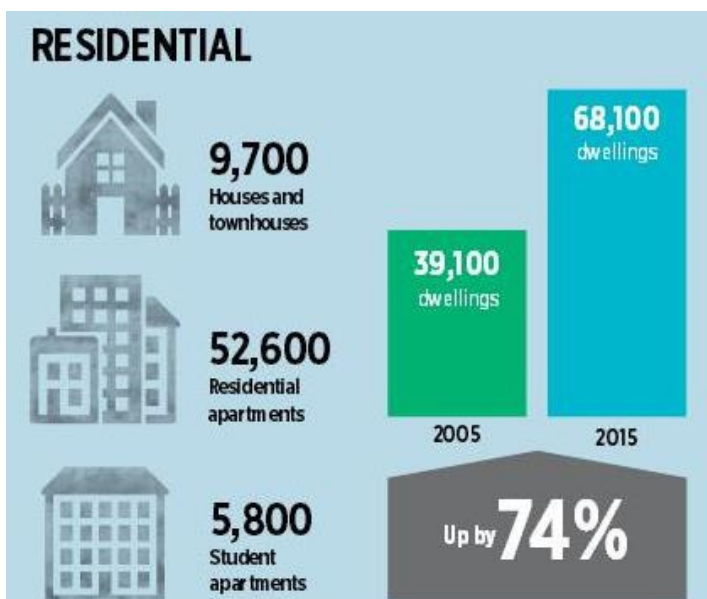
Surge in commercial and residential construction

Tuesday, 8 March 2016

More than 1420 serviced apartments or hotel rooms are under construction in inner Melbourne as our reputation as a tourism destination continues to grow. Read the full report at the following link.

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/news-and-media/Pages/surge-commercial-residential-construction.aspx>

The detailed data set can be found on the City of Melbourne's [open data portal](#).



Extract from City of Melbourne CLUE 2015 Report

'Worthless' real estate sale



Restored terrace houses in Faraday St., Carlton (saved by CRA in 2003)

A recent sale before auction (at around \$1.5 million) of a restored terrace house, 254 Faraday Street, at the edge of the student housing complex, *College Square on Swanston*, brings back memories of a mammoth six week long CRA battle at VCAT in 2003. Melbourne University (MU) and its development partner Becton, planned to demolish all the terrace houses around the site in Faraday and Cardigan Streets, in a bid to build 'public housing' style towers.

CRA founding President, Dr Sue Chambers, led an impressive team of pro-bono planning lawyers and expert witnesses who won the day and gained substantial concessions on the objectionable development proposal. Bracks' Government Planning Minister, Mary Delahunty, provided a developer friendly site-specific 36m high planning overlay to negate the former 10.5m height and heritage overlay for the site. The 'Decision to Grant a Permit' was posted on the site on Christmas Eve 2002, with an objector response window of just two weeks. It proved a major challenge for CRA to respond during the summer holiday period.

The terrace house shells were claimed to be worthless real estate at the VCAT Hearing in mid-2003, destined only for demolition. Through wholehearted CRA intervention all the houses were saved, sold and restored. The College Square building was substantially modified in design to limit its impacts on Cardigan Street and the terrace houses. The original MU proposal was assessed by VCAT as 'a fundamentally flawed scheme'.

These restored terrace houses are an important reminder of Carlton's Victorian Era heritage and substantially soften the stark visual impact of the MU 'brutalist' College Square student housing monolith. Please spare a thought for Sue Chambers and CRA when you next walk past these important and historic terrace houses.

Working Groups

APP No./ADDRESS	DETAILS OF WORK/CRA INTEREST
<p>Planning Applications Carried Forward –</p> <p>TP-2014-399 53 Queensberry St Objection</p> <p>TP-2015-440 23-33 Lincoln Sq. Sth. Objection</p> <p>TP-2013-337/A 701 Swanston St Rydges Hotel Objection</p> <p>TP-2015-583 391-395 Rathdowne St Objection</p> <p>TP-2015-636 1-23 Rathdowne St Objection</p> <p>TP-2015-742 86-94 Pelham St. Objection</p> <p>TP-2015-983 4-12 Leicester Place Objection</p> <p>TP-2015-1057 558-566 Swanston St Objection</p> <p>TP-2015-1146 122-136 Berkeley St Objection</p> <p>TP-2016-46 205 Pelham St /81 Barry St Objection</p> <p>Previous Applications for which further information is still awaited.</p> <p>TP-2015-265 171-175 Grattan St</p>	<p>Alterations to existing church. Awaiting VCAT Ruling.</p> <p>VCAT upheld CoM Refusal. A pleasing outcome for CoM and opponents, however the ruling does not preclude an alternative submission by the applicant.</p> <p>CoM issued NOD to grant a permit, conditions imposed should address concerns. Appeal to VCAT withdrawn, permit issued.</p> <p>5 storey mixed use. A new 4 storey proposal with revised facade treatment lodged. CRA's concerns largely addressed. CoM issued NOD to grant permit. No further CRA action anticipated.</p> <p>Change of use, amenity issues for nearby residents. Applicant appealed CoM refusal. VCAT hearing awaited.</p> <p>8 storey mixed use in a 4 storey preferred height DDO with heritage implications. CoM refused application..</p> <p>20 storey mixed use. Applicant has appealed to VCAT on the grounds of CoM's failure to make a decision. CRA excluded from the hearing. Outcome of VCAT hearing awaited.</p> <p>17 storey mixed use and waiver of unloading provisions. CRA concern is excessive height and unloading. Site has a preferred height limit of 9 storeys. Applicant has appealed to VCAT on the grounds of CoM's failure to make a decision within the prescribed time. Decision awaited.</p> <p>12 storey mixed use, waiver of unloading provisions. CRA's concern is excessive height, site has a preferred height limit of 32 metres (9 storeys) and unloading. CoM processing.</p> <p>This is a consolidation of the 'Reece' site, which was the subject of a previous CRA objection (and VCAT hearing) and an adjoining Barry St site. CRA has objected, however involvement will be limited due to capital city zoning (Amendment C196). CoM Processing.</p> <p>4 storey development (Student, residential & commercial). CoM has requested further information from the applicant.</p>
<p>March - 16 Applications - One Objection</p> <p>TP-2016-188 291-299 Lygon Street/222 224 Faraday street - King & Godfree</p> <p>Further information awaited on one.</p> <p>TP-2016-204 10 & 14 Drummond Place</p>	<p>This application is for building and works in a Commercial 1 Zone, but it is the change of use which it is designed to accommodate that is CRA's principal concern. A major roof top restaurant and entertainment venue is proposed, which will accommodate an additional 350 plus patrons, with DJ and amplified music. CoM processing.</p> <p>Removal of height limiting covenants.</p>
<p>April - 9 Applications - No Objections.</p> <p>Further information awaited on two.</p> <p>TP-2016-248 10 & 14 Drummond Place</p> <p>TP-2016-259 599-605 Swanston St</p>	<p>Construct two new dwellings.</p> <p>15 storey student accommodation proposal.</p>
<p>May- 3 Applications (to 16 May) - No Objections</p>	

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 current application, searching by application number or address.

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/building-and-development/property-information/planning-building-registers/pages/town-planning-permits-register.aspx> To contact the Planning Committee: planningcra@gmail.com

Managing Residential Development Advisory Committee

During the last week of April, the CRA presented a submission to this Committee. This Committee was established by the current Minister for Planning [The Hon. Richard Wynne, MP] to report on the application of the zones that provide for residential development. For the suburb of Carlton, these were the zones introduced by the previous Minister for Planning in late 2014. More particularly, these new controls only affected that part of Carlton north of Grattan and Carlton Streets.

Will the existing suite of residential zones have a negative or positive impact upon Carlton? For a group of ‘planning professionals’ and lobby groups for the development industry, the answer was clear; they would have a negative impact. They argued that the restrictive [mandatory] controls that were included with some of the zoning options would make it harder for a diversity of dwellings to be provided. In contrast, the CRA argued that, given the boom in apartment construction taking place south of Grattan Street, it was essential for any new planning controls to support the retention of the valued terrace form so typical in the heritage precincts of Carlton.

The CRA submission made extensive reference to the controls that applied to the different sides of Palmerston Place.

Notice the difference? Palmerston Place - same heritage precinct with vastly different planning controls for each side.



Palmerston Place – South Side



Palmerston Place – North Side

On the north side, a mandatory height limit of 8 m applies [about two storeys]. In contrast, the south side, a discretionary height ‘limit’ of 9 m applies; but, 5 storey plus buildings may be permitted! This made no sense to CRA.

While the small lot subdivisional pattern that typifies both sides of Palmerston Place would make 5 storey developments a challenging proposition, in the view of the Association, key planning controls should establish unambiguous guidance as to the desired development outcomes. In the experience of the CRA, where guidance is ambiguous, some applicants will test the boundaries with provocative development proposals, which often result in very time consuming [and challenging] VCAT hearings

VCAT Fees Review

Existing fees structure of VCAT, set in 2013, is scheduled for review in mid-2016. ‘Cost recovery’ is at the base of the proposed new fees publicised via a *Regulatory Review Statement* (<https://myviews.justice.vic.gov.au/>)

Our primary concern with the Review is the new fees structure for the Planning and Environment List proposed in the *Regulatory Impact Statement* (RIS) document. We are dismayed at the introduction of a fee of \$51 to be levied on individual objectors when lodging a *Statement of Grounds*. It is evident from statements within the RIS and recent press reports (*The Age*, 25 April, 2016) that the intent is to discourage community participation in VCAT processes. At ‘Transforming VCAT’ Forums in recent years, hosted by then VCAT Presidents, Justices Bell and Ross, we were assured that VCAT would uphold its charter ‘to provide Victorians with a low cost, accessible, efficient and independent tribunal delivering high quality dispute resolution’.

Many years of CRA experience at VCAT, confirms developers with their costly planning barristers and bevy of paid expert witnesses add substantially to costs and complicate the Hearing process. Residents Groups, such as CRA, acting in the public interest, cannot match the financial and legal ‘firepower’ readily available to developers. Unfortunately, VCAT has become a Tribunal where money often determines the outcome. Developer costs are tax deductible as an expense of business; the Council and community members must fund their own costs.

The concept of VCAT providing low cost dispute resolution has been largely lost over the past 20 years. The imbalance which favours developers will only be exacerbated with the proposed new fees structure. The public has a democratic right to object to developments which impact their property, streetscape and environment. The level of community objection to particular development proposals is regularly canvassed during VCAT Hearings. Objector numbers matter, as Planning Minister Wynne has acknowledged.

Many development proposals challenge long-established planning regulations within the Melbourne Planning Scheme and ignore Council planning decisions. Costly VCAT interventions are then inevitable.

Developer self-interest appears to have driven the current fees review with the aim of stymying community involvement in planning. In the view of the Property Council: “VCAT has become the plaything of the NIMBY community. This potential reform [fees increase] will limit the number of people gaming the system to frustrate legitimate building activities”. (They would say that!)

For the record, CRA members have never objected to developments without good reason and are generally in accord with City of Melbourne planning decisions which developers have challenged at VCAT. It is our contention that individual objectors must not be sidelined and disadvantaged by VCAT fees. The planning process is already very confronting and overwhelming; community input is vital to our democracy.

Given the current role of VCAT as a defacto planning authority, we contend that developers be levied to fund VCAT operations, just as the banking industry must now fund the banking regulator. Developers short-term profit motives and unwillingness to accept Council planning decisions drives the majority of VCAT Appeals. The proposed ‘user pay’ fees should be levied on those who drive the system, not those impacted by it.

IT'S TIME TO JOIN CRA

Join online via the following link -

<http://www.trybooking.com/GJWM>

Associated Groups

(CRA has representatives on these groups)

Melbourne North Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC)

- A new committee was appointed: Ian Pugsley: (North Melbourne resident) chairperson; Nick Parissis (Police): secretary; Michael Elligate: (Carlton Rotary): treasurer; Connie Paglianini: Communications and Marketing.
- PCCC is planning to organise another kids’ camp

A crime report :

- Carlton is a hot spot particularly with respect to robberies e.g. mobile phones: police are planning to step up with more patrols.
- With the increase in student numbers there is an increase in bicycle thefts and also an increase in thefts from cars – people are advised to make sure their cars are locked.
- PCCC will attempt to increase its diverse community representation (i.e. diverse representation within our members). Future meetings will be held in various community venues.

Council election funding transparency

In *Newsflash* Summer 2016, we highlighted the negative impacts of developer donations on the orderly functioning of the Council. Long-time campaigner for donations transparency, Cr Jackie Watts led the charge, which came to a head at the Future Melbourne Committee Meeting on 19 April, 2016. Although Cr Watts’ Motion was lost, an alternative Motion from Cr Stephen Mayne for a ‘voluntary’ code of disclosure attracted unanimous councillor support, including from Lord Mayor Doyle.

Victoria’s electoral laws require only that donations be declared 40 days after Council Elections. The newly adopted guidelines encourage regular disclosure of donations of \$500 and above, from April 2016 until after the election in October 2016. Donor information will be published on the Council website.

Although voluntary, the agreed guidelines will place significant moral pressure on councillors to comply. We are grateful to Cr Watts for continuing to pursue donations reform in the face of opposition from most councillors.

According to *The Age* Editorial (29 March, 2016), “Voters are entitled to know who is financially supporting the people and parties that control decisions in government. This [lack of transparency] is an entirely unsatisfactory and archaic state of affairs for a wealthy nation that purports to be a vibrant and sophisticated democracy”.

Council Annual Plan & Budget: 2016-17

The City of Melbourne Plan and Budget was adopted at the Council Meeting on 5 May 2016. Its Executive Summary noted: “Through this plan the Council will ensure Melbourne is a vibrant inclusive place, well positioned to meet the opportunities and challenges of a growing city for decades to come. It is a disciplined and fiscally responsible budget with no new borrowings, a focus on completing Council Plan, a focus on cost containment and a modest rate increase of 2.5 per cent with no increase in street parking fees”.

Budget major highlights include:

- Rate increase of 2.5% (inflation), in line with State Government ‘rate cap’
- Total income \$431 million: Rates \$257m, Parking Fees & Fines \$87m
- Total Recurrent Expenditure \$400 million: Employee Benefits \$152m, Materials & Services \$160m, Depreciation \$61m
- Capital Works \$96 million: Infrastructure \$58m, Property \$21m, Plant & Equipment \$17m

Full details of the Plan & Budget are available at <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/budget> . It is open for public comment until 3 June 2016.

Walking Carlton - self guided walks

Lygon Street - Although Lygon Street is renowned for its eateries, the area also boasts a treasure of culturally and historically important sites. Some of the more significant buildings and features are highlighted in this walk.

<http://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/180>

Royal Exhibition Building & Carlton Gardens - A printed guide is available from Museum Vic or the Tourist Information Office at Federation Square or at:

<http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/Documents/Parks/CarltonGardens.pdf>

Heritage listed buildings in Carlton

http://www.walkingmelbourne.com/heritage_listed_buildings_suburb.html?suburb=117

Italian Carlton – another perspective

<http://www.museoitaliano.com.au/museo-italiano/italian-carlton>

The University of Melbourne. Parkville Campus, Billibellary's Walk - A cultural interpretation of the landscape and experience of connection to country.

http://www.murruabarak.unimelb.edu.au/files/miip/MelbUni%20-%20A4%20to%20DL%20Brochure%20-%20Map%2005_0.pdf

To share other local walks contact CRA.

carltonresidents@gmail.com

The City of Melbourne Information Centre at Federation Square has pamphlets detailing suggested walks, all within close proximity of Carlton covering arcades and lanes, parks, gardens, Cathedrals etc.

Fascinating night tours of the Melbourne General Cemetery

For an interesting and educational experience, try the popular night tours of Melbourne General Cemetery, one of Australia's most important burial grounds. Notable interments included on the tour are various Prime Ministers, legendary billiards player Walter Lindrum, ill-fated explorers Burke and Wills, and Federici, the famous ghost of the Princess Theatre.

Fridays 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Bookings: phone 8558 8210 or visit the website at <http://www.mgc.smct.org.au>

CARLTON COMMUNITY HISTORY GROUP

Are you interested in the history of Carlton?

Do you have stories to tell of earlier times?
Are you pursuing family or local history?
Are you interested in the history of our colourful suburb?
For more information, contact Jeff Atkinson at

jeffann@bigpond.net.au or
Carlton Community History Group
P.O. Box 148, Carlton North, 3054
Email: carlton@cchg.asn.au Website: www.cchg.asn.au

Carlton icon Readings wins Bookstore of the Year award at London Book Fair

Heartiest congratulations to Readings for winning the Bookstore of the Year award at the 2016 London Book Fair International Excellence Awards!

This award is open to any bookshop outside the UK and the shortlist included bookshops from China, Italy and Estonia. Readings was chosen as the winner for its support of Australian authors, its community outreach, and its help for non-profit organisations working on literacy initiatives. "We're delighted and extremely honoured to receive this award. It's a reflection of the quality of Australian independent bookshops." (Mark Rubbo owner of Readings).

And more excellent news for Carlton: committed to children's literature as an integral part of children's development, Readings will in the next few months open a dedicated children's shop right next door to their Lygon St bookshop. The many and varied beautifully produced children's books hold immense appeal to young readers, in different ways to the iPad apps also often at their disposal.

Carlton murder in dingy dark lane

Presented by Rhonda Day

Have a look at the internet site - <http://trove.nla.gov.au/> You will find a treasure trove of newspapers, magazines, photographs and research material maintained by the National Library of Australia.

Old newspapers, such as the Argus, show Carlton's past, at times dark, violent and very sad. "The Melbourne Tragedy", the Argus, 17 February 1913, tells such a story.

Gurgling noises heard in laneway

Midnight on 17 February 1913, and a local resident walking home hears a strange gurgling noise and the sound of frenzied movement coming from a dark lane off Bouverie Street, South Carlton. Mr Greenless, the resident, enters the lane. He stumbles over two bodies, a young woman, her head almost severed and a man still alive and thrashing about on the ground. A razor dripping with blood lies beside the bodies.

The Police arrive and Constable Valentine is badly bitten by Rawlings as he struggles to get the man into the St John's Ambulance to take both to the Melbourne Hospital. There, Dr Tait sees that the man is in a critical condition and requires immediate surgery. The young woman had been dead only a short time.

She was only 23

A State Savings Bank book in her handbag identified the woman as Miss Alice Hudson of Queensberry Street, aged 23. The man was James Rawlings, his age reported to be 48. In a later article he was described as a widower of 30 years of age. He had a son in the country. (cont p 8)

The following day, under the headline, “Statement by Woman’s Lover”, the Argus reported the investigation by Detective Arthur and Plain Clothes Constables Campbell and Sharpe. The tragedy, they stated, was caused by jealousy and Miss Hudson’s refusal to give Rawlings money. Rawlings killed her and tried to take his own life.

They believed Rawlings had followed Alice Hudson from the country, stayed with her for some time in Carlton and then left. Her life was harsh. Alice Hudson brought a baby girl to Carlton with her and paid 3d per day out of a wage of 23 shillings per week to have the child minded in a crèche.

She then met Henry Leighton who lived at 113 Elgin Street and worked with her at the Red Heart Jam Factory. Leighton believed that Alice came from Albury and the child was her sister’s child. He said “Miss Hudson started there (the factory) in November last year and as soon as I saw her I took her to be a girl with whom I could settle down.”

He reported that Rawlings followed Alice persistently. Leighton had intervened the day before the murder when Rawlings asked Alice for money. Rawlings said he was Alice’s Uncle Jim.

They kissed on the corner of Lygon and Grattan streets

On Monday night at about half past ten, Leighton kissed Alice goodnight on the corner of Lygon and Grattan streets and arranged to meet her again the following night.



Watts Shoe Store on the Corner of Lygon and Grattan Streets since 1895

Other witnesses were found. A local boy described what he took to be a drunken fight as he passed the lane about 11pm. He saw the young woman break away and reach the end of the lane in Bouverie Street. The man followed her and dragged her towards a vacant allotment.

An elderly woman who ran a shop in Madeline Street which backed onto the vacant allotment reported a woman’s blood-curdling screams for help behind her shop. Her son and son-in-law found the two bodies lying in a pool of blood and ran for the Police.

The child ,who was about four months old, (d.o.b. 14/10/1912) was taken to Carlton Police after the murder.

She was sent to the Department for Neglected Children until relatives could be found.

Alice Hudson was buried at Springvale.

A further article dated 24 February 1913 stated Rawlings was recovering from surgery. On 17 April 1913 an article in the Hobart Mercury reported James Rawlings’ body was found hanging from his braces at the Melbourne Gaol the night before he was due to be tried for murder.

No further information was found about the child, apart from her name, Hazel Jean Hudson and date of birth.

A sad footnote to a story of violent obsession.

La Mama courtyard launch



Jeanne Pratt AC launched La Mama’s refurbished forecourt

On a balmy Indian summer evening on 22 March La Mama launched its beautiful, newly refurbished forecourt, made possible by a generous donation from Jeanne Pratt AC and The Pratt Foundation. Artistic Director Dr Liz Jones commented that this revamp, which includes a kitchen and storage facilities, is absolutely life changing.

The celebration commenced with stunning vocal performances by Susan Bamford Caleo and Mary Helen Sassman. Liz warmly thanked the invited guests for their ongoing financial support of La Mama, and for their performances, their skills, hard work, dedication and love. She expressed deepest gratitude to Jeanne Pratt and the Pratt Foundation for their immensely generous, ongoing support of La Mama, reminding those present of the Foundation’s contribution of **\$350,000+** towards the purchase of the iconic theatre in 2008. This substantial donation stimulated other philanthropic organisations and the government to contribute, and thereby made purchase of the theatre possible. A further donation from the Pratt Foundation two years ago funded the special modular seating now enjoyed at the Courthouse theatre.