



THE PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION Inc.

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www.parkvilleassociation.org.au

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Heather Mathew

No. 4

August 2004

**General Meeting – Tuesday 7th September 2004 at 8.00 p.m.,
College Church Hall, 188 Gatehouse Street, Parkville**

Guest Speaker: Peter Holloway

Peter Holloway, author, campaigner and radio commentator on heritage will give a talk to the Parkville Association at 8 pm next Tuesday evening in College Church Hall. His subject will be "Victorian and Edwardian Design and how to keep it intact in your own home - an expert's comments" and he will bring some samples of design and colour to show us.

Peter has spent many years researching and conserving Australia's heritage and running his interior design business "Hawthorne Design & Decor" sympathetically restoring period houses of 1840-1940 in Melbourne. He has researched appropriate soft furnishings, manufacturers and suppliers to be used in period houses from Colonial through Victorian and Edwardian to Art Deco. He has appeared on radio, spoken and written on these areas and their practical application.

He is currently President of the Mornington Peninsula Branch of the National Trust, and has been its representative in the successful campaign to save Point Nepean Quarantine Station from private development, and last month appeared at VCAT to strongly oppose the first application on the Peninsula under Melbourne 2030 for a 6-storey block of apartments in Main Street, Mornington.

Come and bring a friend!

Calendar of Events 2004 – update your Diary NOW! Friends and guests welcome.

Event	Date & Time	Details
Committee Meeting	5 Oct. at 8.00 p.m.	All welcome to attend
Parkville Ensemble Concert	October	Details to be advised
Wine Bottling	Sat. 27 Nov.	Details to be advised
Committee Meeting	7 Dec. at 8.00 p.m.	All welcome to attend

Venue: Meetings are held at College Church Hall, 188 Gatehouse Street, Parkville, unless otherwise noted.

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Parkville Ensemble Concert

On a bleak winter day, those lucky enough to attend the Parkville Ensemble Concert on 27th June were treated to a glorious programme comprising Mozart's Violin Quintet in G minor, Rossini's String Sonata no. 6 and Shostakovich's Prelude & Scherzo for String Octet. Proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the Parkville Association, and this is acknowledged with sincere appreciation. The Ensemble is creating a mailing list for future concerts. You may join this list by contacting Stuart Riley, on Tel. (03) 9347 5431 or stuart@bassdata.com.au. The Ensemble has promised a further concert, possibly in October - details to be advised.

Winter Warmer

Parkville's traditional annual Winter Warmer Dinner welcoming new residents to Parkville was held on 6th July and was attended by some 60 residents, young and old. There was a relaxed atmosphere in a well-heated and specially decorated hall, with good food and a lively buzz of conversation. Thank you to all who contributed to make this an enjoyable occasion, and in particular to hostesses Margaret Dean, Maggie Fooke and Norah Killip.

Parkville Treasures No. 10, by Norah Killip Decoration Part 2

In North Parkville the larger houses have so many examples of applied decoration that it is hard to know where to begin. *Auld Reekie*, and *Knocklofty* share so many delightful examples that it is perhaps more satisfactory to look at lesser-known sites.

For example, 197 Royal Parade, built in 1904 has splendid carpentry work in its verandah, which speaks of the Art Nouveau.

Around the corner in Lennox Street the Old Orphanage, now part of International House, has beautiful barge boards with cast iron inserts. The courtyard building has an interesting variation of the normal cast iron balustrade.

Further on, to the north, in The Avenue, is Saint Finbar Terrace. Once stripped of its iron and tiles, and many of its urns and other features, it is now nearly fully restored. The plaster pendants are particularly fine and with its urns restored and the splendid reconstruction completed it will return to its original grandeur. It exhibits nearly every form of late Victorian decoration, applied

faces and vermiculated stone, pierced work and plaster mouldings in many forms.

Parkville People

Vale Cora Yeates (1909 – 2004)

Mrs. Cora Yeates, a long-time resident of Parkville, has died recently. Cora was an active member of the Parkville Association for many years. She was also a loyal and energetic member of the Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary over an extended period of time. Housebound in recent years, still Cora took a lively interest in community affairs. A thanksgiving service for her life was held at St. Jude's, Carlton, where she was baptized as an infant. Cora is survived by her nephew, John Price and his family, to whom we offer sincere sympathy.

Happy Retirement Wishes to Dennis Fitzgerald

Parkvillians were very sorry indeed to lose Dennis Fitzgerald, our friendly postman of so many years. Margaret Dean arranged for the community to be able to offer a tribute and farewell gift to Dennis, thanks to the assistance of Kathy and Tony Kalogirou. A presentation was made on behalf of the community by Dr Barbara Falk on 11th May at the Parkville Store. This was attended by numerous residents who adjourned afterwards for a convivial lunch with Dennis at Naughton's Hotel.



Remembering Margaret Lowther (1912 – 2004)

Few would be aware that a branch school of Scotch College was once conducted at College Church Hall. Margaret Lowther started school here, and is one of the few girls to attend Scotch College.

The Association *Newsletter* of September 1985 contained the following lines:

"You asked in your Newsletter to tell you about ourselves. I have lived in Parkville in the same house since I was a baby (70 years). Probably I am one of the oldest residents living here for so long. I remember the tram that took you to the Zoo (horse drawn) from the Avenue where The Lodge is now. Trotter's Dairy in Wimble Street where they brought their cows every day from the park to the dairy to be milked. Also a dairy in Park Drive. Then the men would drive their sheep along the road to the saleyard (walking) them.

And of course the cable trams in Royal Parade. There were no trams in Flemington Road for a time. Never mind my name but I'm still here. They were great days."

Margaret was a self-effacing person, as evidenced by the wish for anonymity in the above contribution. She was a very special person, and is remembered with affection by those who knew her in Parkville.

A memorial service was held at the Uniting Church in North Melbourne on 16th July, at which her life of service to the church was remembered in the company of friends and her church "family".

Traffic Diversion in South Parkville Forces MCC into Most Extensive Consultation Process since Swanston Street Closure!

A Report by the Parkville Traffic Action Group (PTAG)

In recent history Melbourne City Council (MCC) has implemented extensive traffic diversions in neighbouring suburbs in response to resident activism to improve lifestyle and amenity. ***It's now Parkville's turn; traffic problems in Gatehouse St are serious and environmentally unsustainable!*** For many years traffic with origin and destination outside of Parkville has been redirected from protected streets onto Curzon St, Harker St and College Crescent to the detriment of Parkville residents especially those living on Gatehouse St and to a lesser extent Park Drive. The majority of this traffic should use adjacent **major roads** with immediate benefits to local communities.

The MCC is working on Traffic Plans to further reduce traffic in Gatehouse St.

Why is it such good news I hear you ask?

The final outcome is expected to:

- Remove through-traffic (traffic not having a destination or origin in South Parkville) in Gatehouse St and as a consequence eliminate rat-running (cars taking short cuts to avoid the grid-lock at the Gatehouse St Flemington Rd and Royal Parade intersections) through South Parkville streets
- Improve community health and well being due to reductions in pollution levels
- Improve community safety, especially for the elderly and very young as well as patients and visitors to the Royal Children's Hospital and Royal Park
- Reduce chronic noise levels; allowing residents to sleep at night and converse with friends and neighbours at the front of their homes
- Reduce vibration levels and consequential damage to Parkville's historic heritage.

Importantly, while the MCC Traffic Plan has been engineered to ensure that ***all Parkville residents benefit from the change*** nevertheless some residents have expressed concerns on the following grounds:

- Vehicles will rat-run South Parkville streets
- Parkville residents will not have direct access to Nth Melbourne and the West
- Access to Nth Melbourne via Wreckyn St is dangerous
- It separates the two communities

There is no doubt that these perceptions are real to many residents.

So what is the MCC Traffic Plan for Parkville and how will it impact residents?

At this stage the MCC Traffic Plan is a proposal to extend the median, i.e. the nature strip, at the Flemington Rd end of Gatehouse St and as a result prevent access to Parkville directly from Harker St. There would be no change at the northern exit and entrance to Gatehouse St; however, the median closure at the southern end will ensure that through-traffic is diverted from College Crescent to alternative routes. This plan involves having to use Wreckyn St to access Nth Melbourne and the West and use the Hay Market roundabout or Macarthur Rd/Elliott Drive to access Tullamarine Airport and the North West.

Alternative traffic diversion measures are under consideration by MCC engineers, which will provide comparable outcomes but ***will not***

prevent access to Nth Melbourne and the West. An alternative scenario is the closure of College Crescent or the closure of the median strip at the Royal Parade end of Gatehouse St. Either approach will result in significant reductions of through-traffic in South Parkville. **NB: The closure of College Crescent, suggested by the Northern Central City Corridor Study (NCCCS), has not been recommended by the MCC at this stage but remains a viable option.**

So how has South Parkville arrived at this historic point in time?

A short chronological history is:

June 2000 a group was formed to plan removal of through-traffic from Gatehouse St and return it to its legal status of **'Local Street'**

April 2001 the State Government commissioned the NCCCS to investigate transport issues in Melbourne's inner northern suburbs

November 2001 residents implemented a survey of truck traffic in Gatehouse St
June 2002 PTAG prepared a submission in response to requests for community input from the EPA on pollution, noise and vibration

August 2003 the NCCCS draft strategy released requesting community input.

September 2003 PTAG developed the Parkville Road Management Plan designed to align with the NCCCS, Melbourne 2030 and the aspirations of the Parkville Community. The PRMP was:

- ✓ Approved by the Parkville Association Committee
- ✓ Accepted by the MCC at the Combined Association Meeting on 29 Sept. 2003
- ✓ Accepted by the Hon Minister for Transport Peter Batchelor October 2003

October 2003 the PRMP submitted to the MCC Planning and Dev. Committee. A Council motion moved to, *"investigate the options proposed by the Parkville Association in relation to the local traffic management arrangements"*.

May 2004 traffic consultants engaged by MCC to analyse traffic in Parkville and neighbouring areas and report on the impact of diverting traffic from Gatehouse St onto adjacent **major roads**

1st June 2004 the Parkville Association Committee was advised of Council's recommendation by PTAG representatives.
8th June 2004 at PA's public meeting in College the Consultants proposed closure of the Eastern Separator (Median) in Flemington Rd in line with traffic management treatments in the surrounding road network.

13th July 2004 MCC Engineering Services Group and the GTA Traffic Consultants briefed the PA Committee and PTAG members on the MCC Proposal.

The process of consultation by the MCC with community groups is ongoing and the detail of the agreed approach to be taken has not yet been defined. The exact configuration will probably not be determined until early 2005 at which time the Parkville Association will call a Public Meeting.

For enquiries please contact Frank Frok on 93473490 or email: mfrok@werple.net.au

President's Comment

The Parkville Association supports action to ameliorate through traffic impacts in Parkville and in particular in Gatehouse Street. Neither the PTAG submission nor the Association has recommended closure of the Flemington Road median. This is a Council proposal. We will continue to participate in ongoing exploration of traffic management options and promote discussion at public meetings to ensure that results improve Parkville's environment, while sustaining relationships with our Carlton and North/West Melbourne neighbours.

Key Committee Contacts

Your Committee welcomes the opportunity to confer with you, advise, or hear your concerns, and can be contacted as follows:

President:	Tim Todhunter	9347 5964
Vice-President:	Brian Evans	9347 5992
Vice-President:	Bev Kennedy	9347 2746