



# NEWSFLASH

June 2023

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Supported by the Community Services Grants Program

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### A Message from the President— Trish O’Loughlin

Trish O’Loughlin has accepted the role of President for 2023 with Martin Brennan as Vice President.

**Hello. I’d like to introduce myself as the 2023 CRA president.**

Firstly I would like to pay my respects to Elders past and present and emerging.

My name is Trish O’Loughlin and I’ve been a Carlton resident for nearly thirteen years and in the CRA for twelve years.

Previously I’ve lived in Geelong, Armidale, Moonee Ponds, Fitzroy, Horsham and Singapore – mostly in Fitzroy.

Most of my working life has been spent in the Education sector—mainly in deaf education. I now work part time, still in education and enjoy travel, art, cinema, opera, yoga and walking.

As volunteers in the CRA, we, the committee, meet monthly to plan and work together on local issues which include:

- Planning – a huge part of the CRA and one that demands a separate committee with an enormous amount of extra work which can overlap into Heritage issues.
- Heritage issues – another important part of the CRA – with expertise even the City of Melbourne (CoM) relies on.
- Traffic, Transport, Parking, Noise Pollution & Visual Pollution. .
- The Royal Exhibition Buildings and Carlton Gardens. (REB & CG)  
CRA collaborates with The Friends of the Carlton Gardens group to work with Yarra Council and CoM regarding concern about damage to the Gardens.

CRA members often work with outside groups to address these ongoing issues.

Other projects for 2023 are:

- Making and maintaining contact with young people – especially students.
- Organising Carlton Conversations – held every few months at The Clyde Hotel.

In addition it is pleasing to note that in the latest budget the CoM has put \$30 million towards the ongoing graffiti problem, as well as installing, in the near future, cameras outside the Central Business District for the first time. The CoM plan is to have the public toilet in Faraday Street completed by the end of June.

Thank you for reading this introduction. New members are always welcome.



**Now is the time to renew your CRA membership or join:**

[www.trybooking.com/CEHBB](http://www.trybooking.com/CEHBB)

**OR, for payment—CRA Direct Credit Details:**

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

**Please ensure all details are included for EFT membership payments.**

**Find a membership form [here](#)**

## Heritage

### Carlton Heritage review

The City of Melbourne has endorsed the new heritage controls for Carlton. The CRA has strenuously opposed many aspects of the changes as covered in earlier Newsflashes (March and December 2022 - available on the website [Newsflash archive](#)) and on the CRA website [Heritage page](#).

The changes will severely weaken heritage conservation in our area.

## Planning

### 1-23 Rathdowne Street - former Cancer Council Building

VCAT recently determined that it had the jurisdiction to process the applicants appeal with the City of Melbourne remaining the responsible authority, providing that amended drawings were submitted for a development with a gross floor area less than 25,000 sq m.

Amended plans are to be presented, for determination, at a rescheduled Practice Day on 16 June. The Applicant has circulated documents to be considered on this day.

The revised scheme reduces the gross floor area, including basements, from the original scheme, that was approximately 30,000 sq m, to 21,714 sq m. The central area of the building has been reduced from thirteen storeys to nine storeys.



*Revised East Elevation Rathdowne Street*

The maximum discretionary building height is indicated above

The northern part of the Rathdowne Street frontage remains three storeys, the east facing building at the Victoria Street corner is reduced by one storey.

The corner street frontage building is well above the 10 m preferred maximum height limit that should be achieved under the Planning Scheme, while the central area of nine storeys is also much higher than the 16 m preferred maximum (approx. five storeys) that should be achieved.

The new scheme has a central courtyard opening onto Rathdowne Street.

If allowed to proceed at the Practice Day, a Compulsory Conference will be held to see if the parties can agree with the application, fully or in part. If not, the application will be determined at a VCAT hearing scheduled to begin on 9 October.

*Planning continued on page 4*

### 186-190 Lygon Street - former Bendigo Bank on the Pelham Street corner

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The City of Melbourne has issued a Notice of Determination to approve the construction of a five storey building that has the top two storeys set back on both streets.

This is a minor concession to the scale of heritage buildings in the area.

The CRA has decided not to take its objection further.



## Traffic Transport Parking Noise

### e-Scooters

The Carlton Residents Association recently addressed the trial of the e-scooter shared scheme introduced in 2022 across the municipalities of Melbourne, Yarra, and Port Phillip. The recent announcement that the trial would be extended for a further six months raises many questions that need to be answered to ensure that the future of commercially provided e-scooters is based on an independent and consultative process and not beholden to the interests of the companies providing the e-scooters.

We are aware of many incidents of riding on footpaths, excessive speed, the non-wearing of helmets and the inappropriate placing of e-scooters on footpaths, roadways and in local parks. Whilst there is a popularly held view that e-scooters contribute to an integrated transport system there is no evidence to support such a claim. In fact, as other cities have experienced around the world, e-scooters are not replacing cars but instead walking and cycling. Paris, a pioneer of e-scooters, has now banned them!



*e scooters anywhere and everywhere*

We therefore wrote to the Lord Mayor and Councillors requesting a review of the use of e-scooters across our municipality to ensure that the views of residents inform the State Government's decision on the future of commercially available e-scooters. We are pleased to report that Cr Rohan Leppert has responded to our request and has informed the CRA that the Annual Plan now includes a provision that Council establish 'a position on the future of commercial e-scooters operations in the municipality in response to Victorian Government decisions'. There will therefore be an opportunity later in the year for Council to consider its position on e-scooters in an open session for community input.

The CRA believes that if commercially operated e-scooters are to be part of the transport mix we would need to be assured that the State Government and the Melbourne City Council would introduce laws for their use to ensure compliance of companies and their users. We believe that the State

Government and the Melbourne City Council should be seeking to encourage walking, cycling and public transport usage and reduce car usage across our City.



## Queen Victoria Market

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



At the City of Melbourne's Council meeting 30 May 23, the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) Quarterly Report was tabled. Its purpose was a progress report on the QVM 'renewal' project which included the H and I Shed restoration; the status of the 'temporary' re-location of H and I Shed traders for 4+ years; the

progress of the seven level Trader Shed on Queen St, the park (called Market Square) which will replace the market car park; the arts precinct; Testing Grounds, occupying the eastern edge of the car park; the Therry Street streetscape works; and the Southern Site development on Franklin St which will overlook the proposed park and absorb the heritage trader storage sheds on the southern edge of the car park.

18 submissions were written by the community who are unhappy with the state, and the direction of our market by the Council.

Below we share with you a local resident's excellent submission to Council.

*Dear Councillors,*

*I wish to take the opportunity offered by the presentation of this Report to lodge my deep concern with the direction being taken in the above strategy, which is damaging the Queen Victoria Market and its precinct in a way that will soon be impossible to reverse.*

*I submit that the current Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Program, is deeply flawed and should be suspended pending independent review.*

*As a market customer and a person concerned with the protection of heritage in Melbourne and its suburbs, I draw to your attention the following fundamental errors in the current strategy.*

*The strategy taken (and the way the Market has been managed recently) has driven away so many traders so that the market is now a shadow of its former self.*

- The shopping experience is marred by the extraneous shipping containers and other junk littered throughout the market, the empty spaces in what should be active trading sheds, and an apparent lack of commitment to the core role of the market as the people's source of fresh food.*
- The great inconvenience to market customers by the progressive downsizing of the market car park making it harder and harder to park.*
- The disregard of the market's heritage importance by proposed construction of out of scale and inappropriate buildings on the market campus and*
- The apparent belief by Council and its agents that it is entitled to appropriate the people's market space for trendy events unconnected with the market's role as the people's fresh food source.*

*It is incredible that weak environment and heritage legislation and administration by the State and Commonwealth governments has allowed this extremely misguided strategy to roll forward unchecked.*

*I request that the Council suspend the QVM Precinct Renewal Strategy immediately, and seek competent advice outside of the current Council and market staff with a view to a revised strategy based on better serving the market's customers with the core products that it has provided for more than a century.*

*The market belongs to the community and Melbourne City Council and its agents do not have social licence to undermine and transform the Market's traditional role to create some kind of MCC-controlled events space.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Prof E W Russell, PO Box --- Carlton Vic 3053.*

## City of Melbourne - CoM - your closest level of government

Cr Dr Olivia Ball, local resident and City of Melbourne Councillor writes.

Friends and neighbours,  
**Voice to Parliament**

Melbourne City Council supports the proposed Voice to parliament and all elements of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. Voting in the referendum is compulsory and we encourage all voters to be informed and engaged in the issues. Enrol to vote or update your enrolment here: [aec.gov.au](http://aec.gov.au)



If you haven't yet read the Uluru Statement, I urge you to do so:  
<https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/>

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is *a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.*

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient *sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.*

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is *the torment of our powerlessness.*

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a *rightful place* in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: *the coming together after a struggle*. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

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How will the Voice work? The Castan Centre for Human Rights Law provides resources to help us all understand what is proposed in the referendum: [www.monash.edu/law/research/centres/castancentre/our-areas-of-work/indigenous/voice-to-parliament-resources](http://www.monash.edu/law/research/centres/castancentre/our-areas-of-work/indigenous/voice-to-parliament-resources)

### Council Plan 2024

The City of Melbourne's annual plan and budget is available in draft form online: [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans)

Discussion will take place at a special meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee at Melbourne Town Hall on Tues 20 June.

'Til next time,  
Olivia

## New statue at Trades Hall - Zelda D'Aprano

May 30 saw the unveiling of a statue at Trades Hall.



Zelda D'Aprano was a significant campaigner for equal pay in the 1960's and 70's.

Read more information [here](#) and [here](#).



**The Royal Exhibition Building will again become a large scale music venue to host a major new 17-day festival in Carlton..**

Information here: <https://nowornever.melbourne.vic.gov.au/>



## Melbourne's creatives need your help to save the Nicholas Building

Ellen Sandell, State MP for Melbourne writes:

The Nicholas Building is one of my favourite places in the city. When you walk into the building off busy Swanston Street, the cathedral arches make it feel like you've stepped into another time. Exploring the floors above feels a bit like a maze, with every door opening to something new and exciting.

You'll find jewelers, tailors, art galleries, textile artists, craft workshops, designer clothing stores, photographers, and even a virtual reality art studio. In the hallways and elevators, artists and creatives chat, ideate, and collaborate.

There truly is nowhere else quite like it.

For more than 40 years this art deco building has offered affordable studios and community to Melbourne's creatives. It's currently home to more than 200 artists, creatives, and small businesses. The tenants I've spoken to don't underestimate how special this place is. One tenant described it as feeling "more like home than my home."

But right now, this community is under threat. The Nicholas Building is up for sale and could fall into the hands of property developers. If it's turned into apartments, or into a commercial building with astronomical rents, it would push out hundreds of artists and creatives, and we would lose this unique part of Melbourne's cultural history forever.

The Nicholas Building tenants and the local council have presented a number of ideas to the State Government for how they could help save the building and its community. I've also called on the Labor Government in Parliament to step in and save this building. But our pleas have gone unanswered.

We're not giving up. But we need your help.

If you'd like to see this unique heritage building retained as a creative hub, please head to [savethenicholasbuilding.com](http://savethenicholasbuilding.com) and add your name to the open letter calling on the State Labor Government to step in and #SaveTheNicholasBuilding.

We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to save this iconic heritage building from being turned into apartments or a soulless commercial space.

For more on this, or to discuss anything else, please get in touch at [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com).



Ellen Sandell, standing in the foyer of the Nicholas Building in Melbourne's CBD. Image: Julian Meehan.

**clothing exchange program**

Monday - Friday  
10.00am - 3.00pm

Cohealth office  
483 Drummond St

Community Connectors are providing free clothes to anyone who needs them. We welcome you to donate clothes or find a new outfit for every day, a job interview or even a special occasion!

Please ensure all clothing is clean and in good condition

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James.McKinnon@cohealth.org.au