



The Carlton Residents Association Inc
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Carlton Resident's Association 29th ANNUAL REPORT for 2024

Presented at the AGM held 17 February 2025

At The Studio, Melbourne Connect

CRA is a democratic, non-party-political association which acts to sustain Carlton's identity and improve its assets and liveability.

2024 CRA Committee - all volunteers.

Martin Brennan – Vice President

Lyn Cracknell – Secretary

Marissa Doyle

Blair Healy,

Dr Les Kilmartin

Trish O'Loughlin - President

Peter Sanders

Megan Stevenson

Philip Watts - Treasurer

2024 CRA Planning Committee - all volunteers

Malcolm Foo

Warren Green

Blair Healy - Convenor

Ewan Oglivy

Elizabeth Pearce

Dennis Toth

Peter Sanders - Convenor

Reflections of 2024.

Highlight of 2024 was the CRA Survey initiated, planned and carried out by Marissa. This set 2024 on a clear path and was followed up in July by an “Agenda for Carlton” afternoon of Deliberative Democracy, brainstorming and planning initiated by Martin and supported by the Committee.

During the afternoon the Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and La Mama board member Angela Buckingham both accepted our invitation to join us for part of the discussions. Thanks to both for their contributions.

We decided on CRA’s 5 priorities:

- 1. Retaining a HERITAGE FEEL & CHALLENGING inappropriate development**
- 2. Improving the GREEN ASPECT of parks and streetscapes.**
- 3. Improving the SAFETY, MOBILITY and WALKABILITY of CARLTON.**
- 4. Minimising TRAFFIC and NOISE.**
- 5. Advocating for AFFORDABLE HOUSING in the community.**

A Huge Thank You to the many members of the CRA who participated in the Survey and sent their responses. These replies were invaluable. We used this information to plan and action our way forward.

Monthly meetings held at committee members’ homes, lasted approximately an hour and a half. They were well attended, even with the frequent travels of the members who joined with Zoom when and where possible.

- The CRA operates in an inclusive non- hierarchical way through a series of reference or working groups.
- There is always some overlap between working groups such as with Heritage issues. The need for a close working committee is invaluable.
- Committee members are all involved in community issues between monthly meetings.

At this point I wish to say that none of what has been achieved in 2024 could have been done without the wonderfully enthusiastic committee who were tireless in their support of the CRA. The diverse skills of each member and the generosity in which they used these skills were unbelievable.

I honestly could not ask for a better committee.

Trish O’Loughlin

The main areas of CRA involvement during 2024 were:

Communication

Convenor Lyn Cracknell

Newsflash & Website, Inner City News & Media. Once again a huge thanks to Lyn for her indefatigable action in these areas.

- See Lyn's report on page 5

Community Involvement

All Committee members.

"Carlton Conversations". These evenings continue to be hugely successful for members and others.

The 2024 speakers were;

- March - Peter Elliot - Reflections on the design of the Public Realm held at the Clyde. Hotel
- June - Morry Schwartz – The History of the Jews in Carlton held at the Clyde Hotel.
- November - Beverly Caprioli and Family – Oral history of Carlton and The University Café held at The University Café.

Carlton History Walk

- This was successfully run in September and was booked out. Thanks Philip.

Melbourne City Council - Meet the candidates Forum.

- Another highlight of the year was the appointment of our new Lord Mayor, Honourable Nicholas Reece and MCC Councillors. We look forward to see how his vision will continue to shape our community in the four years ahead.
- We collaborated with Sergio Alderucci and Carlton Inc. to host this event at Melbourne Connect. Our thanks to Aun Ngo and the Community Engagement Team at the University of Melbourne for making this possible and guiding us all the way to a successful evening.
- Les did a Stirling job as a formidable MP.

CRA Christmas Celebration at La Mama –

Once again we celebrated and enjoyed the atmosphere at La Mama Courtyard – thanks to Caitlin Dullard and Staff.

Members and some friends enjoyed a beautiful evening with food prepared by Committee members. Drinks were available at La Mama Bar.

Boxes of delicious delicacies and Panettone were generously donated again by Brunetti. The Raffle was organised by Committee members and Prizes were donated by Committee members, regular members and Carlton Traders.

Committee Members attended **Community Meetings** throughout the year, followed up when required and reported back to the committee on:

- Melbourne City Council - Parking in Carlton Review
- Supporting La Mama with their forward planning & redirection.
- Meeting with the Minister for Planning, Minister Killkenny.
- The University Square Proposal,
- Redesigning of Lygon Street in conjunction with Carlton Inc.
- University of Melbourne Estate Master Plan,
- Support and Involvement in the opening of the Lygon Street Market in Argyle Square.
- University of Melbourne sponsored Neighbourhood meetings,
- Melbourne City Council - Greening of Melbourne Proposal.
- Presidents' meetings with Melbourne City Council.
- Friends of the Queen Victoria Market.
- PCCC – Police Community Consultation. Crime and safety concerns in Carlton and other inner city areas are raised and communication with the local Police is fostered. Safety cameras were installed in Lygon Street.

Big thanks to our CRA members who continue to be involved in some of these areas.

Planning Committee

Convenors - Blair Healy & Peter Sanders.

The year of 2024 did not have the same planning pressures as the previous year when CRA objected to developments in Drummond St and Rathdowne St. However, remaining vigilant in monitoring inappropriate development in Carlton is always needed in order to preserve the character of Carlton. These cases continue to demand much time and commitment from the Planning committee in order to produce favourable outcomes in protecting the heritage of Carlton.

- See Blair and Peter's Report on Page 6

Mobility Policy

Convenors – Peter Sanders, Martin Brennan and other members as appropriate.

During 2024 the CRA revised its Transport Policy and decided to rename it the Mobility Policy. This was in recognition of our commitment to integrated, sustainable and accessible mobility (see Mobility Policy 2023). We therefore wish to see the promotion of cycling, walking public transport and the introduction of traffic calming measures

- See Peter & Martin's Report on Pages 6 and 7

Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens-

Convenors- Martin Brennan & Trish O'Loughlin

Ensuring that our Heritage protections remain strong has been a critical focus. We continue to closely monitor Heritage controls in Carlton (with the assistance of the planning committee) to make sure that the distinctive architecture and cultural significance of our area is preserved for future generations. We strive to balance development with the preservation of what makes Carlton special. We also work closely with 'Friends of the Carlton Gardens' and have approached the CoM with ideas for the 'Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show'

- See Martin's Report on Page 7 and Trish's Report on Page 8

Greening and Advocating for Affordable Housing are two of the priorities for 2025. Both of these are issues for the City of Melbourne (CoM). CRA is hoping to see changes in these areas during Nick Reece's term as Lord Mayor.

Members interested in working with the committee on these issues please make contact via email or accost us in the street. (carltonresidents@gmail.com)

- Read more on page 8

Finance & Membership

Convenor – Philip Watts

We depend on our members for our financial support and receive a small amount from Melbourne City Council. Philip continues to diligently monitor all aspects of Finance and Membership

- See Philip's Reports on pages 9 and 10

REPORTS 2024

COMMUNICATION Convenor – Lyn Cracknell

The Newsflash:

Newsflash was published for March, June, September and December in 2024.

Mary Healy has continued to proof read the copy, her contribution is most appreciated.

The Newsflash is intended to keep members and the community informed of CRA activities and other events which are of interest.

Distribution is via email to CRA members, politicians, inner city resident groups and other interested parties. Politicians (Local, State and Federal) and to those who request it receive a hard copy in the mail.

Please make contact through the CRA email address, carltonresidents@gmail.com, if you would like to receive a hard copy or cancel this delivery in the future.

Past editions are available in the website archive at:

<https://www.carltonresidents.org.au/cra-2012/newsflash-archive-3/>

Throughout 2024 we have continued to feature a view of Carlton on the front page of each edition. If you have a photo you think might be appropriate for the front page, usually best in portrait layout, please email it to: carltonresidents@gmail.com

The Website:

The CRA website provides information for you to stay informed about the work of CRA and broader aspects of life in Carlton. It also provides an archive of activities and past projects

- Current news, activities and events,
- news from working Groups,
- meetings, and membership
- the committee,
- Newsflash copies back to 2002,
- useful and interesting information for those who live in or frequent Carlton
- contact details

Please take some time to become familiar with our website there is wealth of information to discover.

Members are invited to comment or make suggestions regarding any of the above. Please do so using the carltonresidents@gmail.com email address.

eflash: This emailed news sheet is published incidentally to inform of coming events.

Inner City News:

CRA – has worked towards contributing a column or comment to each monthly edition, in order to inform the wider community of CRA interests and activities.

PLANNING WORKING GROUP Convenors - Blair Healy & Peter Sanders

1-23 Rathdowne Street. There have not been any new applications for permit after the VCAT refusal for the development in 2023. We are concerned that the existing derelict buildings remain and encourage Council to negotiate an interim demolition and greening for the site.

The problem also applies to the former petrol station at the corner of Rathdowne and Barkly Streets.

Draft Amendment C432 to the Melbourne Planning Scheme. We have lodged a strong objection to the proposed changes that would encourage the expansion of Tertiary Education and 'Knowledge Creation and Innovation' into Carlton east of Swanston Street.

Queensberry Street traffic. When Grattan Street was closed for the new underground rail line work, Queensberry Street was two lanes each way with a promise that it would be reversed when Grattan Street opened. We support the reduced traffic proposals from the City of Melbourne but await action.

Ewan Ogiliviy's expertise will be sorely missed by CRA and especially the planning group. He has contributed to the work of CRA in so many ways, sharing his knowledge and expertise over many years. CRA wishes him well in his move and hopes he can continue to participate.

MOBILITY & WALKABILITY Convenors - Peter Sanders & Martin Brennan

Mobility Policy 2024

During 2024 the CRA revised its Transport Policy and decided to rename it the recognition of our commitment to integrated, sustainable and accessible mobility (see Mobility Policy 2023). We therefore wish to see the promotion of cycling, walking public transport and the introduction of traffic calming measures. Our local residential streets should be protected from through traffic with reduced speed and noise limits to protect residents.

Lygon Street has a special place in our history, sense of place and as an activity centre and requires changes. (See Lygon St. Rejuvenation below)

The controversial trial of the e-scooter shared scheme was opposed by the CRA. We believe that any future shared e-scooter scheme must adhere to a strict regulatory and compliance framework to ensure it does not have a detrimental impact on other mobility options. This would include geofencing to prevent their use on footpaths and in our parks and gardens, designated scooter parks, and limits on speed.

Lygon Street Rejuvenation

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Lygon Street is the spine of Carlton and reflects a sense of place through its rich history. We support new opportunities to continue its role for residents and visitor as a retail and restaurant destination that offers a unique experience. We therefore support footpath upgrading, calming, and additional pocket parks. We have prepared a draft plan for Lygon Street which would reduce through traffic, add pedestrian and outdoor eating areas, increase kerbside parking and add greening areas. The plan would reduce the car lanes to one each way and use the space for 3m wider footpaths for better pedestrian amenity and to give improved outdoor dining. Parklets would be removed and the areas used for carparks. The area could be paved with basalt and low planting areas and seating added. Traffic speeds reduced to 30 kph and the reduced lanes would reduce hooning and make it safer for pedestrians.

Streetscape & Graffiti

The Council needs to ensure the rapid removal of all graffiti, the regular and timely cleaning of Lygon Street and environs before and after trading hours, the monitoring of the Safe City Cameras operating on Lygon Street and where and when appropriate the provision of additional CCTV cameras in locations in consultation with local business and residents.

ROYAL EXHIBITION BUILDING & CARLTON GARDENS.

Convenors - Martin Brennan & Trish O'Loughlin

This National Treasure deserves to be carefully managed, protected and preserved under one Governing Body only.

In July 2024 the CRA along with Fitzroy Residents Association and other community organizations that are active in advocacy for this World Heritage site, had a meeting with Minister Sonya Kilkenny **Minister for Planning in Victoria**. Our main purpose was to point out the inconsistency of the current controls and make height limits mandatory for the entire WHEA, including residential areas. That is both the 26 hectares of the building and gardens and the 55.26 hectares in the surrounding Buffer Zone. As well as emphasising the importance of the World Heritage site, other concerns raised were the governance of the building and the state of the building.

We see that both the World Heritage Management Plan and the World Heritage Environs Area Strategic Plan which are still currently with Sonya Kilkenny for approval, are both vital to the future management of the site.

We are still waiting for a response.

The maintenance of the Royal Exhibition Building and the protection of the Carlton Gardens from intensive use require constant attention. A review of the Melbourne **International Flower and Garden Show and its impact on the future of the Carlton Gardens has been recommended by the CRA**. We have also called for a feasibility study into an alternative central city based **Melbourne International Festival of Flowers**. This would include both public and private venues and the continued use of the Royal Exhibition Building and its hard surface surrounds.

We strongly oppose changes that have been made to the classification and protection of heritage places in Carlton.

We need to retain a sense of place and history. We therefore seek a Heritage Policy for Carlton which is accurate and reflects heritage values, protects the World Heritage Environs Area with mandatory height limits and maintains the World Heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens.

The protection of our Heritage from unsympathetic and over development is a high priority.

The **Royal Exhibition Building** is managed by the Victorian Government through Museums Victoria.

The City of Melbourne manages the **Carlton Gardens**.

(However, the Museum manages only part of what is known as the Carlton Gardens).

What we continue to lobby for is:

An Independent Statutory Authority responsible for the management of the World Heritage site Building and Grounds, and also the Buffer Zone.

Our plan in 2025 is to continue to lobby the different bodies who manage the Gardens, on the importance of the Heritage Carlton Gardens and especially the importance of preserving the trees.

We will continue to voice our other concerns regarding:

- Further lobbying with the Minister for Planning- Following our meeting with her last July.
- Continued involvement with MCC re Festival of Flowers Proposal.

NOTE ; <https://engage.vic.gov.au>

GREENING

One of the 5 priorities we decided on at our Agenda for Carlton brainstorming afternoon.

Open space and parks are the lungs of a city. The maintenance of existing Carlton parks and gardens and their expansion is a greening priority. The CRA supports the continued implementation of the Carlton Urban Forest Precinct strategy. We also wish to see the integration of the Urban Forest Precinct Strategy with Housing Victoria and other State Government departments and agencies to ensure that open and green spaces across Carlton are maintained and contribute to the amenity of all residents and to the greening of Carlton.

We also need to expand open space and greening opportunities through the part closure of streets to create pocket parks. We can therefore add to residential amenity and provide shade in response to climate change impacts and the resultant heat island effect.

We will therefore be seeking in 2025 that the Council implement the part closure of Keppel Street between Lygon and Cardigan streets for greening, undertake the greening and the introduction of mobility pathways with reduced traffic in Pelham Street between Rathdowne and Lygon streets (see Lygon St. Rejuvenation) and the part closure of Faraday Street between Cardigan and Swanston streets as a pocket park to increase safety and improved amenity of those visiting the Kathleen Syme Community Library. We also look forward to Council improving the maintenance of all parks across Carlton including the Cardigan Street Park, which is home to the City of Melbourne Toy Library.

Advocating for AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Another of the 5 priorities we decided on at our Agenda for Carton brainstorming afternoon.

Megan continues to concern herself and consequently be involved with housing affordability and public housing in Carlton and the ongoing saga of what to do with the high rise towers.

CRA has approached CoM regarding the demolition of the red brick towers cnr Elgin and Johnson Sts. It seems the Council can do very little in this situation.

We notice that the State Government no longer uses the term Public Housing. Why?

2025 CRA Planned Areas of Engagement

- Member's Forums
- Lygon St. redesign and Beautification/
- Pelham Street proposal.
- Pedestrian Safety
- Heritage issues re Planning, Carlton Gardens, Flower & Garden Show
- Melbourne general Cemetery connection
- Affordable housing & Social Housing issues.
- Carlton Conversations
- Carlton History Walks
- PCCC Meetings – safety and mobility
- Continued involvement with other resident groups
- Continued involvement with Melbourne City Council re Greening of Melbourne
- Parklands, Street scapes, Graffiti
- Fundraising - Trivia Night



Treasurer's Report – to 2025 AGM 17 February

As you can see from the figures presented in the Financial Statement, the financial situation of CRA continues to be strong after our income exceeded our expenses for the fifth year in a row. I should emphasise that the intention of the committee is not to squirrel away funds, but to ensure the organisation is financially solid and can draw upon our reserves, as and when required.

This report covers actual income and expenses against the 2024 budget, a budget for the 2025 year and a simplified balance sheet which shows the net assets of CRA to be over \$27,000.

A conservative 2025 budget has been prepared, which is included in the document. This is in line with our broad objective of living within our means, with expenses not exceeding our income.

Does anyone have any questions about CRA finances? If so, please email me at –

wattsphilip3@gmail.com



Financial Statement – 2024 AGM

Carlton Residents Association Inc 2024

	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025
Income \$			
City of Melbourne Community Grant	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Donations & Sundry Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subscriptions Received/Membership	\$ 3,759.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,000.00
Other revenue (Raffle, cards etc)	\$ 250.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Walking Tours	\$ 328.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 6,337.00	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,400.00
Expenses \$			
Contributions, Donations & Memberships	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Licenses & Taxes, Annual Return Fees	\$ 104.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Public Liability, Officers Insurance	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
Newsflash newsletter	\$ 1,404.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Postage	\$ 156.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Printing & Stationery	\$ 14.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Hire of Kathleen Syme room	\$ 85.00	\$ -	\$ -
Web site hosting, maintenance	\$ 298.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Postbox	\$ 154.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 160.00
Carlton Conversation Expenses	\$ 1,637.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00
Miscellaneous & Sundry Expenses	\$ 503.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Neighbour Day Expenses	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Christmas Party Expenses	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Total Expenses	\$ 5,655.00	\$ 6,360.00	\$ 6,360.00
Surplus/(Loss) 2024	\$ 682.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 40.00

BALANCE SHEET as @ 31/12/23

Assets \$

Bendigo Bank trading account	\$ 5,449.00
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit One	\$ 7,949.00
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit Two	\$ 6,499.00
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit Three	\$ 7,236.00
TryBooking account	\$ 430.00
Total Assets \$	\$ 27,563.00

Total Liabilities \$

\$ -

Net Assets \$

\$ 27,563.00