

**The Carlton Residents Association Inc.**

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**Agenda for Carlton**

**Values**

Contribution, Communication, Connection

**Priorities**

Heritage, Planning, Greening, Mobility

The Carlton Residents Association (CRA) is a democratic, non-party political body. Its purpose is to act as an advocate on behalf of the residents of Carlton (defined by postcode 3053) and those who seek to preserve all that is good about Carlton. CRA reflects the views and interests of the Carlton resident community to Melbourne City Council, the State Government and to other local organisations.

Our key values include facilitating contributions from members and residents, communicating our initiatives and interests and developing connections with the broader Carlton community and City resident associations.

CRA has members from all over Carlton, including “Friends of Carlton” members living outside Carlton and sponsors who support our purposes. We welcome new members, since we aim to be representative and inclusive.

CRA provides opportunities for residents to participate in the life of the Carlton community. In addition to monthly Committee meetings, the CRA conducts Carlton Conversations that provide residents with the opportunity to hear from those who live and or work in Carlton. Carlton Conversations will continue to provide speakers on topics of interest and provide an opportunity for a conversation with members and residents on their interests and issues.

Historically the CRA has been a strong force for the good in Carlton. In the absence of Ward Councillors, the CRA holds ‘the line’ on matters which concern us all. Working Groups have been established to monitor and respond to areas of interest and report to the Committee on a regular basis.

**Carlton Profile**

Carlton is a diverse suburb well known for its cafes and restaurants, its entertainment and cultural activities and its educational, business, retail and residential facilities. The Royal Exhibition Buildings and Carlton Gardens are iconic features of our suburb and have World Heritage status. Many residents are local and international students attending the University of Melbourne and RMIT University.

The Carlton population comprises 21,736 residents, 945 businesses, 15,036 local jobs, 28 median age, 55% born overseas, 48% speak a language other than english, 82% dwellings are apartments or flats of 3 storeys plus, 68% households rent.

**Priorities**

Based on a survey of CRA members in July 2024 the CRA Committee the following issues and interests will form the basis of our work during 2024 and 2025.

**Heritage**

Carlton’s heritage needs to be protected from over and unsympathetic development to ensure that we retain our sense of place and our history. We therefore work to ensure that the City of Melbourne’s Heritage Policy for Carlton is accurate and reflects the high level of interest in our heritage. The enforcement of the World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA) that provides an integral buffer for the World Heritage listed Royal Exhibition Buildings and Carlton Gardens (REB & CG is a high priority for the CRA. We therefore support the objectives of the WHEA to maintain the integrity of the REB & CG by protecting the vistas to this World Heritage site.

**Planning**

The CRA Planning Reference Group keeps a watchful eye on inappropriate developments that impact on the heritage values and liveability of Carlton and where needed take action to protect our streetscapes, our heritage buildings and our residential amenity. We therefore seek the assistance of members and residents in alerting us to development proposals that impact on the public realm and if necessary we prepare a submission for the Council that identifies the reasons for our objection. We also, if required, appear before VCAT to argue the case for rejecting a proposed development.

**Greening**

The CRA will continue to support the Council in implementing the Carlton Urban Forest Precinct strategy. The greening of the suburb and where appropriate the part closure of streets for pocket parks is a priority for the CRA. The CRA will therefore advocate for the part closure of Faraday Street between Cardigan and Swanston streets to support the functioning of the Kathleen Syme Community Library as a community hub.

**Melbourne City Council**

The CRA will continue to seek reform of the Melbourne City Council as we move from representative to participatory to deliberative democracy. We will encourage and support the Council initiating People Panels and People Assemblies on matters of importance to the City and their impact on Carlton. The CRA will seek a review of the City of Melbourne Act and its electoral provisions to ensure that they reflect the views and interests of voters across the municipality.

**Lygon Street Activities District**

Our retail and entertainment spine needs economic, social and environmental support that includes footpath replacement, traffic calming, car parking, parklets in support of business, separated cycling lanes, additional street and park seating, and trader support that will enhance both retail and hospitality trading. The planned Argyle Square Market plus festivals and events will add to the viability and vibrancy of Lygon Street.

**Mobility**

The CRA is an advocate for the mobility options that reflect the changing nature of the urban environment and are integrated, sustainable and accessible. We therefore support traffic calming, cycling, walking and public transport. The proposed introduction of the e-scooter shared scheme is a threat to mobility integration due to the lack of a regulatory framework and compliance.

**Social and Affordable Housing**

The CRA will continue to advocate for an increase in social and affordable housing. The decision of Housing Victoria to abandon the public housing towers 141 Nicholson Street and 20 Elgin Street and evict residents is of great concern to the CRA. The decision of Housing Victoria to demolish the Lygon and Drummond streets public housing towers without consulting residents needs to be challenged. The Carlton public housing estates provide much needed housing to those in need and contribute to the housing diversity important to the Carlton community.

**Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens**

The CRA supports the maintenance of the Royal Exhibition Building for major events and the protection of the Carlton Gardens from intensive use by private companies. The CRA supports a review Melbourne International Flowers and Garden Show and a feasibility study into the holding of a Melbourne International Festival of Flowers in the central city. The protection of the World Heritage Environs Area with mandatory height limits is a priority of the Association.

**University of Melbourne**

The University of Melbourne is an integral part of the Carlton community and needs to be incorporated into the overall planning and development of Carlton and in keeping with its residential neighbour. The CRA will continue to engage with the University on the proposed Estate Master Plan. When the Master Plan is formally presented to Council, the CRA will be an active participant in the decision making process to ensure the needs and interests of the Carlton community are respected and included in the final Estate Master Plan. This will be a high priority for the CRA.