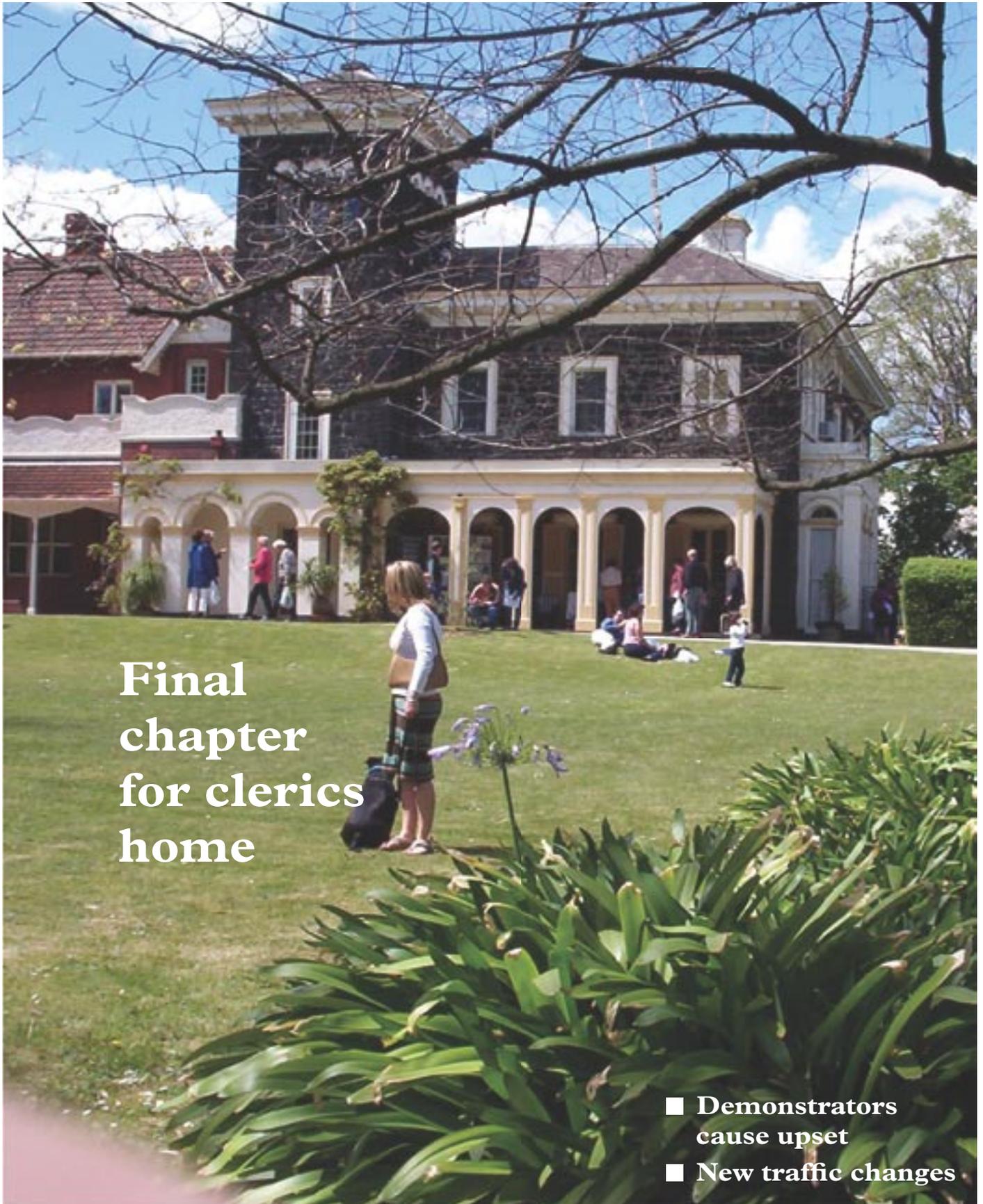


EAST MELBOURNE NEWS

AUTUMN 2006



Final chapter for clerics home

- Demonstrators cause upset
- New traffic changes



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**EAST
MELBOURNE
NEWS**

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President's message



Margaret Wood.

In the last edition my message focused on Cricket Australia's attempt to stage a three day entertainment event in Yarra Park in conjunction with the Test Match at the MCG. A public outcry prevented this from going ahead. Unfortunately other resident groups around the City of Melbourne haven't been so lucky.

What we are seeing is a boom in the use of our public parks for the staging of big events. Its cheap, overheads are minimal and patron numbers that events moguls can attract into an open space are sometimes limitless, and council of course collects a handsome fee for the use of the park.

The consequences of this trend are three-fold. The general public is being deprived of the normal enjoyment of our parks and gardens. Secondly, residents who happen to live within close proximity of these parks are severely affected and thirdly, the impact of irreparably damage is unacceptable.

But why is there such an outcry about these types of activities? They

are just simply too big and or too loud. Acoustical fallout from rock bands is traveling into residential living rooms, sometimes from 10 am in the morning until 11 pm at night. It doesn't give up. In some cases a trail of damage is left by patrons. Council may demand the cost of repairs for damage done to parks and gardens but it should not happen in the first place.

The sound of the big NewYears Day event held at the Myer Music Bowl was heard by East Melbourne residents, if they happened to be home that day. We have never known the annual Carols by Candlelight to impact upon the community with unreasonable noise, so how come this event has been allowed to get away with it? One Sunday just recently, residents at Jolimont and Eastside were forced to endure loud music coming from the Treasury Gardens all day and into the evening. Why was this event manager given permission to stage this event in these heritage gardens?

The Red Bull Billy Grand Prix, staged along Landsdowne Street between the Treasury Gardens and Fitzroy Gardens every second year, attracts up to 15,000 people. A fun event, but it is clearly in the wrong place. Any member of the public wishing to visit these beautiful gardens in a tranquil environment doesn't have a hope in the world.

What is really happening is that council is losing sight of the prime objective of our parks and gardens. Are they forgetting that parks are places where the public can go to enjoy a green environment; a place to escape the noise and the grime of the city. Parks are an oasis of fresh smells, coolness and peace, tranquility and beauty.

Continued on page 10

Front cover:

Pictured on the front cover is the Bishops court, Clarendon Street, East Melbourne. Built in 1853, the residence is one of Melbourne's most important heritage properties.

Debate over demonstrators heats up

Taking a walk along Wellington Parade to the post office or the local pharmacy should be a simple exercise. Not so, say many residents and businesses along the strip. The East Melbourne Group says they are receiving an increasing number of comments from residents who claim to have lost the right to proceed along this strip without being harassed, obstructed or offended by the aggressive actions of demonstrators outside the Fertility Clinic.

Recent reports seem to be suggesting that women in particular, and more importantly some of the senior members of the community have stopped going to that part of Wellington Parade for fear of being intimidated.

In Ian Rowans response to the EMG, Manager Street Activity and Local Law, when contacted said, "Whilst we acknowledge the provision of Local Law, it was not intended to be used in dealing with people's right to protest. These matters are generally within the powers and responsibility of the Police and the State Government, not Council."

Local Law 5.11 states: "A person must not invite, encourage or allow the congregation of persons so as to obstruct or interfere with the passage

of pedestrian or vehicle traffic in or on a public place."

Inspector Glenn Conry from the Community Policing Department has told Vice-president Michael Wilson that basically police can't do anything if demonstrators behave peacefully and reasonably. If however, pedestrians are obstructed or touched physically, then they should report this type of harassment to police.

When contacted by the East Melbourne Group, police at the local station in Flinders Lane say they have recently received countless calls from the public who feel threatened. Sergeant Harrison said the demonstra-

tors are becoming increasingly more aggressive and police are patrolling the site several times everyday.

His advice to the public is that if anyone feels they have been intimidated they should immediately phone "000" straightaway and a patrol car will arrive as soon as possible. Furthermore, anyone can lodge a complaint with the Session Sergeant at the Police Station at 226 Flinders Lane (just west of Swanston Street) or discuss the problem by ringing 950 7077. Sergeant Harrison said the more reports that come in from the public the better chance police have in dealing with the problem.

Dirty doormat to Commonwealth Games

Promises to clean up the Jolimont Station compound in time for the Commonwealth Games are likely to be broken.

Acting General Manager for Connex, Andrew Prowse, has told Margaret Wood of the EMG that they would do their best to clean up Jolimont in time but there were stations in worst condition that had to be fixed first. "We

only have certain amount of resources and the project should have started a lot earlier", Mr Prowse said.

At the time of the *East Melbourne News* going to print, discarded drink bottles, cans, dumped rubbish, and unsightly weeds are still visible to Wellington Parade pedestrians and users of the station. No attempt has been made to send in a whipper-snipper or a waste collector at street level around the cutting which stretches for two blocks from Clarendon Street to Simpson Street.

An improved system of ramps and an extended platform were constructed last year as a Commonwealth Games Project. However, this did not include an upgrade of the compound grounds. New landscaping outside the station at street level is now noticeably being taken over by weeds.

One piece of good news is that the vacant "police station", built for the 1956 Olympic Games at the Simpson Street end is now clear of graffiti. The building has been painted, the grass mowed but the rubbish is still waiting to be cleared.

Report from games officer

Games community liaison project officer Marita Smith says residents should expect to see subdued lighting coming from the stadium. Soft theatrical lighting will be operational each evening and overnight.

Delivery vehicles, including many large vehicles, will be accessing Yarra Park on a regular basis throughout the Games.

Three generators will be operational in Yarra Park which will run refrigeration units.

Games vehicles (cars) are likely to

travel down Vale Street to enter Yarra Park during the arrival and departure phases of each MCG event.

A bus shuttle service will operate around the perimeter of Jolimont carrying VIPs, officials and games staff. Residents will go through a check point on the corner of Jolimont Road and Jolimont Street to access their residence. Athletes will access the MCG via Bateman Avenue and Swan Street. Part of Wellington Parade will be closed to traffic at the conclusion of each event day at the MCG.

Future uncertain for Bishopscourt



Open day at Bishopscourt.

When Archbishop Watson moved out of East Melbourne to return to Sydney upon his retirement last December, he was closing the door of the Archbish-

op's official residence for the last time. The newly appointed Archbishop will reside in St Kilda.

"Bishopscourt", built in 1853, has been through difficult times in

recent years as the Anglican Church struggled to justify the economics of maintaining such a large and ageing property in Clarendon Street.

Newspaper reports in 1999 suggested the property could be ideal as a Victorian residence for the Prime Minister and that an article by Ian Munro of *The Age* made reference to the fact that the Federal Government was seriously considering acquiring the property as the Prime Minister's residence.

This was about the time when the Diocese attempted to subdivide the two acre property in three building lots. The East Melbourne Group vigorously opposed the plan and was eventually rejected by Heritage Victoria. The EMG immediately took steps to have the garden included on the Heritage register.



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New tram and traffic changes in Victoria Parade



In April the community should see the introduction of new traffic control signal works at the Clarendon Street and Powlett Street intersections. The median strip at Eades Street will be closed.

As part of this project, a new super tram stop was installed outside St Vincent's Hospital last year but further

scheduled works for Victoria Parade have been put on hold until after the Games to minimized disruption to traffic flow.

The other major change will take place at the Powlett Street intersection where Right turns from Victorian Parade into Powlett Street will be prohibited. However, Right turns into Vic-

toria parade from Powlett Street will be retained but under signal control. New tram stops will also be built at this intersection and at the Smith Street intersection.

Berry Street Victoria moves on

For the past 128 years, Berry Street East Melbourne has been the historical home for children, young people and families. The extensive service now covers an extensive range of services across metropolitan Melbourne and Victorian. Sandi de Wolf in her media statement states, "We have outgrown the East Melbourne site and are looking for a new site".

The Victorian Infant Asylum had three objectives when it was established in 1877. It strove to prevent infanticide; save infant life from the evils of baby farming and rescue mothers of illegitimate children from further degradation.

Several name changes have occurred over the years including the Berry Street Babies' Home and Hospital. Starting off in Fitzroy, the Asylum moved to the old Police Hospital site in 1882 when the Government made the land available in Berry Street.

In 1929, Berry Street established the Infant welfare training Centre, which provided training for mothercraft nurses and nannies until February 1975. "Minerva", the building used for this purpose, and later renamed "Tandarra", remains on the corner of Vale and Berry Streets. This building was sold in 1990. Nineteen-seventy-five saw the closure of the Adoption Agency which had operated from 1878.

In the 1970s, the original building was demolished and the Appleton Toddlers' Wing was converted to a day care centre. This is now the East Melbourne Childcare Co-operative which will remain at Berry Street.

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The challenges facing Jolimont

By Anita Steinbarth

Anita is a Jolimont resident and member of the EMG Heritage and Planning

Jolimont was reputedly named by Charles LaTrobe's Swiss-French wife when she first saw the gently rising land comprising LaTrobe's Estate: "Quel joli mont" — what a pretty hill. The other reputed origin is that Latrobe's Estate was named after a woodland hill in Switzerland, also known as Jolimont. Either way, it was a charming beginning.

La Trobe's cottage in Jolimont was the site of the first government house (now residing in the Domain) and the streets of Jolimont are named after Latrobe's children Agnes and Charles. Jolimont developed into a quiet residential precinct after Latrobe's departure in 1854 and the subsequent sale of his Estate.

Jolimont retains a huge stock of heritage listed properties and has five properties listed on the Victorian Heritage Register: The Melbourne Cricket



Heritage Cottages in Jolimont.

Ground; Jolimont Square (which predates St Vincent's Place as a residential square); 12 and 32 Jolimont Terrace; and the former Grand Rank Cabman's Shelter. While valuable heritage stock has been lost, 65 per cent of Jolimont is heritage listed even after including the business strips of Jolimont Street and Jolimont Road.

Jolimont's heritage fabric has faced continual and significant challenges under various government initiatives and planning schemes. Notwithstanding being zoned Business 5 Zone (a legacy of a former government initiative to designate parts of the inner city as business zones when there was insufficient supply in the CBD — Drummond Street, Carlton was the other), 70 per cent of the properties in Jolimont are residential and despite the ravages of development and commercial pressures, it remains predominantly low rise behind the walls of Jolimont Street and Jolimont Road.

The challenges Jolimont faces in striving to retain its historical fabric

are relentless. The current challenge is to ensure the push for high density residential development does not further diminish the heritage fabric or the amenity of residents.

In 2002, the EMG successfully resisted the proposed high density resident development proposed for Jolimont Square. Whilst the result fell short of our preferred outcome, it is a significant improvement over what was proposed and the process resulted in Jolimont Square being placed on the State Register.

Since then we have seen applications for high density residential developments at 50 Jolimont Street (a heritage building); the conversion of a restaurant (formerly Frenchy's) to an office and residential development at 80 Jolimont Street; conversion of serviced apartments to dwellings at Quest (153–155 Wellington Parade South); and 29–31 Agnes Street (2003 and again in 2006).

All of these applications sought waivers of the height limit and a re-

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Grand old mansion in the spotlight again

Committee

duction to the off- street car parking requirements. Both of these criteria need to be defended to ensure the heritage fabric, neighbourhood character and residential amenity are not further diminished.

The serial waiving of car parking requirements by planning authorities together with inadequate policing of car parking restrictions has resulted in off street car parking availability for residents reaching a crisis point.

Residents of Jolimont are encouraged to join the EMG to help support these community initiatives which are required to ensure residential amenity is not further eroded and that Jolimont remains a “relatively intact heritage area of national importance” (from Municipal Strategic Statement).



Looking down on Mosspennock.

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Grand old mansion in Clarendon Street, “Mosspennock”, is again being reviewed for development before the Minister for Planning, Rob Hulls. Although developers obtained a permit to develop the site under the Specific Site Amendment approved by Minister Delahunty in December 2004, variations to those

plans now require a fresh permit before works can commence.

The six level tower proposed for the vacant Mosspennock carpark remains unchanged, however, what has upset the EMG Planning Committee is the addition proposed for the heritage registered 1881 Mosspennock mansion. The conversion to six apartments proposed for the house and ballroom wing is supported by the Group. What is not supported is the developers attempt to insert an extra flat roofed construction on top of the house between the slate and iron roof line and heritage chimney stacks.

“Developers can’t help themselves. Despite having an excellent proposal for the restoration of Mosspennock, they now want to spoil it by shoehorning an extra construction into the roof line. It’s a case of squeezing every drop of juice out of the orange” President, Margaret Wood said.

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Annual Festa Update

By Faye Humphris

In the Spring Edition of the East Melbourne News, an announcement was made that the City of Melbourne had budgeted a total of \$10,000 for a 2006 Festival.

Chairperson Faye Humphris and Committee of Management Representatives Margaret Wood and Liz Chaplin met with City of Melbourne Consultative Committee members to discuss the viability of trying to stage our 2006 event during the first half of this year. It was decided that attempting to compete with any of the international events taking place in inner Melbourne between February and June 2006 would be detrimental to the East Melbourne Festival.

East Melbourne Residents will already be in an enviable position to enjoy the benefits of these international events (despite inconveniences of crowds, parking etc. associated with the Commonwealth Games so close to our homes).

Chairperson Faye Humphris is calling for Expressions of Interest from committed residents, professional service providers, sporting associations,



Faye Humphris, Chair of Festa Committee of Management

educational institutions and local businesses and traders to join the Committee of Management for a Festival to be held early in 2007.

A meeting is scheduled to be held at 152 Powlett Street, East Melbourne on Thursday 30 March at 2.00 pm. From this meeting a small working party will be formed to meet with the

City of Melbourne Consultative Committee chaired by Mr. Peter Stewart — Manager Events Melbourne. This meeting is to be held on Thursday 6th April 2006.

Please telephone Ms Carmel Bourke on 9415 7570 to register your interest and attendance or email Faye Humphris at festa@emg.org.au.

Large illuminated signage appeal

A proposal to hang a large illuminated promotional sign covering a total area of 60 square metres on the western wall of a building in Wellington Parade ended up in VCAT last month.

Despite being rejected by council and objected to by 15 residents at the 'No.1 Powlett Street' apartment building, the applicant Fulcrum Town Planners for Adspace Pty Ltd, took the matter to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

City of Melbourne and the East Melbourne Group appeared as parties opposed to the proposal. The EMG argued that the signage of this size was



'Signage threat for blank wall'.

unprecedented and would, if approved, open the flood gates for signage to be erected against every blank wall in East Melbourne. It also made the point that Wellington Parade was quickly converting more and more to apartments and that for this reason constraint must be shown. Heritage considerations were also primary reasons for rejecting the proposal.

Jeremy Gobbo QC appeared on behalf of the applicant. Michael Dietrich of Windsor Planning was for the City of Melbourne and Margaret Wood for the East Melbourne Group.

The tribunal has reserved its decision.

Christmas party full of surprises

The annual East Melbourne Group Christmas Party was a surprise package for the 150 members who walked over to the MCG to support the function on a balmy summers evening in mid December.

It was a one-off opportunity and a rare treat to view the newly redeveloped Melbourne Cricket Club under the EMG banner. Stunning platters of food prepared by Epicure kept coming out while guests admired the new design work of the facility, together with the spectacular views across the whole stadium and oval.

President of the Melbourne Cricket Club, David Jones, entertained guests with his amusing stories about some of the more senior members he had just lunched with on that very day. He recalled one conversation with an elderly gentleman who had been an MCC member for over 50 years. When asked if he had enjoyed coming



to the 'members' for all that time, he quickly replied that this was his very first visit.

Malcolm Dingle and Anton Wongtrakun of Dingle Partners, new sponsors of the EMG presented show bags containing Christmas puddings and shortbread from Haigs Chocolates to all guests at the function. Christmas hampers went to holders of lucky door tickets. Social Sub-committee convenor Jenny Cock on behalf of the 'Group', conveyed her thanks Lynden Wilkie, EMG member and Spotless State Manager for Events and Functions, for her assistance with the function.

Communities up in arms over unwanted events

The voice of the East Melbourne community came out loud and clear last December when it asked Melbourne City Council to reject Cricket Australia's attempt to stage an extra event in Yarra Park.

The East Melbourne Group signalled concern to its member as it learnt of a push to use the park for entertainment to further the Cricket Australia activities during the three day Test Match commencing on Boxing Day. President Margaret Wood received notification from City of Melbourne's Marketing Manager Peter Stewart on 15 December that the idea had been knocked on the head.

Running alongside this saga was another controversy heating up on the other side of the Yarra River. The

Melbourne South Yarra Residents Group was involved in a battle over the Summerdaze event at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl. Organizer of the New Years Day event, Jason Ayoudi wanted to expand beyond the auditorium in the Domain to accommodate more patronage.

President Barbara Sungaila says this was disallowed, however, despite the restriction put on the event, damage and vandalism to the parkland has forced the Melbourne City Council to seek a \$6000 compensation claim. Noise from this event was so loud that some residents in East Melbourne reported to the East Melbourne Group that they had to listen to the throbbing of the amplified music throughout the day and into the evening.

Turning to the northern side

of town, residents complained last November of having to listen to 16 hours of loud music from the Big Day Out event in Princes Park where 39,000 music fans settled in for the day.

The Carlton Residents Association and the Carlton Gardens Group believe there has been a change of character in the Flower Show. Held in the World Heritage listed Carlton Gardens each year, Carlton residents are saying the show is now more like a very large outdoor living and landscaping expo. Again, the damage to the heritage gardens is an ongoing concern. Margaret O'Brien of the Carlton Gardens Group said she would like to see the so-called Flower Show moved to the other end of the Gardens where less damage is likely to occur.

President's message

Continued from page 2

Some of our parks have over the years been appropriately used for events with little or no impact on residents or visitors. But council it seems has dropped it guard and this issue is clearly out of control.

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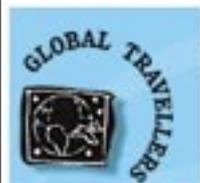
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Crime Watch

Neighbourhood Watch Report for the area of East Melbourne —

Provided by Sergeant Warren Jackman of the Victoria Police for the period of September–October 2005

Date	Details	Location
2/12	Theft of motor vehicle Theft of motor vehicle	Victoria Pde Albert Street
3/12	Theft from vehicle	Albert Street
4/12	Theft from vehicle, forced lock	Albert Street
5/12	Theft from vehicle Theft from vehicle, smashed window Theft from vehicle, nil visible force Apartment property damage	Grey Street Albert Street George Street Clarendon Street
8/12	Burglary, forced door to house	Victoria Pde
9/12	Bicycle theft from carpark Theft from vehicle in carpark. Smashed window	Wellington Pde Victoria Pde
10/12	Attempted burglary, pharmacy Theft of bicycle, back door entry Burglary from vehicle in backyard	Wellington Pde Albert St Simpson St
13/12	Burglary, entry through unlocked side window of apartment	Grey St
14/12	Burglary — motel, no sign of forced entry	Jolimont Rd
16/12	Theft from apartment	Victoria Pde
17/12	Theft from vehicle Burglary from apartment, unlocked rear door	Victoria Pde Hotham St
19/12	Theft from vehicle, smashed window	Albert St
23/12	Business office theft	Wellington Pde
26/12	Burglary from hospital, no sign of forced entry Property damage — apartment + car	Victoria Pde Albert St
27/12	Theft	Brunton Ave
28/12	Property damage	George St
29/12	Theft from vehicle, smashed window Theft from sports area and licensed premises theft	Eades St Brunton Ave
31/12	Theft from vehicle, nil visible force Theft from vehicle	Clarendon St George St
1/01	Property damage	Garden Ave
6/01	Hospital theft	Simpson St
8/01	Bicycle theft from front yard	Victoria Pde
10/01	Theft from vehicle at motel x 2	Albert St
13/01	Theft from restaurant	Wellington Pde
14/01	Burglary from hospital, unlocked window	Grey St
20/01	Robbery from retail premises	Wellington Pde
21/01	Theft from vehicle, smashed window	Albert St
21/01	Theft of motor vehicle from car park	Jolimont Tce
24/01	Theft from vehicle, nil visible force in parkland Theft from vehicle, forced lock x 4 in parkland	Jolimont Tce Vale St
25/01	Theft	Brunton Ave
28/01	Theft from apartment	Hotham St
29/01	Theft from restaurant and theft from vehicle	Albert St

Summary of stolen items for above offences

Quantity	Property	Quantity	Property
20	Electrical appliances	13	Jewellery
0	TV/VCR	45	Personal property
2	Car accessories	5	Photographic equipment
10	Cash/Document	2	Sporting goods
2	Cigarettes/Liquor	6	Clothing
2	Garden item	17	Other
1	Household item		

Offenders processed for any reported offence in the area

2

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Pioneer Surveyor 1794 1881, will
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8.00 pm, Wednesday, 19 April 2006

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Stylish 1 bedroom and study which boasts sleek lines with open plan lounge/dining leading onto balcony.



2/115 HOTHAM STREET

Ideal inner suburban living comprises spacious living and dining room opening onto balcony. Separate kitchen and meals area. Master bedroom with walk in wardrobe and ensuite bathroom, 2 extra bedrooms with built in robes, bathroom and secure parking for two cars.



11/37 GEORGE STREET

Superbly located in a tranquil block, this well presented studio is the ideal weekender or super investment.



12-14 GREY STREET

This charming single fronted Victorian property with extensive two storey additions provides the astute purchaser total flexibility.



If interested in seeking a market appraisal or selling your property please contact Amanda on 9614 6688

 **DINGLE PARTNERS**

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