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Submission – CoM Council Meeting 28 June 2022, Agenda item 7.1 Notice of Motion: Assange

to:

com.meetings@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Dear City of Melbourne,

Please see attached a pdf of my submissions for **City of Melbourne Council Meeting 28 June 2022, Agenda item 7.1 Notice of Motion: Cr Dr Ball, Julian Assange and Agenda item 5.1 Annual Plan 2022-23**

<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/committees-meetings/meeting-archive/Pages/Council-Meeting-28-June-2022.aspx>

Kindly submit the same pdf for both 7.1 and 5.1. - they are inter-connected.

As agreed, please send my submission to the Lord Mayor and Councillors without sharing or publishing my email address.

Thank you,

Regards,

B. McNicholas

Director, Walk in St Kilda Rd & Environs

Convenor, Planet Ark National Tree Day, Nature Care and Lighting Events.

Consultant, Heritage and Cultural Heritage Tourism

27 June 2022

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

Ref: <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/committees-meetings/meeting-archive/Pages/Council-Meeting-28-June-2022.aspx>

1. Re: City of Melbourne Council Meeting 28 June 2022, Agenda item 7.1 Notice of Motion: Cr Dr Ball, Julian Assange

“(5) Requests the Lord Mayor write urgently on behalf of the Council to Australia’s Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Attorney-General in support of strenuous diplomatic intervention to free Mr Assange and have the charges against him dropped.”

Thank you, this Motion is supported.

It is requested that Councillors Ball and Reece, who have moved the Motion, and all of Council, also apply the same stated principles of fair treatment and strenuous support for democracy and democratic processes, protection to citizens, transparency, removal of conflicts of interest and respect for The People having a voice, to all matters at City of Melbourne (not just nominally but in practice).

Let’s apply these same principles and this fervour to a re-assessment and re-arrangement of the Management of **Queen Victoria Market** as well so we can keep the special iconic place as an historic fresh food, produce and products market that is allowed to organically evolve and change, being driven and distinguished by the creativity of the people and their produce and genuine stories, rather than stifled and turned by construct into another ‘Food Hall, ‘Shopping Mall’ or supermarket ... *sam’ol’...same ol’*... or generic ‘events’ and ‘festival’ space, i.e. losing it to a general Precinct as less meaningful, non-Queen Victoria Market “open space” (a term Council has taught us rings alarm bells of colonisation and loss in this context).

Councillor Dr Olivia Ball and Councillor Nicholas Reece, perhaps you could do a Motion on Queen Victoria Market next and how the voice of The People should be heard in its management and direction, requesting a revision and change of management of Queen Victoria Market (QVM), an independent dedicated Master Plan for Queen Victoria Market, reclamation of its name and space from the broader Precinct, and establishment of a Community and Stakeholder Reference Group or Advisory Group embedded in the pre-planning stage for QVM.

2. Re: City of Melbourne Council Meeting 28 June 2022, Agenda item Agenda item 5.1 Adoption of the Annual Plan 2022-23

See page 31, “Major Initiative 13, Queen Victoria Market”

The Plans for Queen Victoria Market are not democratic, they disallow organic creative change and evolution of the market and its produce and products, thus limiting its unique character, usefulness, economic potential and success, and appeal for the community, for cultural heritage tourism and visitors. This puts Melbourne’s “unique identity and place”, City of Possibility, a stated priority, Annual Report, page 28, in jeopardy and is contrary to stated principal “Our built, natural and cultural heritage is protected”. These Plans are not supported.

It is requested that Council pauses, takes a new approach, embraces change for effective, embedded community inclusion in decision-making re QVM, adapts to allow the market to change organically, which is key to its success, innovation and authenticity and to modern visitors in a changed world since Council developed these Plans long ago, and supports that strongly, protecting its status as a distinct, defined, unique identity, rather than focusing, at the expense of Queen Victoria Market (QVM), on its environs and the Precinct and other matters, competing interests and ‘events’. Suggesting that the future growth and success of QVM relies on replacing part of its land space with an Arts Centre from Southbank comprising shipping containers (i.e. a completely different business) and replacing Market stalls and businesses for external events (e.g. Melbourne Fashion Festival,

Melbourne Food and Wine Festival) and competitor businesses (e.g. 7-11 installation and its Market coffee under-quoting) is not managing Queen Victoria Market but neglecting it and replacing it.

Counting visitors to an Arts Centre you re-position on QVM land does not mean you are bringing additional people to Queen Victoria Market or that you are promoting or managing Queen Victoria Market – it is counting visitors to a different place, it is *instead* of managing and promoting QVM, and it diminishes the place and its opportunities and public offerings.

With these Plans, City of Melbourne is replacing much of Queen Victoria Market, reducing its size, taking away its land, promoting competitors, renovating, it seems, predominantly to provide facilities for other businesses, events and interests. If you act as a non-learning organisation and resist change to these old, dated, wrong Plans, Council will demonstrate that it does not understand or respect the great asset and resource Queen Victoria Market is, that CoM is not resilient and visionary, and we will all be the losers, particularly our future Melbourne.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

B. McNicholas
Director, Walk in St Kilda Rd & Environs

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: * Phillip Mansour

Phone number: * [REDACTED]

Email address: * [REDACTED]

Date of Council meeting: * Tuesday 28 June 2022

Agenda item title: * Public Toilet Carlton

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

A proposed public toilet that was vehemently opposed to by the local traders association Carlton inc, as well as the relevant land and business owners, has supposedly been given the green light to be installed on the corner of Lygon St and Faraday St, situated in one of Australia's oldest retail precinct. Before it was approved, was the heritage and planning department consulted? We fear that this proposed development will have a severely detrimental affect on the overall aesthetics of the heritage listed corner which businesses all rely heavily on our curb side dining.

Do you also wish to attend the Council meeting in person, noting that there is no provision to make verbal submissions at Council meetings? * No

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * Angela Wiegard

Phone number: *



Email address: *



Date of Council meeting: * Tuesday 28 June 2022

Agenda item title: * Murchison Square off leach proposal

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

I am writing to you in the hope that you can shed some light on the councils plans to make Murchison Square a dog park between 6pm and 8am daily (I think those timings are correct).

Firstly let me say, I am a dog owner, I always have been, I have a rejected farm dog from a sheep farm in Wonthaggi, he is a fabulous, energetic handful but I wouldn't have him any other way, I saved him and he saved me, dogs are the best kind of remedy for many of us. My mother worked for Animal Liberation in the 80's and we collected so many dogs from shelters we got letters from our local council where we lived telling us we couldn't have anymore than 5 dogs, so I love dogs.

So it is with regret that I must let you know that the idea to have dog off leach time zones in the small square in a space surrounded by 4 roads is a unfortunate and dangerous choice. I was wondering who from the council had sat in that park and watched the thousands and thousands of bikes and cars that zoom pasted daily, metres from where you propose dogs would be running and playing off leach and still thought it a good idea?

This is a small square that is used by so many people as a place to gather, have picnics and is especially great for parents and their kids to learn to ride bikes, skate and run, its just small enough to feel like its home and just big enough to feel alone when reading a book and its a desire path for people walking from Lygon Street to Brunswick Street as they stop, sit and eat and their ice cream or coffee.

I walk my dog to Melbourne Uni or any number of places when I run him and I sit in Murchison Square with him on lead and have a wine with my mother and father who are no longer able to walk that far with me and Alan the dog.

Apart from the dangers of the surrounding roads in such a plan, removing the parks usage as a meeting spot for so many people, locals and visitors alike seems like a ill conceived and cruel plan after we had bonded and co-existed in this small square during the 2 years of lockdowns.

Please reconsider this plan, I love the idea of dog parks and if this was the size of Carlton Gardens or Edinburgh Gardens I would 100% be in full support but I cannot support an idea that makes it dangerous for dogs, cars, bikes and people. This is an accident waiting to happen.

I would be more than happy to walk with any of you through the square with Alan, he can show you how fast he can run onto the road if someone throws a ball near it! I think once you all see the square you'll understand how inappropriate this shared, small and busy communal space really is for a dog off leach area.

Thank you

Ange Wiegard

**Do you also wish No
to attend the
Council meeting
in person, noting
that there is no
provision to make
verbal
submissions at
Council meetings?**

*

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: *

Morry Schwartz

Phone number: *



Email address: *



Date of Council meeting: *

Tuesday 28 June 2022

Agenda item title: *

Item 5.3 Review of dogs in open spaces

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[submission_to_council_item_5.3_council_meeting_28_june_2022.pdf](#)

106.83 KB · PDF

Do you also wish to attend the Council meeting in person, noting that there is no provision to make verbal submissions at Council meetings? *

Yes

Submission to Council: Item 5.3 Council Meeting 28 June 2022 “Review of dogs in open spaces”

This submission relates to **Item 5.3 of the agenda for the Council meeting of 28 June 2022: “Review of dogs in open spaces”**.

It is made by on behalf of the residents of Murchison Square:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We submit that the proposal to include Murchison Square as an off-leash dog area should not proceed and that references to Murchison Square should be deleted from the proposed motion.

We are attaching a 83-page pack titled ‘*Hear our Voices*’ - on every page you will find compelling grounds as to why the proposal should not proceed.

We summarise the major issues below:

Stakeholder Consultation

The statements to Council claiming support for Murchison Square and the strategic justification for it are false and not supported by the evidence.

[Report to Future Melbourne Committee, 7 June 2022: Item 6.2 by David Callow](#)

“It is considered that there is strong, although not unanimous, local support for Murchison Square as a dog off leash space between 6pm and 8am daily, and strategic justification for its use as the only appropriate open space for off leash access in the gap area of the inner north of the municipality.”

Despite what is claimed, there is NO EVIDENCE to support the statements made and consequently no justification for Murchison Square as a dog off leash space.

[Statement 1: “there is **strong**, although not unanimous, **local support** for Murchison Square as a dog off leash space between 6pm and 8am daily”](#)

On the evidence we have to date, this statement is FALSE.

- Every one of the major surveys (the Mar-Apr 2021 online survey of 1010 respondents¹, the intercept survey of 120 respondents, and the Dec 21 online survey of 611 respondents) contains **no detailed location data** – David Callow stated *“those respondents could have been residents from anywhere within the municipality”*

¹ Postcode optional and as we understand, not collated

- The pop-up tents provided no data at all – location data was not collected and the report was purely subjective. The Manager Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure stated: *“The feedback received during pop ups was discussion-based and not quantifiable in the above terms. Discussions weren’t captured verbatim but the consultants summarised key themes.”*
- The 2018 petition from 135 people supporting off leash in Murchison Square was mainly from people local to **Murchison** Square. However, as it was a petition, there is no data on those against the proposal. All except one of the 50 petitioners living on Murchison Square are now against the proposal. The organisers of the petition have since left the area. Moreover, it supported only **2 hours** of off-leash dog activity, not 6pm-8am.

Statement 2: there is “strategic justification for its use as the **only appropriate open space** for off leash access in the gap area of the inner north of the municipality.”

On the evidence we have to date, this statement is FALSE.

- No other sites were evaluated. According to the Manager Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure: *“No other parks or gardens in Carlton, such as Lincoln Square or Argyle Square, have been assessed for suitability for dog off leash access.”*
- Yet these parks provide greater potential coverage of **the gap area of the inner north of the municipality** than Murchison Square and no reason has so far been given for not considering these parks.

June 2022 Petition and Survey of Local Residents and Users of Murchison Square.

Given the previous petition was taken 4 years ago, a new petition from the residents living in houses facing Murchison Square was presented to Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) – see attached pack *Hear our Voices*. It found:

- **63 residents** petitioned against the proposal to allow off-leash dogs in Murchison Square. Only **one resident** was for the proposal. Except for this one resident, all residents who signed the 2018 petition (approximately 50) are now opposed to the proposal.

Given the absence of any survey data relating to **local residents of Murchison Square**, a survey was conducted of these residents. It found:

- **225 residents** participated in the survey. **202 (90%)** were against the proposal for off-leash dogs in Murchison Square, **12 (5%)** supported the proposal (5% were undecided).

In contrast, MacArthur Square was rejected by FMC for off leash with far fewer objectors (**50**).

Amenity

- The park is used at all times of day by the residents, and by many others - the elderly, their grandchildren, families - for quiet conversation, for picnics, for exercise, for their relaxation. This will not be possible at times that dogs are off leash, and unlikely to be used at other times given the inevitable degradation of the park, and of course, the un-picked-up dog excrement.

- Dogs bark, dogs excrete, dogs bite, dogs fight with each other, their owners often join in. Residents will be disturbed and kept awake every night by the barking of dogs and general noise in the Square due to the new use.
- Some people are seriously afraid of dogs and for them, their amenity will be completely destroyed.
- Given the Victorian nature of the area, in which almost no houses have off-street car parking and rely solely on parking in the street, the influx of dog owners with cars to use the off-leash facility will exacerbate the car parking problem.

Health and Safety

- The **unfenced** Square is bordered by Canning St (one of Melbourne's busiest cycling corridors with a prioritised green wave, used not only by commuters but also by food delivery companies), Murchison St, Owen St and Barrup St. It is only 69m away from busy Nicholson St.
- Significant risk of **collision with a car**. Will motorists be able to see a dog hurtling into the street? The only effective control is leash control. The Square is also a common route for learner drivers who may not have the capacity to respond.
- Significant risk of **injury to cyclists and dogs**. The Chief Executive Officer of the Amy Gillett Foundation writes *'the proposal should not be adopted until there is a thorough review to ensure it doesn't create an increased risk for people riding a bike on one of the busiest cycling routes in Melbourne'*
- Significant **threat to children, the elderly or disabled , other dogs and wildlife and the users of the paths which cross the Square**.

Heritage

- Murchison Square is a site of heritage significance - aesthetic and social significance, freely available to all as a place of respite.
- We have an expert opinion that that use as an off-leash area would detract from the Square's present significance - see Bruce Trethowan's report in *Hear our Voices*.
- From the information we have, Council:
 - Did not seek heritage advice
 - Has not considered how many dogs would use the Square
 - Has not considered the impact on its grassed form and aesthetic appearance (grass is least favoured for dog parks - see *Unleashed: a guide to successful dog parks*)
- Other users of the Square would effectively be excluded during the off-leash period and the Square would not be a place of respite then.
- This changed use should not proceed before the conservation management plan for the Square has been developed.
- This would be a gazumping of Council's own heritage processes.

Process

The process adopted by management was flawed. There appeared to be no independent analysis of the merits and disadvantages of alternative off-leash areas in Carlton in particular. There was little information given to locals to help their thinking. The recommendation was based on preference yes/no by an unidentified group.

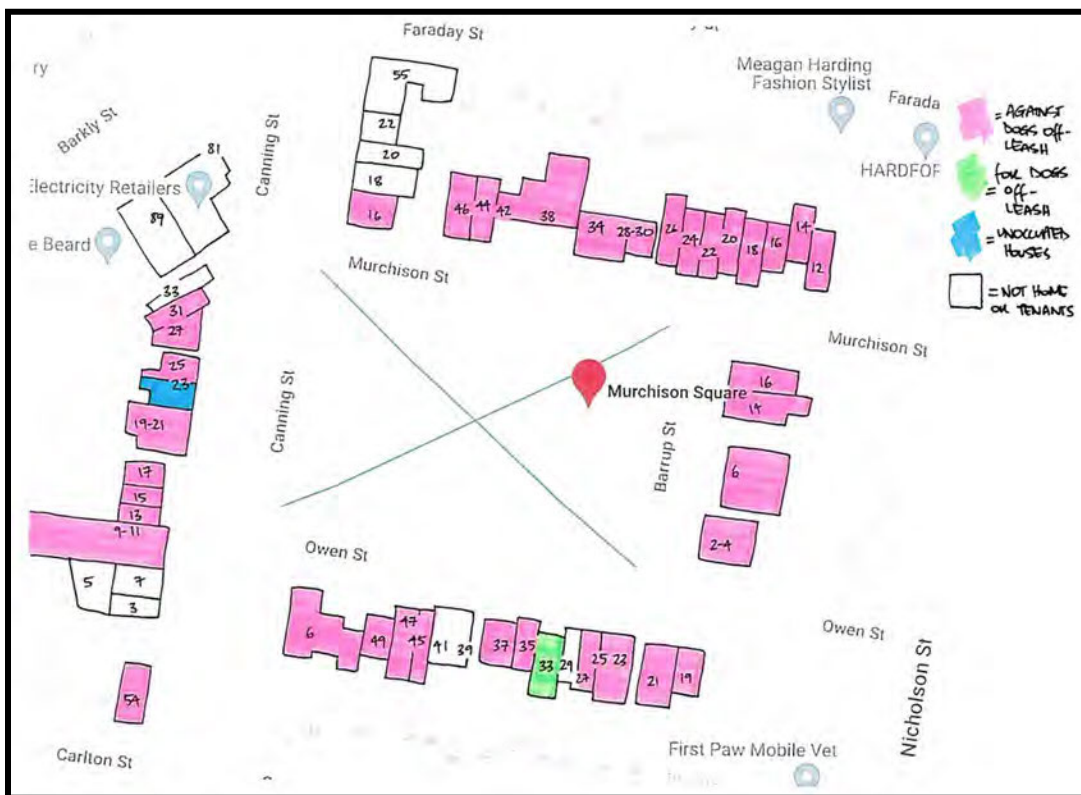
What went wrong?

- The 2018 petition was 4 years old prior to the pandemic, the explosion in dog numbers, and the increased use of the Square for picnics and children
- Council never circled back in the local area before the December 2021 survey (which had its own flaws).
- Murchison Square was presented as the only option in Carlton
- Until the November 2021 letter, there was no advice to locals of the consultation, not even a simple letterbox drop.
- The surveys contained no detailed information on the location of the respondents, or their use or knowledge of the Square.
- The letter 'Woof. New Paw-posed off leash dog areas' sent to residents within 200 metres of the proposed off leash area suggests prejudice on the issue.
- We have seen little evidence of any consideration of the impact of the proposal concerning safety issues (apart from possible dog fights); heritage issues; the impact on amenity not just for residents but visitors to the Square or more generally.
- Contrary to the Council's own engagement policy, there has been no report on Participate Melbourne or elsewhere on what the Council did and heard during the consultation process.
- Only 2 working days were provided to respond to the report to FMC and obtain input from the community.

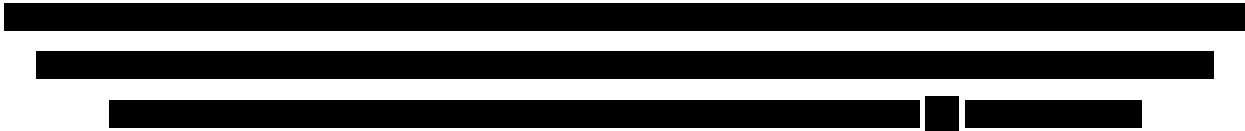
We urge Council to remove Murchison Square as an off leash area. There has been inadequate analysis of the strategic case, it does not have support from locals, it seems heritage, safety, and amenity issues have not been thought through, and there were flaws in the process. Locals are not just thinking of their personal interests - they are proud of the Square and its intimacy, and wish to preserve its character for everyone.

This letter is a short precis of our 83-page submission titled *Hear our Voices*, which is attached.

Submission to Melbourne City Council against proposed off-leash dogs in Murchison Square



Hear our voices



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<i>In which there is no data to support the Future Melbourne Committee's claim that there is strong local support for Murchison Square as a dog off-leash space - just the opposite, that there is only 5% local support for Murchison Square.</i>	
<i>And in which we report on the letter of 11 November 2021 received by some local residents from the 'Manager Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure', the subject line of which is 'Woof. New paw-posed off-leash dog areas' and contents presuppose dogs-off-leash in Murchison Square and the other sites. This letter is attached (Attachment 3).</i>	
<i>And in which we identify major flaws with Council's entire consultation process (Attachment 4).</i>	
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6: Safety including for cyclists, dogs and learner drivers along Canning Street	25
<i>In which we contend that dogs off leash will present a grave risk to the cyclists on their way to work and back, and delivery cyclists at night, along Canning Street - Melbourne's</i>	

number one bicycle path(!) adjacent to the unfenced park. We are equally concerned with the welfare of the dogs. Dan Kneipp of the Amy Gillett Foundation concurs and has written a report for this submission ([Attachment 8](#)). We also present a more detailed report on safety generally ([Attachment 7](#)).

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Overview

These may be strong words, but we contend that the processes and results of Future Melbourne Committee (FMC)'s community consultations regarding the suitability of Murchison Square were so deeply flawed as to be meaningless. We urge each and every councillor to carefully read the analysis in [Chapter 3](#) below, as it may have serious repercussions for Council's Community Consultation Process well beyond dogs in this small park.

Among other issues, it is clear that proper consultation was not carried out with the households that front the park, on its four sides, nor any effort to survey the surrounding neighborhood. It took just 2 hours, on a cold and rainy night, to doorknock every house on the square and elicit their views. With the exception of one household (with a large dog), 100% of those at home signed a petition against the proposal! **(63 residents objected to the proposed use)**

With limited time, we also managed to doorknock about 60% of households within about 200 metres of the square, which were overwhelmingly against the proposal. The general response was one of surprise and anger that this small, heritage, residential park should be even considered. **(202 people in the survey thought Murchison Square not fit for dogs off-leash)**

This equates to a total of **265 people** that we talked to who were against the proposal.

The Council has not considered alternatives. Argyle Square and Lincoln Square are strong possibilities. They are bigger, and they cover the gap perfectly, whereas Murchison does not.

We invited councillors to come and see for themselves, but sadly, we had no takers!

We now strongly advocate that Murchison Square be removed from consideration as a dogs-off-leash area.

1. New petition of households directly facing Murchison Square

As the below map shows, 63 people, comprising over 98% of residents directly facing Murchison Square, are against the off-leash dog park proposal:



Three residents of Murchison Square, Barb Jennings, Michael Georgeff and Morry Schwartz drafted the petition and, on late afternoon Sunday 5th of June, door knocked every house facing the square.

With the exception of the resident at 33 Owen Street (she said she owned a large dog and it would be useful for her to let her dog run free in the park), every other person who was at home enthusiastically signed the petition. They all expressed concern about the proposal, and many were very anxious about it.

These are the people directly affected. They all live directly opposite the square. There had been no feedback about the results of Council's consultation. Besides the almost unanimous opposition to the proposal, the most surprising thing was that the FMC meeting, including the proposed recommendation, came out of the blue with only two working days' notice. Most of them did not know about the Council meeting to consider the proposal on the following Tuesday – not even some of those people who signed the first petition. Many were not advised, nor invited to make a submission. We are very concerned about the Council's process in this matter.

See a copy of the covering letter ([Attachment 1](#)) and petition ([Attachment 2](#)) attached.

2. Survey of households local to or using Murchison Square

DOGS OFF-LEASH PROPOSAL FOR MURCHISON SQUARE

A survey conducted by the residents of Murchison Square

- Did you know that the Melbourne City Council is proposing to allow dogs to be off the leash in Murchison Square from 6.00pm, right through the night, and until 8.00am every day of the year?
- Most people we have talked to are very worried - worried about the safety of people, including small children, using the park for picnics and enjoyment. They are worried for cyclists along Canning Street in the mornings, and for the dogs. They are worried that the amenity of the park will be seriously affected.
- We are running a survey of people living near the square - are you happy to answer four short questions?

[We will not record your name or address if you wish to keep your response private.]

Given that the Council management had not conducted any survey of the opinion of local residents of Murchison Square, a number of residents conducted a house-to-house survey of local residents over the period 14th June to 23rd June. The survey asked four questions of those participating:

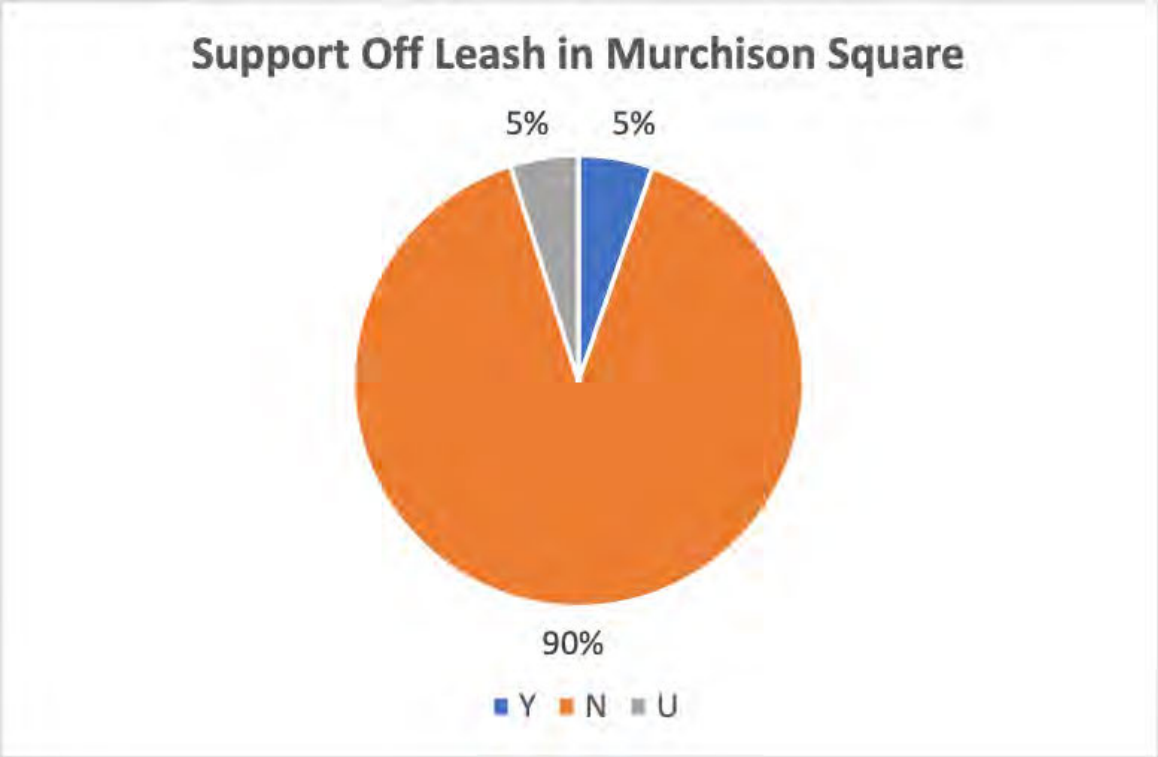
1. Do you support off-leash dogs in small parks, such as Murchison Square, where people picnic and children play?
2. Do you support off-leash dogs in large parks, such as Argyle Square and Lincoln Square?
3. Do you use Murchison Sq?
4. Are you a dog owner?

A total of **225 local** residents of Murchison Square participated in the survey. **A total of 202 (90%) of these opposed the use of Murchison Square for off-leash dogs.** Details of

the survey questions are given below. For privacy reasons, the list of respondents can be made available on request.

Do you support off-leash dogs in small parks, such as Murchison Square, where people picnic and children play?

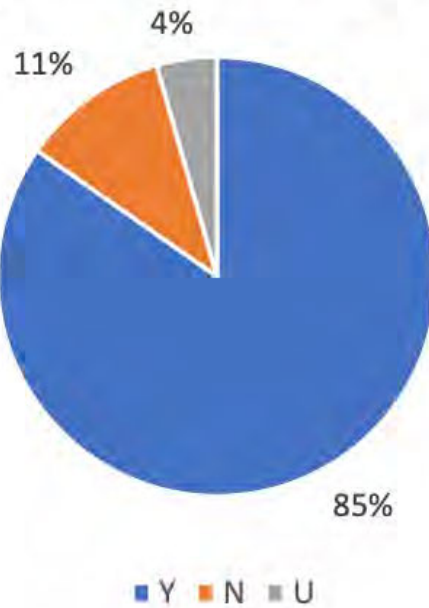
225 respondents: Yes: 12 (5%), **No: 202 (90%)**, Undecided: 11 (5%)



Do you support off-leash dogs in large parks, such as Argyle Square and Lincoln Square?

203 respondents: **Yes: 172 (85%)**, No: 22 (11%), Undecided: 9 (4%)

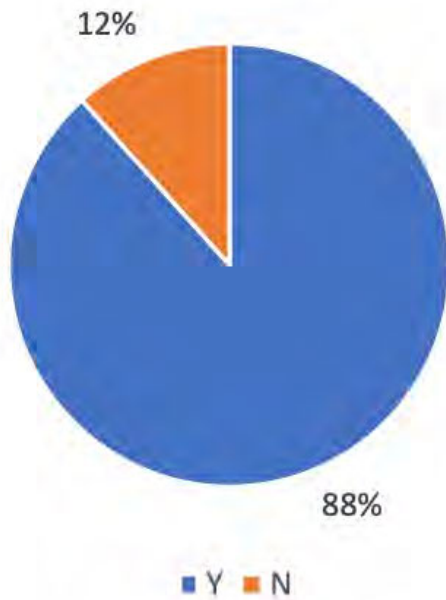
Support Off-Leash Large Park



Do you use Murchison Sq?

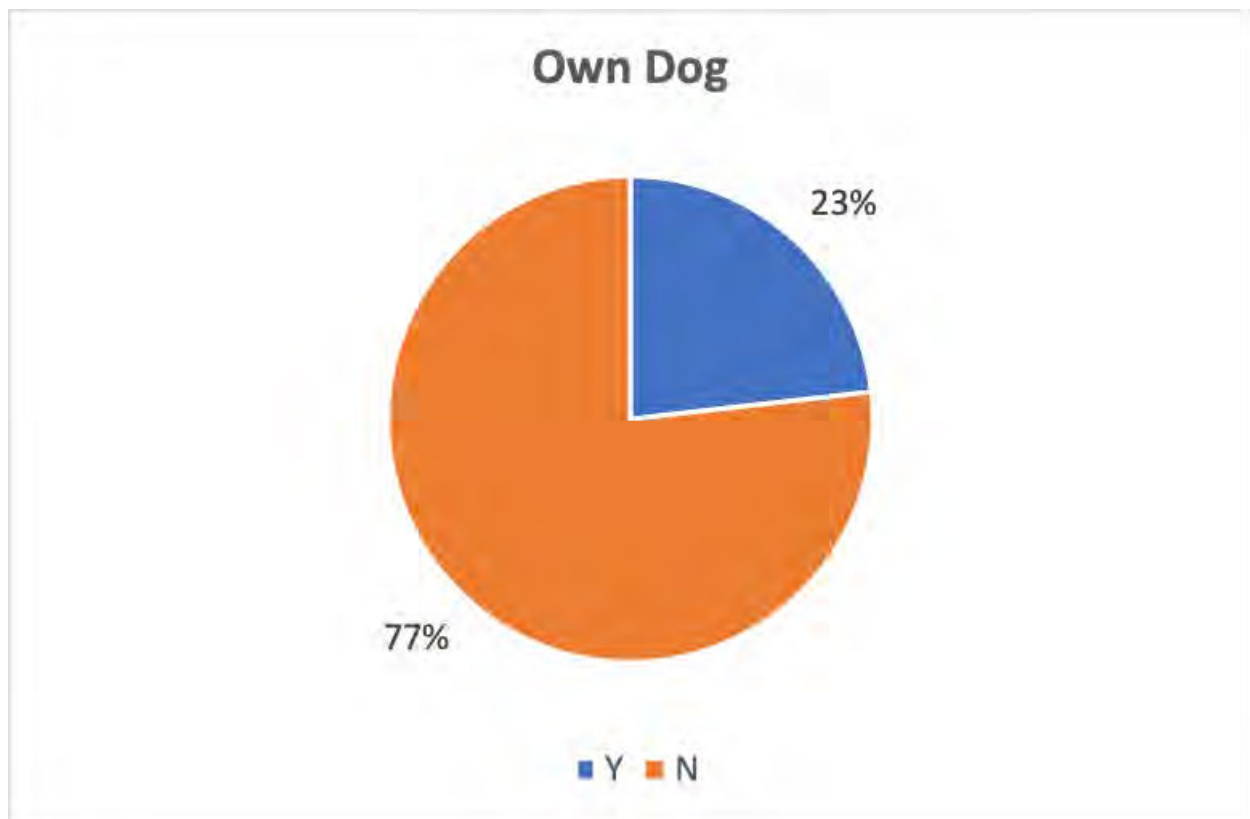
223 respondents: **Yes: 197 (88%)**, No: 26 (12%)

Use Murchison Square



Are you a dog owner?

224 respondents: **Yes: 52 (23%)**, 172 No: 172 (77%)



MacArthur Square Precedent

MacArthur Square was rejected by Council management for off-leash use as it was considered to be unsupported by the community.

David Callow, presentation to FMC 7/6/2022

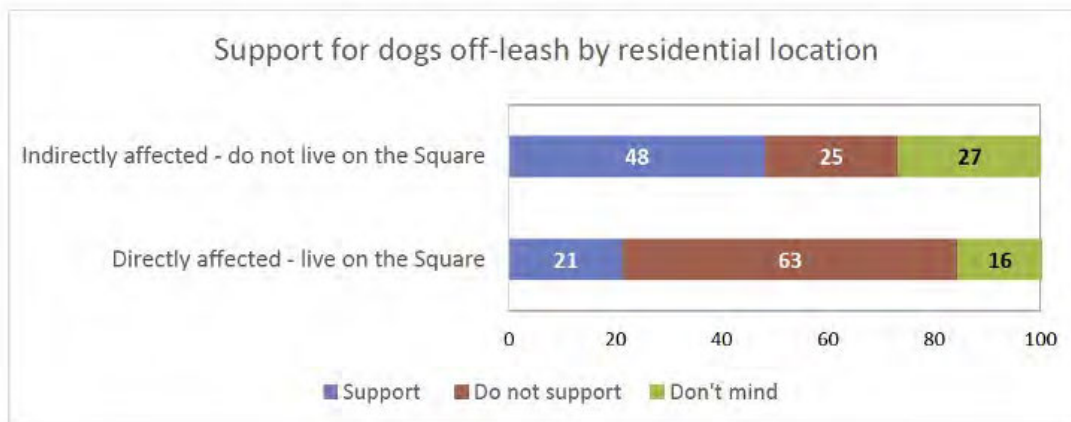
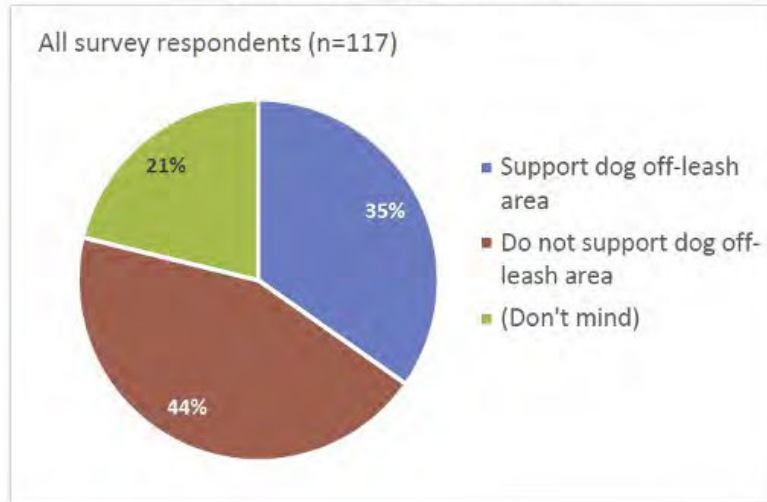
"We had previously tested a proposal at MacArthur Square which was not supported by the community so there was a gap identified in terms of off-leash provision within the Carlton precinct and MacArthur square was not supported"

However, Council management data shows only **50 (44%)** of local respondents against off leash dogs in Macarthur Square, with 41 (35%) of respondents supporting off leash use.

In contrast, our survey of local residents of Murchison Square shows **202 (90%)** against off leash dogs in Murchison Square, with only 12 (5%) supporting. If 44% against is enough to remove MacArthur Square as an option, surely 95% against is sufficient to remove Murchison Square as an option.

Survey question: Q.7. Would you support a dog off-leash area in part of Macarthur Square?

Figure 19: Support for dogs off leash area



The locality of those who participated in the petition and survey is shown in the table below:

Street Name	Respondents
Barkly	45
Barrup	6
Canning	31
Carlton	35
Faraday	30
MacArthur Pl	50
Murchison	22
Nicholson	6
Owen	23
Rathdowne	8
Shiels Ln	4
Other	28
Total	288

3. Critical analysis of previous surveys and petitions

In which we clearly show that all five surveys relied on by Melbourne City Council to justify their proposal for dogs off-leash in Murchison Square are biased and fatally flawed. All numbers are from the report supplied by David Callow.

Summary of Community Consultation Results

Report to Future Melbourne Committee, Item 6.2

David Callow, Point 14 of Item 6.2

Murchison Square is proposed to be dog off leash between the hours of 6pm and 8am daily.

The proposal received support from 82 per cent of survey respondents (495 people) in December 2021, and a petition of 135 signatures was received in 2018 from local residents supporting its use as an off leash space. However, a petition of 17 signatures was received opposing the proposal during round two engagement in December 2021.

*It is considered that there is **strong**, although not unanimous, **local support** for Murchison Square as a dog off leash space between 6pm and 8am daily, and **strategic justification** for its use as the **only appropriate open space** for off leash access in the gap area of the inner north of the municipality.*

The Old 2018 Petition

135 signatures

Nearly all of those who signed the petition lived in the surrounding streets: Canning Street, Barrup Street, Carlton Street, Murchison Street, Owen Street, McArthur Place, Barkly Street, Elgin Street, Faraday Street, Nicholson Street and Rathdowne Street.

- Many if not most of those who signed the petition subsequently signed our petition or completed our survey opposing off-leash dogs in Murchison Square. Of the

approximately **50 residents** on Murchison Square, all but one are now opposed to off-leash dogs in the square

- At least some of the people who signed the petition (including the two organisers of the petition) have since moved out of the Melbourne City precinct.
- The petition was for two hours per day (7am to 8am and 6pm to 7pm), which is not on the table now.
- The petition is now four years old and was created pre-pandemic and before the explosion in dog numbers and increased use of our Square.

In summary:

- This petition is not relevant to the current decision before council as a possibly significant number in the previous petition have changed their minds (FMC can check how many as they have the names and addresses of all who signed the 2018 petition) or have moved out of the area.
- In any case, our petition and survey numbers more than double those of the 2018 Petition.

The Mar-Apr 2021 Online Survey

1010 respondents

- Only one question in 12 addressed the question of location preference.
- No information collected on residential location of respondent¹
- No information collected on use of proposed areas by respondent
- Of the 8-10 sites proposed, Murchison Sq was the **only** nominated park in the Carlton area.

Of the 1010 respondents:

¹ Postcode optional and as we understand, the information was not collated

- 809 (80%) agreed with the need for more off-leash areas (compared with our own survey of 95% supporting off-leash in large parks)
- **Only 114 (11%)** selected Murchison Square in their preferred top 3 locations (remembering that Murchison Square was the only area nominated in the Carlton area)
- 85% were dog owners (compared to a national average of about 40%, and our own survey average of those around Murchison Square of about 25%)

In summary,

- A very small proportion of people supported off-leash for Murchison Square (11% of respondents)
- The population was seriously biased (towards dog owners)
- No evidence of **local** support
- The choices offered provided no alternatives to Murchison Square for people living in Carlton

The Mar-Apr Intercept Survey

120 respondents

- Only one question in 12 addressed the question of location preference
- No information collected on residential location of respondent
- No information collected on use of proposed areas by respondent
- Of the 8-10 sites proposed, Murchison Sq was the **only** nominated park in the Carlton area.

Of the 120 respondents:

- **Only 9 (7.5%)** respondents selected Murchison Square in their preferred top 3 locations (remembering that Murchison Square was the only area nominated in the Carlton area)

- 78% of those that selected Murchison Square were dog owners (compared to a national average of about 40%, and our own survey average of those around Murchison Square of about 25%)

As for the intercept survey:

- A very small proportion of people supported off-leash for Murchison Square (8% of respondents)
- The population was seriously biased (towards dog owners)
- No evidence of **local** support
- The choices offered provided no alternatives to Murchison Square for people living in Carlton

Pop-Up Tents

150 interviews

Nothing quantifiable and results completely determined by the subjective views of the interviewees. No data taken.

- Murchison Square was noted as contested, with some supporting, some opposing and questions about alternative sites

Obviously can be completely dismissed as either supporting or not-supporting off-leash use of Murchison Square. No evidence of local support.

The Dec 21 Online Survey

611 respondents

The survey asked whether off-leash was supported for each of the 8 selected areas (and for preferences on timed access).

- No information collected on residential location of respondent
- No information collected on use of proposed areas by respondent

- No information on dog ownership
- No alternative to Murchison Square was provided for people living in the Carlton area.

Of the 611 respondents, 602 answered the question on off-leash in Murchison Square. Equally, over 600 answered the question for every other proposed area.

495 (82%) of those who responded to the Murchison Square question supported Murchison Square as being off-leash.

Given over 600 people responded to the survey on every one of the proposed areas, it is apparent that most of them are not familiar with or users of most of the proposed areas. At the meeting of Future Melbourne Committee on 7th June 2022, David Callow stated “*those respondents could have been residents from anywhere within the municipality*”.

In summary,

- Without any information on the location of residence or park usage by each respondent, it is impossible to determine how many of the respondents were local residents or users of Murchison Square.
- No evidence of local support
- No information on possible sampling bias (e.g., dog ownership)
- The choices offered provided no alternatives to Murchison Square for people living in Carlton
- The 107 respondents who were against are most likely to be locals

Alternatives to Murchison Square

With respect to the statement by David Callow: *It is considered that there is strategic justification for its use as the **only appropriate open space** for off leash access in the gap area of the inner north of the municipality.*

The Manager Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure responded:

No other parks or gardens in Carlton, such as Lincoln Square or Argyle Square, have been assessed for suitability for dog off leash access. Most of the requests for a dog off leash area in Carlton has been from the residential area north of Carlton Gardens.

- Lincoln and Argyle Square are approximately 200m (3-minute walk) south of Murchison Square and far more centrally placed for most Carlton residents
- The Manager Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure, when asked the basis for her claim above, responded “*My statement that most requests for a dog off leash area in Carlton have been from the residential area north of Carlton Gardens is based on the 2018 petition.*” However, our current survey shows that this petition is now obsolete. Further, it is highly likely that the other off-leash surveys conducted by the FMC are from respondents well south of Carlton Gardens, including as far as Port Melbourne.

Woof. New paw-posed off-leash dog areas

This is one of the most bizarre letters ever received. As if written by a dog! One might excuse the levity were its contents completely uncontroversial. Not a thought for all the many serious issues at hand - for people, for their pets, for the urban environment, for native wildlife, etc. None. Besides its frivolous tone, this letter, sent by the Manger Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure to residents within 200m of the proposed dog off-leash areas, presupposes the Council’s proposal as a fait accompli.

Among others, Morry Schwartz responded to this letter pointing out that the letter asks for feedback only from dog owners and visitors to these parks and not the residents themselves! The officer did respond saying ‘We are inviting feedback from all park users, not just dog owners. On reflection, I acknowledge that the wording of the letter was perhaps not clear enough in its invitation to “dog owners and visitors”.’ The original letter from Council is attached ([Attachment 3](#)).

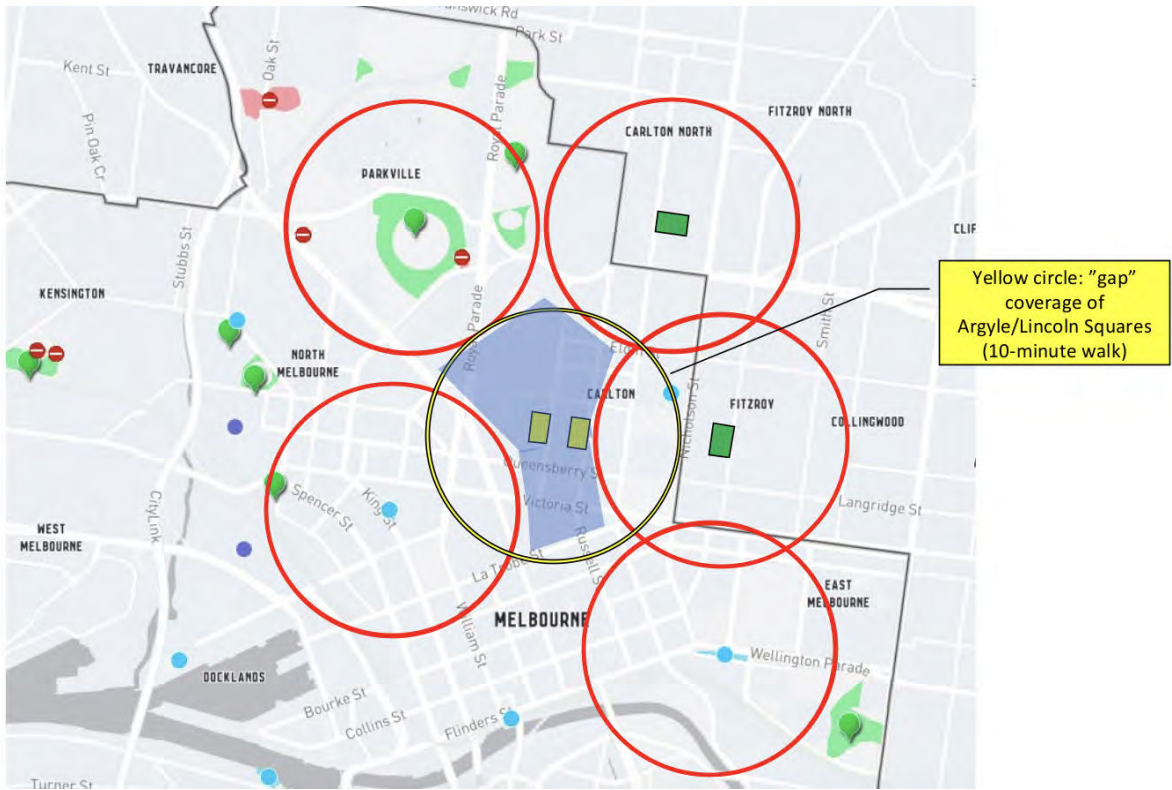
4. Alternative sites in Argyle and Lincoln squares

In David Callow's report, Item 14, he states, '... Murchison Square... the only appropriate open space for off-leash access in the gap area in the inner-north of the municipality.'

According to the Manager Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure, no other parks or gardens in Carlton, such as Lincoln Square or Argyle Square, have been assessed for suitability for dog off leash access.

Here are three diagrams - with all the off-leash parks in the district. You will see that Lincoln Square and Argyle Square are far better suited as they best cover the gap.





5. Heritage overview

No consideration given by Council to heritage issues

The Manager Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure has advised that there have been no heritage reports undertaken for the suggested addition of dog off leash activity in Murchison Square as there is no additional infrastructure proposed beyond perhaps some signage and drinking fountains which are standard items of park infrastructure

The heritage status of the Square

Murchison Square is of “ local historical, social and aesthetic significance’ (Lovell and Chen report).. It has always been included within the HO1 envelope but specifically, its heritage status is being upgraded to Significant. Based on a ‘london square’ model, it is of aesthetic significance and also of social significance as both a historical landscaped space and as a long standing public space which is ‘freely available to all within a densely built up inner suburb’. As Lovell and Chen also observe, the Square is valued as a space of respite, informal recreation , public congregation and social interaction

Lovell and Chen advised that a Conservation Management Plan should be prepared for the Square which should address future uses, and the management and conservation of the social significance of the Square.

The proposal fails on heritage grounds

The proposal is for a changed use of the Square.

There has been no forecast of the number of dogs which may use the Square (but it will be publicised as the sole off leash area in Carlton and is already used by Fitzroy residents) TA large increase in the number of dogs can be anticipated. There has been no work on whether, and

what , additional maintenance may be required to maintain its grassed form and aesthetic appearance.

It is to be expected that there could well be significant damage to the grass. ‘ Unleashed’ A guide to successful dog parks published by the Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia, a leading publication, recognises that grass is the least favoured surface for a dog park. Councillors will be aware of other small areas damaged by dogs off leash such as Curtain Square

The proposal also has the effect of excluding other users of the Square during the off leash period It will *no longer be freely available to all and a place of respite*

It is also not appropriate that this changed use proceed before any Conservation Management Plan has been developed.

Our heritage expert advises off-leash detracts from the Square’s heritage significance

Bruce Trethowan B.Arch FAIA – Director of Trethowan, a firm known broadly for specialising in architecture and heritage consultancy across inner Melbourne, has provided an opinion dated 17 June 2022 (see his full report at [Attachment 6](#)). The following is extracted from that opinion:

- “Murchison Square is listed under the MPS as a significant element of the *Carlton Precinct* Heritage Overlay, OH1. It is the smallest of squares in Carlton and East Melbourne. This, and its proximity away from main thoroughfares gives the space an interesting tranquillity.”
- “The prospect of adding an additional activity of off-leash dog walking would undermine this broad ranging social focus and thereby detract from the significance of the place.”
- “...I advise that to dedicate Murchison Square as an off-the-leash dog walking area would be incompatible with both the size of the Square and the activities that presently take place within the Square. Such a use would detract from the Square’s present significance.

- “This is perhaps the reason why none of the City of Melbourne’s smaller parks and squares include area for walking a dog off-the-leash. I see no reason why the City should depart from this principle.”

Inconsistent application of heritage protection

Only a matter of months ago, signs within Murchison Square were placed to warn patrons not to use their exercise equipment on the MS park benches, thereby protecting an important heritage aspect of the park. Today we deliberate the conversion of the entire Square into an off-leash dog park at peak usage times.

There appears to be a lack of consistency and consideration toward the importance and protection of this park for the people of Melbourne and Carlton in a heritage context. We seek consistency in the area of heritage protection of Murchison Square.

6. Safety including for cyclists, dogs and learner drivers along Canning St

This is clearly a critical issue in considering the wisdom of allowing dogs to be off-leash in unfenced Murchison Square. The western edge of the Square runs along Canning St, which is a major bicycle path with thousands of cyclists using it to go to work and back in the late afternoons and early mornings. Of recent, there has been a huge increase in delivery companies such as DoorDash and UberEats who rely on cyclists. Typically, the busiest times are at night during dinner-time and using all four streets around the park. It seems to us inevitable that sooner or later, a dog will run onto the street and cause an accident. Every day, 20 cyclists are hospitalised in Australia; most of these are preventable and it comes at a very high cost for both trauma and waste of taxpayer money on hospital beds. See attached a report on safety issues by residents Stefan and Alex Toniolo of Barrup St ([Attachment 7](#)).

The Amy Gillett Foundation are concerned with the safety of cyclists, and their concerns include the possibility of dogs being hurt. Please see the report by CEO Dan Kneipp at [Attachment 8](#).

The streets surrounding Murchison Square are favoured by driving instructors. It would be extremely dangerous for inexperienced learner drivers should dogs run onto these streets.

7. Examples of serious safety issues caused by dogs off-leashes

a) A brutal dog attack in Murchison Square

Woman and her dog left injured, and the dog requiring more than \$10,000 in vet treatment, after two large dogs attack at Murchison Square (11 February 2020)

“At 8:15pm on 17 January 2020, I took my pet Mocha to a nearby park known as Murchison Square at Owen Street, Carlton. I observed that there were no dogs nearby and let Mocha out of my arms to the ground for exercise. Suddenly, two other larger breed dogs, which I later learnt were American staffy walked towards us. I quickly took out my leash and yelled out 'Mocha'. But perhaps I was too shocked and in a rush, I tripped and landed on my knees. At this time, I think *I heard Mocha bark from fear and those two dogs picked up Mocha by their teeth. The white dog had his/her teeth at Mocha's neck while the black dog had Mocha's thigh, and both shook Mocha in all directions.*

With all my strength I got up and ran towards the dogs and tried my best to pull the other two dogs' leashes but of course I did not have enough strength. The two dogs' owner also held the leashes but was clearly unable to control his dogs allowing them to approach Mocha. After much struggle and yelling 'stop', Mocha was suddenly left on the floor unconscious. I quickly guarded on top of Mocha to avoid any further attacks. While Mocha was unconscious and not moving I picked her up and suddenly she bit my chin thinking that I was going to attack her like the two fierce dogs.” –Zoe Lim, Mocha’s owner

Below are photos of Zoe’s injuries, and Mocha after vet treatment. Photos of Mocha and Zoe’s injuries ([Attachment 9](#)), a summary of Mocha’s vet treatment ([Attachment 10](#)), and a copy of the extensive vet bill ([Attachment 11](#)), are enclosed.

b) Off-leash dogs attacking children

Toddler left with severe facial injuries requiring surgery after off-leash dog attack in Sydney park (8 June 2022)

It was a horrifying moment. A young mother was walking with her two-year-old daughter in a Sydney park when suddenly a bulldog raced up and attacked the little girl.

Hundreds of children mauled by dogs each year

Around 13,000 people each year attend hospital emergency departments in Australia for dog bite injuries according to new data from Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital. Of those, children under the age of five are most at risk.

Children are at least three times more likely to experience a bite needing medical attention than adults.

Children much more susceptible than adults to the damaging impact of a dog bite, can suffer long-term damage including scarring, severed nerves and disfigurement

Children's skin is not as tough as an adult's and are more likely to suffer broken bones from a dog bite attack.

Children who have experienced dog bites or attacks likely to develop PTSD, cynophobia (fear of dogs) and/or agoraphobia (fear of leaving one's house), and suffer neurological damage

Children are likely to remain silent and bury their feelings following a dog bite. *Carrying such a heavy emotional strain can lead to high levels of anxiety, fear, and PTSD.*

c) Off-leash dogs attacking adults

[Man left wounded, requiring stitches, sees pet cavoodle killed during horrific off-leash dog attack in Melbourne \(25 May 2022\)](#)

The two dogs attacked Crisostomo and his dog, Kevy, a 15-year-old cavoodle, who was killed in the attack. Crisostomo suffered multiple bite wounds as he used his body to shelter Kevy from the attack. See photos of the owner's injuries at [Attachment 12](#).

[Man in his 50s mauled by four-off leash dogs on Drummond St, Carlton \(2 May 2013\)](#)

"The dogs were mauling him. He was cut all over his hands; he was in shock," a witness said. She said the screaming victim was bleeding heavily, and it took two people to hold him up.

d) Off-leash dogs attacking cyclists

Approximately 1% of injuries to bicyclists are associated with dogs, and in one half of those instances, the cyclist sustains a bite (Loder & Yaacoub, 2018).

[69-year-old man left seriously injured after his bike collides with unleashed dog: will be in hospital with a broken pelvis for at least a month \(18 October 2021\)](#)

A 69-year-old man is in hospital with a broken pelvis as a result of losing control of his bicycle and falling after a collision with an unleashed dog on a section of the Martin Goodman Trail. See photo from after this collision at [Attachment 13](#).

[Cyclist suffers a broken shoulder blade and ribs when he collides with an unrestrained dog \(19 October 2017\)](#)

An aspiring ironman who suffered a broken shoulder blade and ribs when a dog jumped in front of him on a bike trail is fuming the animal's owner left without calling an ambulance.

The dog was off-lead in an area where dogs have to be "under effective control".

[Cyclist suffers brain damage in a crash when off-leash cocker spaniel darts across his path as he rides to work \(28 October 2020, UK\)](#)

The 'seasoned cyclist', from Chiswick, hit his head after being catapulted over the handlebars while trying to avoid ploughing into the animal as it chased after a ball.

e) Off-leash dogs attacking other dogs

[Tiny chihuahua fighting for life after it was attacked by a dangerous off-leash dog in the communal garden of a Sydney apartment complex \(10 February 2021\)](#)

A Sydney dog owner is traumatised and thousands of dollars out of pocket after her tiny chihuahua was attacked by a dog outside her Zetland home. The owner described the moment Paco was mauled as something out of a "horror movie". See photo of the chihuahua's injury at [Attachment 14](#).

[Chihuahua mauled to death by a husky at an off-leash dog beach in Altona \(1 May 2019\)](#)

"We were just leaving when a husky dog that came out of nowhere grabbed and shook our precious little dog, which was a totally unprovoked attack," the owner wrote on Facebook.

8. Shared paths

Most councils surrounding Melbourne have rules about paths that are shared by cyclists and pedestrians. They require dogs to be on-leash within 5m of these paths. Whilst MCC does not have such a rule, we contend that this is sensible policy.

Point 8 of Agenda Item 6.2 (Report to the Future Melbourne Committee: Review of dogs in open space by David Callow) states:

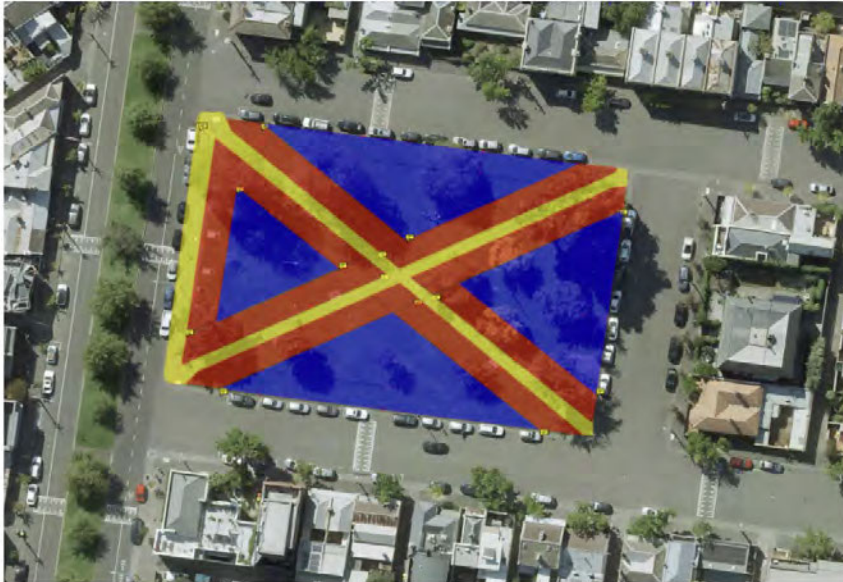
The proposed Order also sets out management controls, including instances where a dog must be restrained on a leash. New controls that were not included in previous Orders include that dogs must be on leash when on and within 5 metres of shared paths.

Gazetted shared paths surrounding the park include Canning Street (traffic and cycles) only. The diagonal paths of Murchison Square are not formally gazetted. This does not diminish the safety concerns we have for the park users of all ages.

We contend that a shared path does not necessarily need to be gazetted to be considered 'shared'. Kids on scooters and bikes, mums with prams, etc need to be protected.

Refer to the below maps, which show how Murchison Square would need to be utilised as an off-leash dog park in order to abide by Council’s own by-law which states that dogs must be kept on leash within 5 metres of shared pathways:

Legend	Use	sqm	%
■	Proposed Off Leash Area	2062	47.40%
■	Walking Paths	514	11.82%
■	Exclusions Area (within 5m of path)	1774	40.78%
Total Park Area		4350	



9. Loss of amenity

The park is used at all times of day by the residents, and by many others - the elderly, their grandchildren, families - for quiet conversation, for picnics, for exercise, for their relaxation. This will not be possible at times that dogs are off leash, and unlikely to be used at other times given the inevitable degradation of the park, and of course, the un-picked-up dog excrement.

Dogs bark, dogs excrete, dogs bite, dogs fight with each other, their owners often join in. Some dogs have animus towards bicycle riders, and some dogs make people feel unsafe - they are afraid of dogs. For these people, dogs on the loose will create an effective curfew. They will be afraid to leave their houses during off leash times.

One resident of Murchison Street, Julie [REDACTED] wrote:

"If the Council proceeds with this proposal other residents and I can expect to be disturbed every night by the excited barking of dogs chasing each other or playing ball or chasing possums who come out at night, and by groups of owners talking. The barking or loud talking sets off a chain reaction of barking of the many dogs who live around the Square and who then need to be calmed. This is a problem, particularly when it is dark and it is unreasonable of the Council to encourage use of the Square in the dark. There have been previous concerns about use of the Square overnight – vandals, drinking, broken bottles, occasional drug use – and I for one, don't want to be woken by a barking dog and then also have to check each time whether there is a problem in the Square."

Another long-term resident, consultant psychiatrist Dr Peter [REDACTED], has also written to the Lord Mayor on 20 June 2022 describing the mental and psychological effects that off-leash dogs in the Square will create in some people. Please see his letter attached ([Attachment 15](#)).

It is wise to learn from other people's mistakes. Here are two letters to the editor of The Age this month, June 2022:

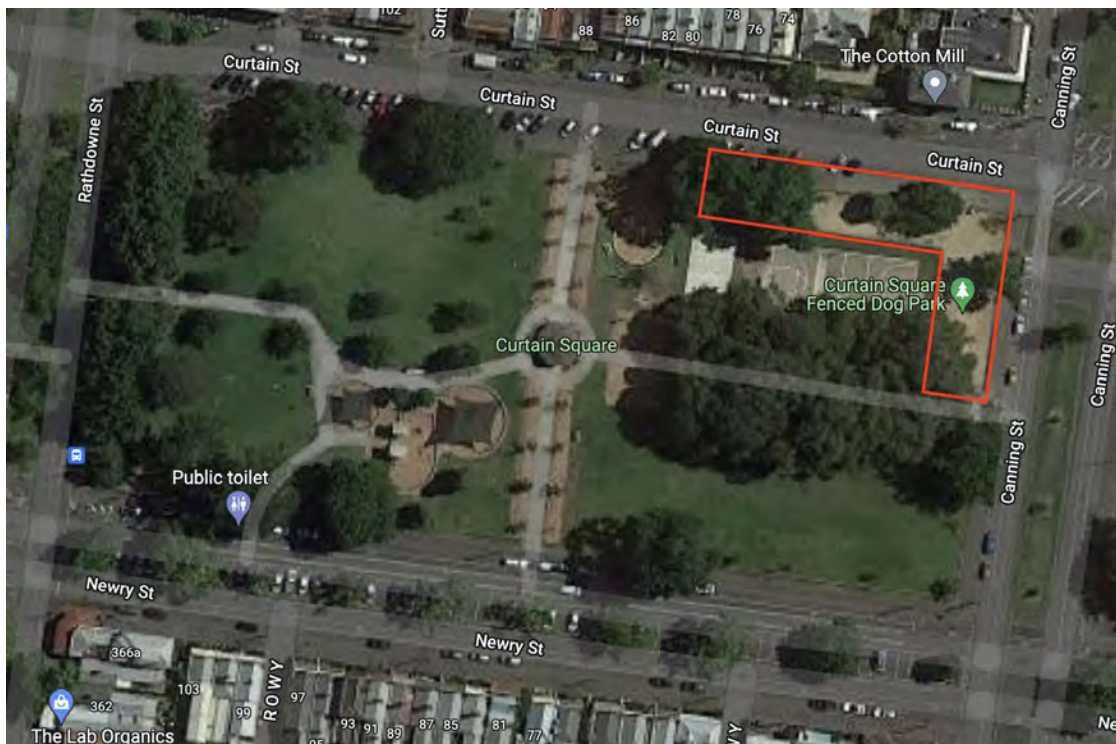
Finding the right balance

Regarding off-leash dog parks (The Age, 8/6): A group of South Melbourne ratepayers have lobbied the City of Port Phillip for at least three years about an off-leash park impacting residents' health, wellbeing and capacity to work from home. The tiny park is surrounded by apartments and dwellings. Last decade, it was appropriated as an off-leash park. This decision discriminated against the diversity of residents who utilised the park. It has become unviable and oversubscribed by the volume of dogs and their owners. Some shift workers who cannot sleep during the day have moved due to the unmanaged barking at all hours. Others are considering selling due to incapacity to work from home because of barking. Residents have had to put up with abusive behaviour from entitled dog owners. This park should be returned as a sensory garden. There are plenty of bigger, and less residential, spaces for dogs and their owners. —Sally Apokis, South Melbourne

The nightmare of barking and yapping, 24/7

Clearly no one who is advocating for an off-leash dog park (The Age, 8/6) has ever lived opposite one. The City of Port Phillip has such a park, of which I have the displeasure of living opposite. Residents are subjected to barking, whining, howling, yapping and dog fighting at all hours of the day, 365 days a year. There is no respite. Forget being able to sleep in, do shift work, or work productively from home. The City of Port Phillip has a bylaw about noise on council land, but clearly the people responsible for upholding it are too busy playing with their dogs at the park. —Sarah Phillipson, South Melbourne

Another place we can learn from is Curtain Square North Carlton. Council will be aware of the off-leash dog park in this square. It is a small and fenced area which is now laid with gravel, as dogs tore up all the grass and turned it into a mud patch. After its introduction the area rapidly became a grassless swamp with uncollected dog excrement common in the area. The subsequent covering of the area in gravel has proven unsatisfactory to residents with the result that children and dogs have been injured.



Car parking

Given the Victorian nature of the area, in which almost no houses have off-street car parking and rely solely on parking in the street, the influx of dog owners with cars to use the off-leash facility will exacerbate the car parking problem.

The children's plea

The young children living around Murchison Square sent a letter to the Lord Mayor kindly asking her not to allow dogs off-leash in the Square. This letter is attached ([Attachment 20](#)).

10. Expert opinion on off-leash dogs in parks

[Dogs should pass tests to use off-leash parks, says expert \(7 March 2018\)](#)

A leading canine behavioural expert believes that off-leash dog parks are putting vulnerable Australians and our pets at risk.

Steve [REDACTED], who teaches council rangers and paramedics how to deal with dangerous dogs, knows that his view won't be popular.

However, he believes it is necessary to promote change after a horrific spate of dog maulings which have left [two children severely injured and one dead in four days](#).

"Something is not right and we have to go right back and look at what we're doing with our dogs," Mr Austin said.

The canine training expert believes that a key part of this re-examination of our relationships with dogs is "socialisation" — or the training of dogs to behave and understand the world around them.

"A big problem with dog parks, now that they are so popular, is that owners believe that taking their dog to an off-leash area and letting it run around all over the place is adequate socialisation," Mr Austin said.

"But taking your dog to the park only really accounts for about 5 per cent of your dog's socialisation training. Socialisation is actually an all-encompassing process, of which 95 per cent is about allowing your dog to experience normal everyday things like buses, children, crowded outdoor shopping centres, car rides and so on."

Mr Austin believes that this over-reliance on off-leash parks could have a negative effect on dog behaviour in the long-term, but he also believes that the parks are also dangerous for children and well-behaved dogs.

“Ask any council park ranger, there is a big problem with dog parks in Australia,” he said. “The problem is you never know what kind of dog is going to turn up and it is leading to dogs, elderly people and children being attacked.”

“Many people are responsible, but you can’t control what other owners are like. People often don’t pay attention to what their dog is doing. They’re on the phone or chatting with mates. Next minute there’s a huge fight. That’s when people become involved and the dogs fly off at children or elderly people.”

Mr Austin believes the solution is to introduce simple behaviour tests, run by local council or community volunteers, which would give the pet simple tasks to complete and a tag if they complete it — which would allow the pet to enter the off-leash parks.

He said similar ideas have been trialled to protect wildlife in Australian National Parks with great success. “Ten years ago, we used to let dogs poo everywhere and nobody cared,” he said. “Now, through education and laws, someone would tell you to pick it up and it would be the same thing with these tags.”

In a [horrific incident last night](#), a three-year-old boy had part of his ear ripped off by a Great Dane. One-year-old Kamillah [REDACTED] was in a stroller in the NSW town of Inverell on Saturday when a [rottweiler attacked her](#). She was rushed to Inverell District Hospital in an ambulance, but her injuries were so severe she couldn’t be saved.

There was another attack on Sunday, this time in Melbourne, where a [10-year-old girl was seriously injured](#). That attack happened while her parents were reportedly at the gym.

A City of Sydney spokeswoman told news.com.au that rangers and companion animals liaison officers conduct regular patrols of the city's parks to ensure owners keep their dogs under control and ensure dog owners pick up after their dogs.

"Regular off-leash exercise in designated parks helps dogs relieve boredom and release pent-up energy and may help reduce unwanted behaviour such as excessive barking," she said.

"Outdoors exercise also benefits owners, with dog parks bringing people and communities together. Having access to dog-friendly spaces is important for pet-owners, particularly in inner-city areas with high-density dwellings where dogs don't have much space to exercise."

A City of Melbourne spokeswoman said it takes dog attacks very seriously. "Owners face fines of up to \$6342 and/or orders for the dog to be destroyed if the courts find their dog guilty of a serious attack," she said.

11. Attachments

Attachment 1: Covering letter for new petition

Petition: Dog Off-Leash Area Proposal – Murchison Square

Re: City of Melbourne Review of Dogs in Open Space, response to email from Park.Planning@melbourne.vic.gov.au received 2nd June 2022

5 June 2022

The Chair, Lord Mayor Sally Capp
Future Melbourne Committee

Dear Lord Mayor,

For the sake of complete transparency, a quick note on the process of collecting the signatories for this petition.

Three residents of Murchison Square, Barb Jennings, Michael Georgeff and Morry Schwartz drafted the petition and, on late afternoon Sunday 5th of June, door knocked every house facing the square.

With the exception of the resident at 33 Owen Street (she said she owned a large dog and it would be useful for her to let her dog run free in the park), every other person who was at home enthusiastically signed the petition. They all expressed concern about the proposal, and many were very anxious about it.

These are the people directly affected. They all live directly opposite the square. Besides the almost unanimous opposition to the proposal, the most surprising thing was that most of them did not know about the Council meeting to consider the proposal this coming Tuesday – not even some of those people who signed the first petition. Many were not advised, nor invited to make a submission. We are very concerned about the Council's process in this matter.

On our walk around the square, we visited Julie [REDACTED] who has made a submission, which she shared with us. We ask that Council looks closely at her submission as it contains questions on Council's consultation process that require answers. She also makes other important points, including on the protection of wildlife.

We are strongly opposed to the use of Murchison Square as an off-leash area. We believe the Committee and its consultants have not properly evaluated other options. Moreover, we believe the process involved has very serious flaws, shows clear bias and misleading presentation, leading us to question the independence of the evaluators and the possible corruption of due process

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Attachment 2: New petition

Petition: Dog Off-Leash Area Proposal – Murchison Square

Re: City of Melbourne Review of Dogs in Open Space, response to email from Park.Planning@melbourne.vic.gov.au received 2nd June 2022

We, the residents, living along four sides of Murchison Square, strongly object to the proposal to create a dog off-leash area in Murchison Square. We hope that, as in matters of town planning, those directly affected by a proposal have the most deserving right to have their voices and concerns heard.

On the 3rd of December 2021 a petition was signed by 18 residents living adjacent to Murchison Square. We have tried to revisit those people, but some were not available, and we have been given very limited time for this submission. We are willing to continue the process of talking to those we could not reach.

Our objection is on many grounds, including property values, safety, hygiene, amenity, the right to peaceful enjoyment of our properties and their surrounds, and the right to feel safe. The basis for our objection is described in detail below.

We are all anxious and worried about the prospect and request that Council remove Murchison Square from the list of areas designated as a dog off-the-leash area.

Basis for Objection

Unsuitability of Murchison Square for Off-Leash Dog Area

While we fully support the need for off-leash dog areas, we claim that Murchison Square is not suitable for off-leash use in comparison with other proposed and potential areas.

- **Residential nature:** Murchison Square is the ONLY area surrounded on all four sides by residential houses. All the other proposed areas are either bordering on parks, open spaces, factories, major arterial roads, or rivers.
- **Size:** Murchison Square is a small area, compared to most of the others that are about double the size of Murchison Square. The only ones of lesser size are Eades Park (which is on busy Kings Rd and adjacent commercial buildings) and Kings Way and Moray St (surrounded by major arterial roads and commercial development)
- **Historical significance and gazetted use.** Murchison Square is the only area of significant historical significance, established as an “ornamental enclosure” well before any of the other proposed areas were established as parks. Its surrounding buildings were all initially built in the 1860s. It is the only park of those proposed that was planned from the start to be an ORNAMENTAL enclosure for PASSIVE recreation.

“To the north of Carlton gardens, two smaller squares (Macarthur Square and Murchison Square) each noted as ‘Reserved for Ornamental Enclosure’ were added when this area was laid out in 1857. The permanent reservation of Murchison Square was formally gazetted in 1864.” [Carlton Heritage Review, Lovell Chen, 2019]

“The inner ring of gardens (e.g., Murchison Square) were more formally designed spaces, intended for passive recreation; while the outer ring (e.g., Royal Park, Princes Park) were developed in a less sophisticated manner for both active and passive recreation.” [Carlton Heritage Review, Lovell Chen, 2019]

- **Effect on property value:** The value of the surrounding properties is in part based on Murchison Square being an ornamental enclosure for passive recreation. It was noted in submissions to the State Government as far back as 1858 that the surrounding allotments had been bought in good faith from the government “on the faith of these grants for reserves and that a premium had been paid on the basis of their adjacency to the square” [Government Reserves and Roads, The Argus, 8 October, 1858].

- **Danger to animals and persons.** Murchison Square is unfenced and surrounded by roads, creating a danger to the dogs who can easily run onto the street. One side of Murchison square faces Canning Street, used as a major thoroughfare to the city by cyclists. The dogs would present a significant danger to cyclists as would the increased car traffic around the park.
- **Limited parking.** Parking around Murchison Square is limited and primarily 2- and 4- hour general parking. This will create considerable traffic congestion. Some of the existing parking spots will be taken by people bringing their dogs to the park, putting further pressure on parking for residents.
- **Current use as picnic area:** Murchison Square functions as a permanent picnic area (even if not formally designated as such), with many families, elderly people, and children picnicing in the square on most days in spring, summer and autumn, well into the evenings. The regulation on unleashed dogs remaining 20m away from picnic areas, if applied in this case on practical grounds, would render the small park unusable for off-leash dog activities.
- **Amenity and peaceful enjoyment:** Being surrounded by residential properties, the barking of dogs will disturb the peace of the residents. Dog owners will be less likely to scoop up excrement if their dog as on another part of the park. This will make less than desirable for people. Some of the residents are afraid of dogs, and they will not feel safe in the park.

Issues of Process

There are also questions about the process used by Council to determine the list of potential off-leash areas.

- **Validity of surveys:** There is a question of the validity of the surveys based on survey size and relative proportions of dog owners and no-dog owners. There were approximately 1,300 respondents to the surveys. 20% of respondents were not residents of the City of Melbourne. Given a population in the City of Melbourne of around 170,000, this means that only $1,300/170,000 * 80\% = 0.6\%$ of the population were surveyed.
- **Bias in surveys:** According to Council, *“approximately 15 per cent of online participants were not dog owners, and 24 per cent of face-to-face participants were not dog owners”* [Report to the Future Melbourne Committee, Agenda Item 6.2, 7 June 2022]. Based on the numbers stated in that Report, this means that, overall, **83%** of respondents were dog owners, 17% no-dog owners. However, dog owners represent only about 40% of the population of Melbourne. Clearly, the responses are not representative of the population (by a factor of over **5 times**). The report also states that *“the proposal received support from 82 per cent of survey respondents (495 people) in December 2021”*. On the very data presented in this report, one can safely estimate that almost all the respondents who supported the proposal are dog owners.
- **Misleading report:** The above-mentioned report states: *“a petition of 135 signatures was received in 2018 from local residents supporting its use as an off leash space”* This is not true. The referenced petition concerned the establishment of a 6-month trial for 1-2 hours of off-leash time – it was specifically NOT supporting the use of Murchison Square as an off-leash space.
- **Evaluation criteria:** There are questions as to what measures/criteria were used for the evaluation of the various locations. For example, why were Argyle Square and Lincoln Square not suggested or selected? They provide better alternatives to Carlton Gardens as they are only 5-minute and 8-minute walks from Carlton Gardens, are far better centred with respect to the Melbourne Council/Carlton precinct (Murchison Square is on the very edge of this area), are much larger than Murchison Square, and are surrounded mainly by commercial buildings.
- **Focus on dog -owners:** Much of the survey was directed to what facilities dog owners would require of off-leash dog areas, rather than issues regarding the suitability of off-leash areas to the residential, passive and active recreational use of proposed areas.
- **Timelines:** Some (not all) of us received an email regarding the consultation process late on Thursday June 2nd and were asked to respond before 10.00am of Tuesday June 7. This gave us effectively 2 working days to arrange a response. This is not reasonable.

Attachment 3: Letter from Council

11 November 2021



CITY OF MELBOURNE

GPO Box 1603
Melbourne VIC 3001
Telephone (03) 9658 9658
Facsimile (03) 9654 4854
DX210487

ABN 55 370 219 287

Dear resident,

Woof. New paw-posed off-leash dog areas

We're exploring the option of eight new off-leash spaces and timed off-leash access to manage for the increase in animals across the municipality for us all to enjoy. You are receiving this letter because you reside within 200 metres of one of the proposed dog off-leash areas.

These eight new paw-posed off-leash dog areas include:

- Ron Barassi Senior Park (no use during sport)
- Canning and Macaulay Road Reserve (small dogs only, 24 hours)
- Point Park (timed access)
- Riverside Park (timed access)
- Wellington Park (timed access)
- Eades Park (part – 24 hours)
- Murchison Square (timed access)
- Manningham Reserve (junior – southernmost – oval, no use during sport).

If you're a dog owner or visitor to any of these parks, we'd like your feedback on:

- Using this area as a proposed off-leash dog area
- The most suitable times of day for this to be an off-leash dog area,
- Proposed amenities like dog waste bag dispensers and drinking fountains with dog bowls.

To find out more and have your say visit
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/dogs-open-space

Consultation closes 19 December.

Your feedback will help us determine how we can share these open spaces for us and our furry friends.

Yours sincerely



Manager Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure | Parks and City Greening

Telephone 9658 9658
E-mail Park.Planning@melbourne.vic.gov.au
Website www.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Attachment 4: Report on Council's flawed consultation process, and new statement of site significance

Process

The process was flawed. There appeared to be no independent analysis of the merits and disadvantages of off-leash areas in Carlton and Murchison Square in particular. There was little information given to locals to help their thinking. The recommendation was based on preference yes/no by an unidentified group.

What went wrong?

Old 2018 petition

- This clearly coloured thinking but:
 - It only supported 2 hours timed access per day (never on the table)
 - It was 4 years old prior to the pandemic, the explosion in dog numbers and the increased use of the Square

No retesting of locals

- Council never circled back in the local area before the December 2021 survey (which had its own flaws). We have now done that work and there is overwhelming opposition to off leash use in the smaller squares.

Murchison Square presented as the only option in Carlton

- From what we have been told, no other place - not even the bigger squares - was considered.
- No gap analysis done of the bigger squares (which better fill the gap).

- Carlton Gardens North was ruled out of bounds because of work done 17 years ago. Council refuses to listen to requests to reassess.

Advice that the consultation process was happening

- Until the November 2021 letter, there was no advice to locals of the consultation, not even a simple letterbox drop.
- The assumption was made that all are computer literate.

First online survey

- The first online survey was a survey about all 8 areas. It did not ask whether respondents were local (postcode optional and results not collated).
- It did not ask if respondents used the Square.

The letter 'Woof. New Paw-posed off leash dog areas' sent to all residents within 200 metres of a proposed off leash area

- Suggests prejudice on the issue.
- Sought feedback only from dog owners and visitors, not residents.
- Contained no detail - that was all in the online survey on Participate Melbourne.
- Gave no indication this was the end of the consultation process.
- The survey closed only 16 days after it was received, in the busy lead-up to a free Christmas after lockdown.

Second online survey

- The second online survey received 495 responses in favour of timed off-leash use out of 602 replies. This means 107 against. Like the first, it asked questions about all areas.
- No information was given about the Square or issues to consider.
- There was no information on the location of the respondents, their use of the Square (or even if they knew the Square) or dog ownership (potential sampling bias).

- It asked a binary yes/no question. No degree of support. No 'undecided'. No question whether more information was needed.
- As to the times, specific choices were proposed. Two two-hour blocks or all night. What was the basis for these times? On the evidence we have, the all-night proposal did not come out of community consultation but because this had worked on some beaches in other municipalities.
- Less than 50 percent voted for all-night access.

It's a numbers game

- We have seen little evidence of any consideration of the impact of the proposal. There appears to have been no consideration of safety issues (apart from possible dog fights); heritage issues; the impact on amenity not just for residents but visitors to the Square or more generally.

No report of the outcome of the consultation process

- Contrary to the Council's own engagement policy, there has been no report on Participate Melbourne or elsewhere on what the Council did and heard during the consultation process. The surveys which contained the content of the proposals of consultation were taken down.

The FMC meeting

- Almost 6 months goes by without a word, then only people who had signed up to Participate Melbourne and organisers of petitions were advised of the meeting.
- The Council was aware of widespread community interest but did not notify the community.
- That left only 2 working days to respond to the report to FMC and obtain input from the community.

- All done with our hands tied behind our backs because we had had no report on the consultation process or the impacts the Council had considered.

Follow up to the FMC meeting

- Further work was to be done and reports gathered and information shared with the community. Email from Julie Turner to Councillors dated 15 June 2022 records that further work and FMC assurances of Council's approach to check that it has made its decision in a way the community is comfortable with. The minutes contained no such assurance to the community but merely recorded the resolution.
- Locals have reached out to Councillors with little response.
- Councillor Rohan Leppert advised that management had gone away to respond to concerns and that we would see new recommendations and options in the report to go to Council and that the report would be published at 2pm on Thursday with the other agenda papers.
- There has been no relevant change to the recommendation and Councillor Leppert has made the FMC recommendation to Council without the benefit of that further work.
- Had it been shared as promised, locals will have less than 2 working days to consider it and make submissions even though this directly impacts a large number of people.
- Councillor Leppert advised by email at 4.50 pm on 23 June: 'A change of plans from management's side. It seems the only additional information in the report is the information requested in the Committee resolution. This makes things quite difficult, of course. I emphasise that the recommendation in the report does not necessarily indicate the likely decision on Tuesday.'
- The Chair has declined to allow any verbal submission, even though she has a discretion to do so under the Governance Rules.

Conclusion

There have been flaws in the process at almost every step.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT

The five squares of Carlton, being Argyle Square, Macarthur Square, Murchison Square, Lincoln Square and University Square, are significant in the Carlton Precinct HO1.

The following significant elements, although present to varying degrees, characterise Carlton's public squares as a class of places with a shared origin and consistent patterns of historical development and use:

- The largely square or rectangular plans and boundaries of each of the five squares, as enclosed within Carlton's network of public streets and as defined in the original plan surveys produced by the Department of Lands & Survey in the 1850s-60s.
- Where present, walkways laid out in a formal pattern:
 - in Argyle Square and Lincoln Square, the longstanding system of walkways consisting of a central east-west walk continuing the axis of Pelham Street, along with diagonal crossing paths (as an 'X' pattern in the south half of Argyle Square, and as a formerly 'X' pattern, now halved, in Lincoln Square);
 - in Murchison Square the crossing diagonal walks which are reflective of longstanding unpaved paths or desire tracks through the square.
- The use of mature trees in formal arrangements: as avenues defining pathways or axial vistas; and in other groups (symmetric pairs or clusters) to enhance the definition and spatial enclosure of each square.
 - Principal formal plantings consisting of English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) in Argyle Square, Macarthur Square and Murchison Square (and formerly in University Square), and of Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) in Lincoln Square.
 - At Lincoln Square, an additional formal layer has been added in plantings which surround the central plaza in the form of pairs of Bhutan Cypress (*Cupressus torulosa*) and Horizontal Elm (*Ulmus glabra 'Horizontalis'*), both dating to the 1960s. Further, Lincoln Square's formal plantings are embedded within a setting characterized by mature Eucalypts of various ages, including Narrow-leaved Peppermint (*Eucalyptus nicholii*), Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) and Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*).
- Where present, remnant physical fabric of early origin, such as stone fabric used as a lawn edge at interfaces to streetside footpaths at Argyle Square and Murchison Square, and the early bluestone kerbs and channels, including radial installations at street corners, which typify the treatment of most of the street edges.
- Public monuments, such as the levers family drinking fountains in Argyle Square and Macarthur Square, and the Thomas Ferguson Memorial Drinking Fountain in University Square, which demonstrate the role of the squares as Carlton's principal civic space, a role which has recently been continued in the construction within Lincoln Square of the Memorial to the Victims of the Bali Bombing.
- Where present, the intact setting and enclosure of the squares within the fine-grained nineteenth century streetscapes which face onto each square.

The following table summarises the presence of the above historical characteristics in each square:

	ARGYLE	LINCOLN	MACARTHUR	MURCHISON	UNIVERSITY
Physical form and boundaries	X	X	X	X	X
Paths and layout	X	X		X	
Remnant physical fabric (eg. stone edging)	X		X		
Trees	X	X	X	X	*
Monuments	X	X	X		X
Setting intact or contributory	X		X	X	X

* Removal and replacement of mature trees at University Square is underway in 2018.

HOW IT IS SIGNIFICANT

The five squares of Carlton, being Argyle Square, Macarthur Square, Murchison Square, Lincoln Square and University Square, are of local historical, social and aesthetic significance in the Carlton Precinct HO1.

WHY IT IS SIGNIFICANT

Argyle Square, Macarthur Square, Murchison Square, Lincoln Square and University Square, of Carlton, are of historical significance in the Carlton Precinct HO1 (Criterion A). Planned and conceived in the 1850s and formally gazetted in the 1860s, they provide evidence of early town planning in this area of Melbourne, and are one of the defining features of the initial suburban expansion of Melbourne to its north. They were based on the historical model adopted by Colonel William Light in his 1837 plan for Adelaide, and on similar squares in London which were enclosed/surrounded by comparatively dense private development. They are also, on this scale and extent, relatively rare in metropolitan Melbourne, and provided a pattern of development which was, to a greater or lesser degree, followed elsewhere in Melbourne's developing early suburbs. Lincoln Square and Argyle Square were the earliest planned, in 1852; while Macarthur Square and Murchison Square were provided for slightly later in 1857. University Square was also planned in the 1850s, in an area where development of surrounding building lots was also somewhat delayed, but was later altered at the behest of the University of Melbourne.

Lincoln Square and Argyle Square are of further significance as the sites of early political controversy, in which their status as open space reserves free of traversing public roads was challenged in 1858-59 by local commercial interests. The consequent 1859 decision of the State Parliament to protect the squares from the incursion of roads and traffic, prefigured the extension of the reserve system to formally conserve spaces for public gardens and recreation across Victoria beginning that same year and gaining pace in the 1860s. Other disputes surrounding public access to and use of the squares continued for some decades, not least of all due to fencing of the squares which was seen as a barrier. These disputes would also play out on a larger scale across urban Melbourne over the course of the twentieth century. Of relevance is the introduction to Lincoln Square of reputedly the first children's playground in Victoria, in 1907. The role of the squares as community spaces was further reinforced throughout the twentieth century, whereby various memorials and other monuments were installed in the spaces. Monuments of significance include the levers drinking fountains in Argyle Square and Macarthur Square; the Thomas Ferguson Memorial Drinking Fountain, albeit not in its original location; and the more recent Memorial to the Victims of the Bali Bombing in Lincoln Square.

The squares are also of historical significance for their relationship with bordering development, especially historic residential development to the adjoining streets and facing onto or presenting to the squares. These relationships date back to the mid-nineteenth century, and much of the existing historic development surrounding the squares is located in HO1 the Carlton Precinct. While in some streets adjoining the squares,

the historic buildings have been replaced with modern development, the smaller squares such as Macarthur and Murchison squares stand out for having substantially retained their historic residential context.

Finally, the squares are of historical significance for their association with early public or semi-private Carlton groups, such as military volunteers and sporting clubs. Of note is Argyle Square, the northern half of which accommodated the Carlton Bowling Club from 1868 until the early 1990s.

The five squares of Carlton are of social significance in the Carlton Precinct HO1 (Criterion G). They are valued as both historical landscaped spaces, and as long-standing public spaces which are freely available to all within a densely built up inner suburb. They are also valued as spaces of respite, informal recreation, public congregation and social interaction; as community spaces with valued facilities; and as places of memorialising. Of the squares, Macarthur Square has been identified as a place where Aboriginal people met and reconnected with culture and family, including after periods of institutionalisation, in the second half of the twentieth century. The 'Argyle Square Piazza' is also valued by the Italian community, and is a focus of the Carlton Italian Festa (successor to the famed Lygon Street Festa) and for its association with Italian culture.

Argyle Square, Macarthur Square, Murchison Square, Lincoln Square and University Square are also of aesthetic significance in the Carlton Precinct HO1 (Criterion E). While they were not originally subject to a formal landscape design, and were instead developed in stages as Council finances allowed or in response to occasional controversies and community lobbying, the squares generally retain to varying degrees significant components of their original and/or early evolved planning, landscape character and form. These include their regular square or rectangular plans which complement the ordered pattern of subdivision and grid of streets in the subject parts of Carlton; and their particular form of urban open space which reflected their functional relationship with surrounding development which in turn originated in the historic squares of London. They also, variously, retain mature trees in formal arrangements as avenues defining pathways or axial vistas, and in other groups (symmetric pairs or clusters) which enhance the definition and spatial enclosure of each square; longstanding systems of walkways consisting of those on east-west axis with streets or crossing the squares on the diagonal; nineteenth century tree plantings of English Elm and Moreton Bay Fig; bluestone lawn edging; and bluestone kerb and channel treatments to the adjacent streets. Aesthetically, the squares are also significant as defined open spaces within the densely built up urban context of Carlton, with their mature trees and plantings pointing to their historic origin.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) should be prepared for each of the squares, or a single CMP which covers all five squares, and includes policies and guidance on issues to do with tree replacement; reinstatement of avenue plantings; and management of change (tree canopy diversification, construction of new amenities, and capacity for reorganisation). The plans should also address future uses and the management and conservation of the social significance of the squares.

REFERENCES

See the endnotes below

Attachment 5: Victorian Heritage Database Report

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 09/06/22

Macarthur Square & Murchison Square - Historic Area

Location

Canning Street (either side),, CARLTON VIC 3053 - Property No B6737

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

State

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 28, 2008

The Macarthur and Murchison Squares are of State historical and architectural importance as the two most intact squares from an important phase of urban improvement initiated by the Surveyor-General Andrew Clarke, containing a great variety of buildings and including a number which pre-date the application of the Melbourne Building Act.

Historic Area Classified: 06/05/1996

See Also: B0750, B4015

Hermes Number 64504

Property Number

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

Attachment 6: Report from architect and heritage consultant, Bruce Trethowan



17 June, 2022

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Murchison Square, Carlton
Proposal to introduce leash free dog walking area
Heritage Overview



General view of Murchison Square looking to the south east. June 2022

The series of squares across the inner Melbourne suburbs of Carlton and East Melbourne is one of the distinctive characteristics that reflect the planned nature of the nineteenth century subdivision of these areas. This is in contrast to the ad hoc subdivision that took place in other inner urban suburbs such as Fitzroy and Richmond. These squares, generally simply treated with grassed areas and trees, reflect similar urban initiatives in London in suburbs like Belgravia, Kensington and Bayswater. They provide welcome green spaces within these built up areas and significantly contribute the historic character of these areas.

Under the Melbourne Planning Scheme (MPS), all of Carlton and East Melbourne is protected by Heritage Overlay controls. Inherent in these controls is the cited policy to conserve and enhance places which contribute to the significance of these areas (refer MPS Clause 22.05).



Murchison Square is listed under the MPS as a significant element of the *Carlton Precinct Heritage Overlay, HO1*. It is the smallest of the squares in Carlton and East Melbourne. This, and its proximity away from main thoroughfares gives the space an interesting tranquility.

The Square is simply landscaped. Generally flat and grassed, it is crossed by two diagonal bitumen pathways. There is a somewhat arbitrary planting of trees which are generally located around the Square's perimeter. Some trees are mature, while others were planted fairly recently. The larger trees have an underplanting of bulbs. Two conventional street lights illuminate the square at night. Their appearance does nothing to enhance the character of the space. There is a sprinkling of park benches. A rubbish bin is located in the south west corner. Overall while having a degree of character, the square could do with some enhancement.

The significance of the square stems from its conception as part of the original Carlton land subdivision and its importance as a place in the social fabric of its neighbourhood as a focus for a variety of outdoor recreation and leisure activities. Reflecting the tranquility of the place, these activities focus on individuals and family groups and include children's play, exercising, picnics and the like and walking including walking dogs on a leash.

The prospect of adding an additional activity of off-the-leash dog walking would undermine this broad ranging social focus and thereby detract from the significance of the place.

Dog walkers once they have freed their dog generally, and quietly appropriately, encourage their dog to exercise. This usually comprises throwing a ball (with an appropriate enhancement device to ensure the ball travels some distance) and getting the dog to fetch the ball. This takes place a multiple of times with the ball thrown in different directions. Dog walkers also like to socialize and encourage their dogs to do likewise (sometimes unsuccessfully). This can result in a group of dogwalkers congregating in a central area where various dog activities are witnessed and balls thrown indeterminately. Dog owners who are less mobile generally drive their car to a dog walking area and given the need for facilities, rubbish bins (including a litter bag supply) for dog litter and water fountains with dog bowls are placed in accessible locations adjacent to the off-the-leash area.

Within the City of Melbourne, Yarra Park is an appropriate example of an off-the-leash dog walking area. In this case, the area of the Park is vast and highly suitable for the required dog activities. The main time for dog walking takes place in the late afternoon when often 50 dogs and owners congregate in the Park's central open space, well away from other activities taking place in the Park. Signage encourages dog owners to leash their dogs in the vicinity of children's play areas and in the Park's picnic areas. It is noted that the City of Melbourne web site specifies only a section of Yarra Park as available for walking dogs off-the-leash however this limitation is ignored by dog walkers. It is acknowledged that such a limitation is difficult to enforce.

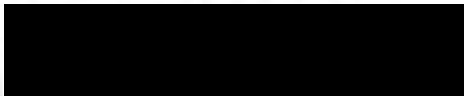
Given these observations, it can be assumed that off-the-leash dog walking requires a large reasonably unencumbered grassed area that is separate from locations where other park related activities take place. It can also be assumed that limiting off-the-leash dog walking to a particular sector of a public open space is a fruitless exercise because of the difficulty in enforcing such a limitation.

On this basis I advise that to dedicate Murchison Square as an off-the-leash dog walking area would be incompatible with both the size of the square and the activities that presently take place within the Square. Such a use would detract from the Square's present significance. This is

perhaps the reason why none of the City of Melbourne's smaller parks and squares include an area for walking a dog off-the-leash. I see no reason why the City should depart from this principle.



[Redacted]
B.Arch FAIA



***Attachment 7: Safety report by residents Stefan and Alex Toniolo of
Barrup St***

1. Murchison Square is boarded by streets on all four sides. There is a footpath only on the Canning St side. Both Owen St and Murchison St lead onto the very busy Nicholson St, only 69 metres away. Dogs running onto the street pose a hazard for motorists and the dogs. This is more acute at night.

2. A high volume of cycles use Canning Street as a thoroughfare from the northern corridor into the city, who are directly threatened as a result of off-leash dogs
 1. Parts of the vital Canning Street bike lane were widened in 2020, including crossovers at Curtain Street, Lee Street and Princes Street, to accommodate a higher volume of cyclist traffic. This was an effort by the City of Melbourne to create safer routes for cyclists commuting to and from the city.
 2. Upgrades have also been scheduled for the Elgin Street intersection to enable 'green wave' traffic signal optimisation for bikes traveling along the thoroughfare, which means that if bikes get the green at one intersection, and continue at around 21-26 km/h to the next, they will again catch the green light.
 3. According to the Bicycle Network data dashboard, 1388 cyclists use the Rathdowne St bicycle lane (which transitions into Canning Street) each business morning, of which 47% on average are commuting prior to 8am¹. It can be assumed that the same cyclists would be returning southbound between the hours of 5:30-7pm each evening.
 4. With dogs off leash in Murchison square, a significant risk is posed to cyclists who use this route to commute into the city each day or leisurely riders over the weekend. With the potential for cyclists to be traveling up to 26km/h, an incident

involving a cyclist and dog could result in devastating injuries for both cyclists and pets.

5. 1% of all cycling injuries are attributed to incidents with dogs. 50% of these injuries included dog bites. Four injury types account for 97.5% of dog-related cyclist injuries²:
 - i. Cyclist chased by a dog
 - ii. Cyclist hit/collided with a dog
 - iii. Cyclist swerved/tried to avoid a dog
 - iv. Cyclist riding with a dog

From the study 'Injuries to Cyclists due to a Dog-Bicycle Interaction' published in 2018, dog restraint was one of the primary recommendations to reduce the incidence of dog related cyclist injuries, behind leaser and dog owner education.

3. Off leash dogs pose a threat to children, the elderly, other dogs and the local wildlife
 1. Off leash dogs pose a threat to local children who use Murchison Square as a local playground. Often targeted by dogs due to their small size and inability to protect themselves, children are very vulnerable to the whims of an ill-trained dog.
 2. Locals wishing to picnic in Murchison Park, particularly in the summer months, will be negatively impacted by off leash dog parks. Without proper control, dogs can ransack picnics and create an unsafe environment for locals and visitors trying to protect their food and supplies
 3. Off-leash dog parks often descend into chaos for various reasons, including competition over edible treats, dogs sorting their pack leadership when they enter a park and resource guarding balls. Rapid escalation into a dog fight puts the safety of pets and owners at risk. One such incident has occurred in Murcharson Square (see Attachments 5, 6 and 7). In order to protect their dogs,

owners often find themselves the victims of dog bites or worse as they attempt to break up the fight. In a small park space with limited ability to separate animals, this risk becomes greater.

4. Natural wildlife inhabit the trees of Murchison Square, including possums and native birds. Off-leash dogs pose a threat to the local wildlife by stalking and attacking when native animals are unprotected. Keeping dogs on leash is the most effective way to ensure our wildlife remain protected

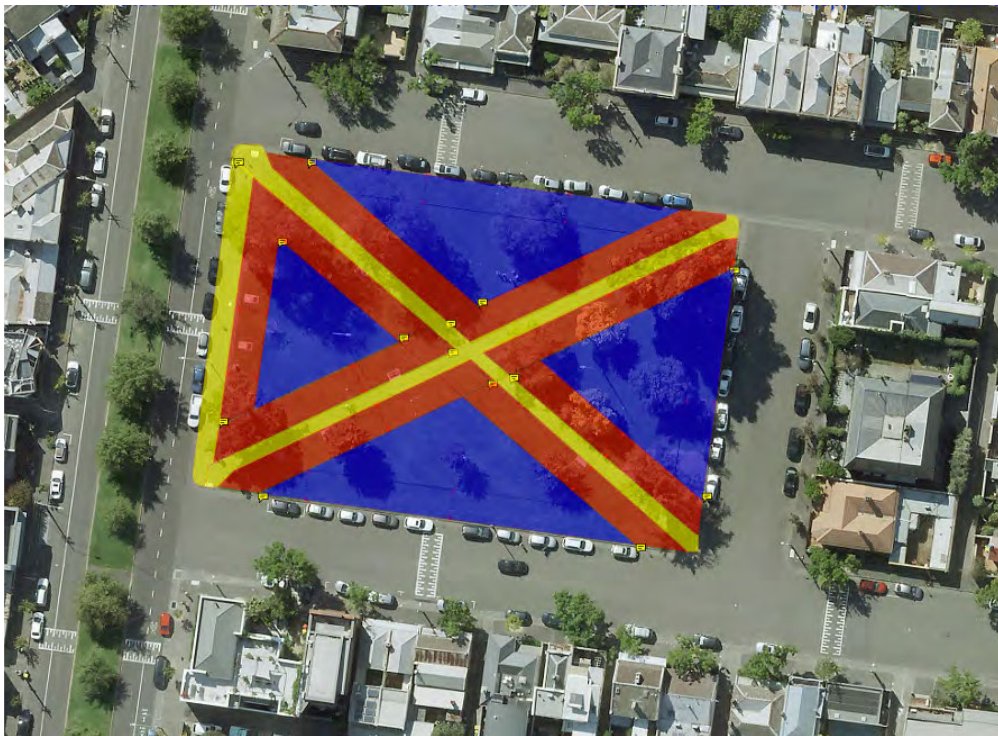
4. Murchison Square is a common route for learner drivers due to wide streets and opportunity to practice parallel parking. Off leash dogs running onto the road could traumatise learner drivers, who are attempting to learn to drive and do not yet have the reflexes to respond to high stress situations.
 1. Advice from the VicRoads website advises “If you see an animal on the road (alive or dead), do not swerve violently to avoid the animal as this can cause you to lose control of your vehicle or to hit oncoming traffic...If you can’t avoid the animal safely you may have to hit it to avoid injury or death to yourself and others.”³
 2. Not only do off-leash dogs traveling onto the road pose a risk to all drivers (including learner drivers with a limited capacity to respond), the reflex to swerve away from dogs could pose a direct risk to the pedestrians, residents and homes surrounding Murchison square

5. Shared Pathway and exclusion zones

In the Report to the Future Melbourne Committee, Agenda item 6.2, Section 8 on the 7 June 2022 we find the following statement;

*“The proposed Order also sets out management controls, including instances where a dog must be restrained on a leash. New controls that were not included in previous Orders include that **dogs must be on leash when on and within 5 metres of shared paths**, and within 20 metres of rivers, creeks and waterbodies, barbecues, sports fields during organised sport and organised public events.”*

Murchison Square has two shared pathways running diagonally through the square each 94 meters in length which are used by pedestrians, cyclists and other active transport users. The Square also borders a shared pathway running North South along Canning Street with a length of 51 meters.



The square has a total land area of 4,350 sqm. Below is a diagram of the of the square sectioned off into the permissible areas and the exclusions areas as defined under the Proposed Municipal Orders, these being the following;

- Yellow - Shared pathway - **514sqm (11.82%)**
- Red - Exclusion Area (within 5m of shared path) - **1,774sqm (40.78%)**
- Blue - Proposed Off Leash Area - **2,062sqm (47.40%)**

52.6% or 2,288sqm of the park is not permitted to have dogs off leash as they will be in an exclusion zone or on a shared pathway.

The greatest distance which a dog has to run without being in an exclusion zone is a 18.5m circumference in a North to South direction.

The margin of error which is afforded to both dogs and their owners is very minimal and even the dogs with the best recall skill will not be able to stay within these passive parameters. Non conformance with these parameters will result in off leash dogs being on either one of the four streets surrounding the park or on one of the shared pathways, both situations carry a high level risk to both the dogs and the users of the shared pathways.

6. References

- <https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/our-services/transport-surveys-and-data/data-dashboard/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29679952/>
- <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules/a-to-z-of-road-rules/animals>

Attachment 8: Letter from [REDACTED], CEO of the Amy Gillett Foundation



22 June 2022

SUBJECT: Canning Street Bike Lane

Dear Mr Schwartz,

Thank you for today's discussion on the Canning Street bike lane in Carlton, and the proposal by the Melbourne City Council to make Murchison Square in Carlton an off-leash dog area.

Canning Street is one of Melbourne's busiest and most important bike corridors:

- The City of Melbourne lists it as one of the "Major on-road cycling routes" ¹
- Last year VicRoads prioritised Canning Street and announced they had introduced the "Canning Street Green Wave for riders". This green wave ensures that traffic lights are coordinated to prioritise cyclists ²
- The cycling safety work that the Amy Gillett Foundation conducted in 2020 listed Canning Street as one of the safest streets in Melbourne for cyclists and cars ³
- Canning Street is not only an extremely busy commuter route, but also a crucial cycling path for food delivery companies, typically operating during the evening

The Amy Gillett Foundation's mission is to stop cyclists being killed and hospitalised on Australia's roads. I understand that the park on Murchison Square won't have a fenced-off area for dogs. Considering how small this park is, and the close proximity to the bike lane, we are concerned that it could increase cyclist crashes.

We suggest that the proposal to make this an off-lead dog park **should not be adopted** until there is a thorough review to ensure it doesn't create an increased risk for people riding a bike on one of the busiest cycling routes in Melbourne.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

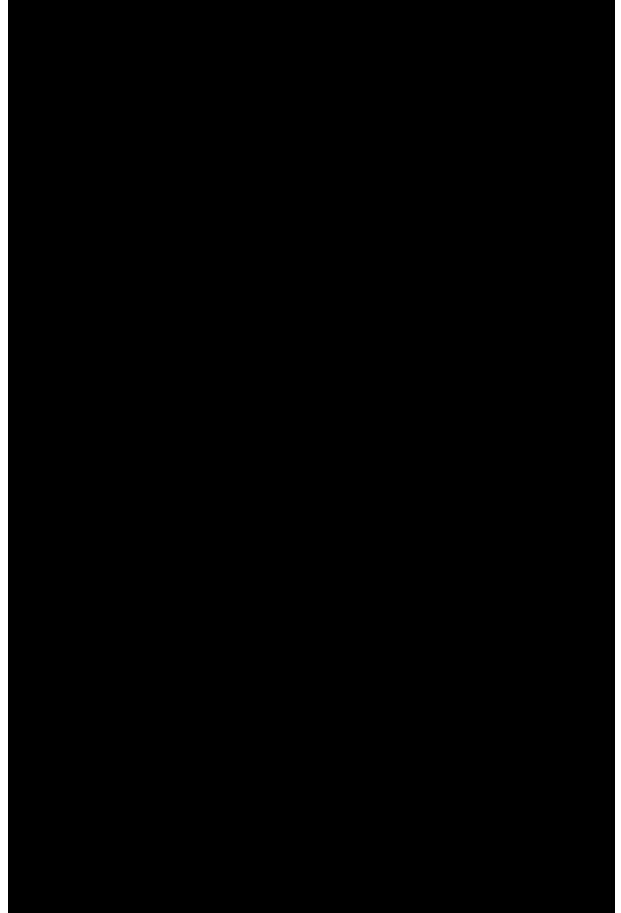
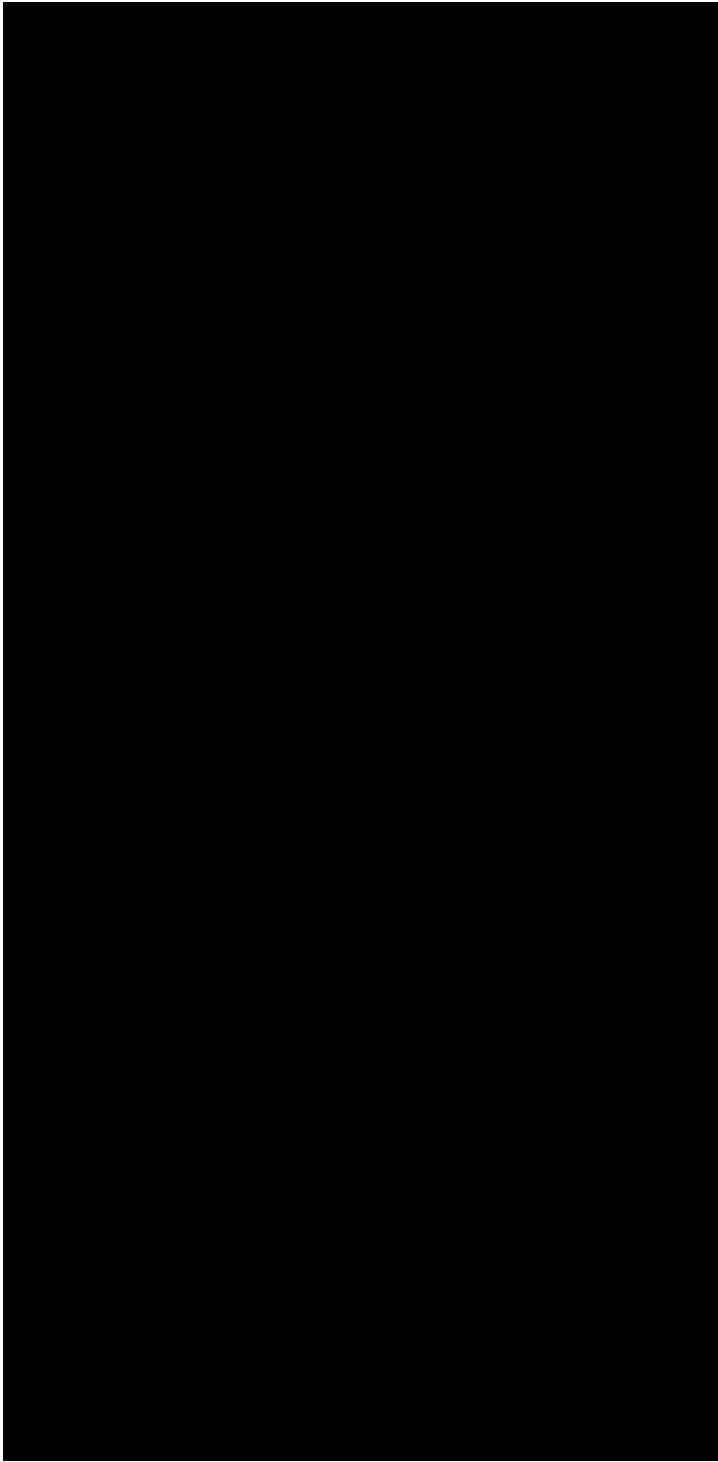
Chief Executive Officer
Amy Gillett Foundation

[REDACTED]

1. <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/parking-and-transport/cycling/Pages/cycling-lanes-and-routes.aspx>
2. <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/newsmedia/2021/canning-street-green-wave-for-bike-riders>
3. <https://www.racy.com.au/royalauto/transport/cycling/bikespot-survey-results.html>

[REDACTED]

Attachment 9: Photos of Mocha and owner Zoe's injuries



Attachment 10: A summary of Mocha's veterinary treatment following the attack

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 11 February 2020, 8:01 am

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Summary of hospital stay in Lort Smith Animal Hospital for Mocha Lim - 10/02/2020

Dear [REDACTED]

10th February, 2020

Re: Summary of hospital stay in Lort Smith Animal Hospital for [REDACTED]

Mocha has been re-admitted to Lort Smith Animal Hospital on 6th Feb, 2020 for wound break down post dog attack surgical repair.

Mocha had a dog attack accident on 17th Jan, 2020. She was initially admitted to Lort Smith Animal Hospital on the same day. An initial surgical repair was performed on 18th Jan 2020. However, due to surgical complications (wound dehiscence and necrotic tissue on repair site), repeat surgical repairs were performed on 22nd Jan 2020 and 25th Jan 2020. Subsequent excision arthroplasty on left hind leg with skin flap surgery was performed on 1st Feb, 2020. **After 18 days hospital stay, Mocha was fit for discharge on 5th Feb, 2020. The bill for this hospital stay is \$10,377.97.** The amount was paid in full upon discharge.

However, during the revisit on 6th Feb, 2020, we noted that Mocha's new skin flap was failing. Mocha had to be re-admitted to hospital. Wound assessment on 7th Feb, 2020 revealed that there was an extensive necrosis (tissue death) of the skin flap. The wound required extensive debridement and on-going long term wound management. Debridement procedure was performed on the same day after wound assessment. Tissue sample had been sent out for bacterial culture and sensitivity testing to ensure infection is not the major cause of wound break down.

Further reconstruction surgery was not recommended due to repeat failure of skin flap. We elected to treat the wound as an open wound instead. The wound will gradually heal by secondary intention, which refers to healing of an open wound, from the base upwards, by laying down new tissue. Healing with secondary intention would takes at least 4 -6 weeks in Mocha's case. In order to reduce recovery time, we applied a negative pressure (vacuum) dressing to assist and promote wound healing. Please note that possible complications may be encountered such as 1) not getting a good seal on the dressing, 2) vacuum suction blockage, 3) the need to change dressing sooner than 3 days. If negative pressure (vacuum) dressing is not function well, then daily wound management and dressing change will be indicated (which is currently not required). Initially, we do expect to change the negative pressure dressing every 3 days (under general anaesthesia). Then, the frequency would gradually reduce as wound healing progresses. Once dry initial granulation tissue is formed on the wound, Mocha should be fit for discharge. We estimate the length of hospital stay would be about 2 weeks till Mocha is well enough to be discharged.

After the debridement procedure with dressing placement on 7th Feb 2020, Mocha was transferred to our intensive care unit for monitoring her wound, pain level and appetite. Her treatment includes intravenous fluid therapy, antibiotics and analgesia (pain relief). She is stable and comfortable in the last few days. Her next dressing change procedure is scheduled on 11th Feb, 2020. Our surgeon will reassess the wound during dressing change. Further updates will be given once it is completed.

Regarding to anaesthetic, Mocha has to be put under general anaesthesia for the dressing change procedure. General anaesthesia involves risks, but given Mocha is generally healthy and stable. Risk would be minimal. We will perform a pre-anaesthetic check every time prior general anaesthesia to ensure patient safety. We attempt to reduce the frequency of anaesthetic as much as possible until Mocha does not requires anaesthetic for dressing change.

Regarding to the finance of this current hospital stay, we understand that further intensive treatment would cause a huge financial pressure and hardship on you given a \$10000 bill has been paid already for this incident. Also, we aware that this incident was not your fault and you have been a very responsible owner to look after Mocha. Our head of hospital had reviewed Mocha's case and approved a \$2000 dollars cap for the bill of current hospital stay. This covers the cost involved from admission on 6th Feb 2020 until the day that Mocha is deemed fit for discharge. Please be aware that further bandage change and recheck after discharge are not included in above \$2000 cap cover. If you have issues or difficulty to pay the remaining bill, a payment plan is available for you. Please contact our customer service team to discuss this further.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions regarding to Mocha's progress and her stay in Lort Smith.

Kind Regards,

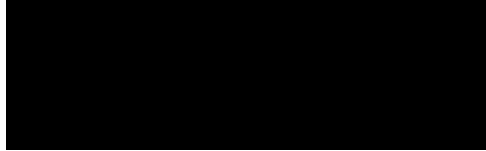


Veterinarian

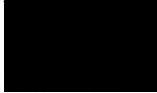
Lort Smith Animal Hospital

Attachment 11: Mocha's vet bill

Lort Smith Animal Hospital



Bill To



Account Statement

Printed: 02-03-2020
 Customer ID: 442718
 From: 06-02-2020
 To: 02-03-2020

Date	Ref. No.	Cust. Ref.	TX Type	Animal	Charges	Payments	Balance
06-02-2020			Opening Balance				\$0.00
09-02-2020	1438125		Invoice	Mocha	\$318.00		\$318.00
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU Weekend/PHoliday				\$318.00		
Total For Invoice 1438125 Including GST of (\$28.91)					\$318.00		
09-02-2020	1437889		Invoice	Mocha	\$1,106.96		\$1,424.96
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 3 - Medical/Acute Inpatient				\$164.00		
0.5	Methadone Injection 10mg/mL (per ml)				\$23.65		
1	Anaesthesia Fee				\$105.00		
60	Anaesthetic Time				\$198.45		
1	Theatre Fee - Standard				\$65.83		
30	Surgery - General per minute				\$291.41		
1	Bandage Initial - Large				\$72.07		
1	IDEXX Body Fluid Culture				\$186.55		
Total For Invoice 1437889 Including GST of (\$100.63)					\$1,106.96		
09-02-2020	1438304		Invoice	Mocha	\$318.00		\$1,742.96
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU Weekend/PHoliday				\$318.00		
Total For Invoice 1438304 Including GST of (\$28.91)					\$318.00		
09-02-2020	1438313		Invoice	Mocha	\$47.83		\$1,790.79
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Catalyst ALB (inhouse) IDEXX				\$32.23		
1	PCV TP				\$15.60		
Total For Invoice 1438313 Including GST of (\$4.35)					\$47.83		
11-02-2020	1438602		Invoice	Mocha	\$651.12		\$2,441.91
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
1	IV catheter replacement				\$21.00		
1	Anaesthesia Fee				\$105.00		
60	Anaesthetic Time				\$198.45		
1	Bandage Initial - Large Allevyn				\$82.07		
1	PCV TP				\$15.60		
Total For Invoice 1438602 Including GST of (\$59.20)					\$651.12		

Date	Ref. No.	Cust. Ref.	TX Type	Animal	Charges	Payments	Balance
12-02-2020	1438834		Invoice	Mocha	\$229.00		\$2,670.91
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
Total For Invoice 1438834 Including GST of (\$20.82)					\$229.00		
14-02-2020	1438505		Invoice	Mocha	\$229.00		\$2,899.91
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
Total For Invoice 1438505 Including GST of (\$20.82)					\$229.00		
14-02-2020	1439134		Invoice	Mocha	\$272.95		\$3,172.86
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
0.06	Butorgesic Injection 10mg/ml (per ml)				\$22.95		
1	IV catheter replacement				\$21.00		
Total For Invoice 1439134 Including GST of (\$24.82)					\$272.95		
14-02-2020	1439276		Invoice	Mocha	\$309.53		\$3,482.39
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Clavulox Oral 15ml Drops 62.5mg/ml				\$54.46		
1.188	Cephazolin Injection 1g (per ml)				\$26.07		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
Total For Invoice 1439276 Including GST of (\$28.14)					\$309.53		
16-02-2020	1439726		Invoice	Mocha	\$318.00		\$3,800.39
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU Weekend/PHoliday				\$318.00		
Total For Invoice 1439726 Including GST of (\$28.91)					\$318.00		
19-02-2020	1440484		Invoice	Mocha	\$129.34		\$3,929.73
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Durogesic 12mcg Patch (per patch)				\$45.34		
1	Anaesthesia - Sedation Dog				\$84.00		
Total For Invoice 1440484 Including GST of (\$11.76)					\$129.34		
19-02-2020	1440110		Invoice	Mocha	\$505.30		\$4,435.03
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
1	Bandage Initial - Large				\$72.07		
1	Anaesthesia Fee				\$105.00		
30	Anaesthetic Time				\$99.23		
Total For Invoice 1440110 Including GST of (\$45.94)					\$505.30		
19-02-2020	1439940		Invoice	Mocha	\$229.00		\$4,664.03
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
Total For Invoice 1439940 Including GST of (\$20.82)					\$229.00		

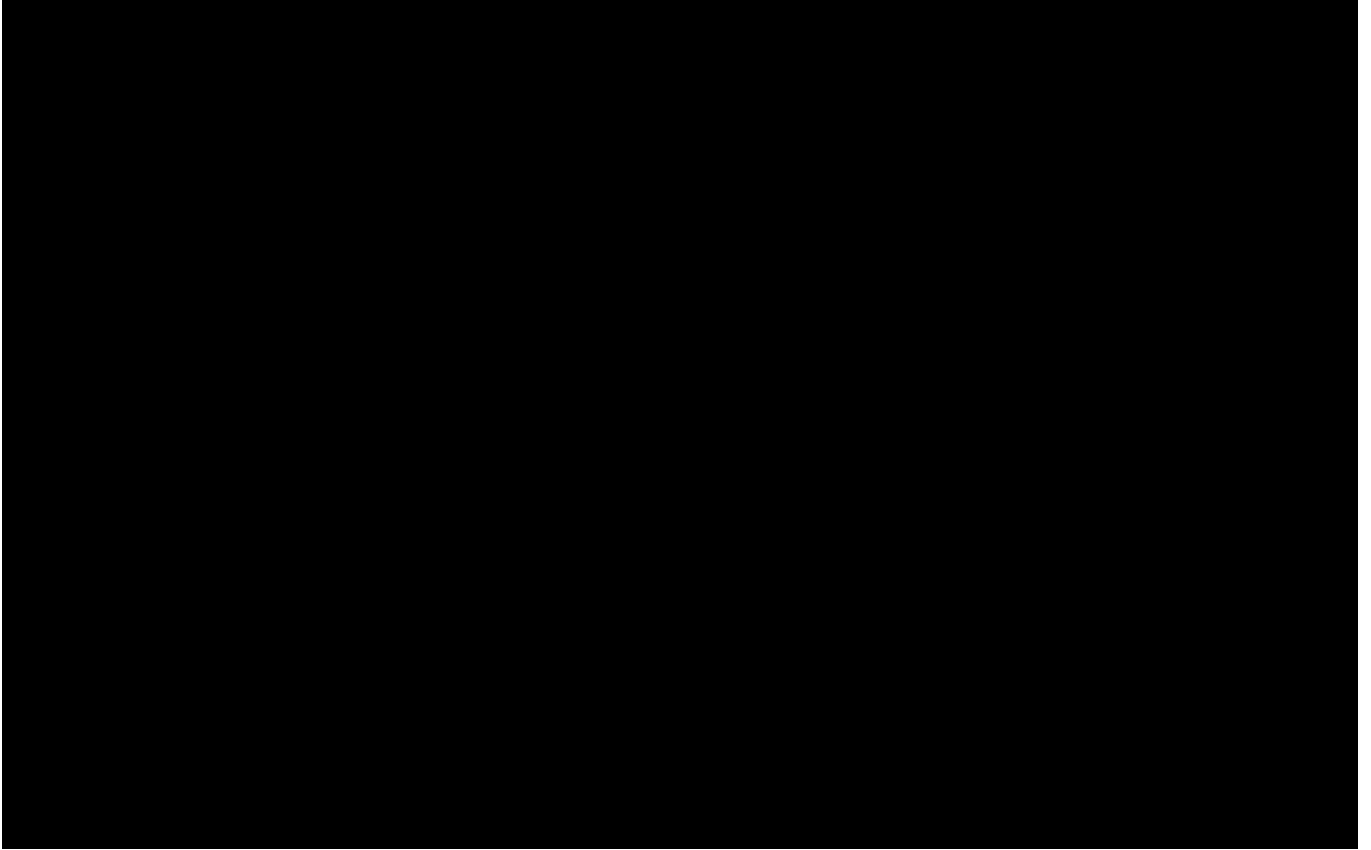
Date	Ref. No.	Cust. Ref.	TX Type	Animal	Charges	Payments	Balance
19-02-2020	1439533		Invoice	Mocha	\$968.07		\$5,632.10
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1.188	Cephazolin Injection 1g (per ml)				\$26.07		
1.188	Cephazolin Injection 1g (per ml)				\$26.07		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU Weekend/PHoliday				\$318.00		
1	Durogesic 12mcg Patch (per patch)				\$45.34		
1	Anaesthesia Fee				\$105.00		
30	Anaesthesia Time Night				\$162.17		
1	IDEXX Body Fluid Culture				\$186.55		
1	Bandage Initial - Large				\$72.07		
12	Noroclav Tablets 50mg (per tab)				\$26.80		
Total For Invoice 1439533 Including GST of (\$88.01)					\$968.07		
19-02-2020	1439470		Invoice	Mocha	\$26.07		\$5,658.17
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1.188	Cephazolin Injection 1g (per ml)				\$26.07		
Total For Invoice 1439470 Including GST of (\$2.37)					\$26.07		
23-02-2020	1441258		Invoice	Mocha	\$318.00		\$5,976.17
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU Weekend/PHoliday				\$318.00		
Total For Invoice 1441258 Including GST of (\$28.91)					\$318.00		
23-02-2020	1441101		Invoice	Mocha	\$349.85		\$6,326.02
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
14	Doxycycline Tablets 50mg (per tab)				\$31.85		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU Weekend/PHoliday				\$318.00		
Total For Invoice 1441101 Including GST of (\$31.81)					\$349.85		
23-02-2020	1440867		Invoice	Mocha	\$229.00		\$6,555.02
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
Total For Invoice 1440867 Including GST of (\$20.82)					\$229.00		
23-02-2020	1440683		Invoice	Mocha	\$538.89		\$7,093.91
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
0.1	Butorgesic Injection 10mg/ml (per ml)				\$23.59		
1	Anaesthesia Fee				\$105.00		
30	Anaesthetic Time				\$99.23		
1	Bandage Initial - Large Allevyn				\$82.07		
Total For Invoice 1440683 Including GST of (\$48.99)					\$538.89		
23-02-2020	1440361		Invoice	Mocha	\$255.80		\$7,349.71
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
12	Noroclav Tablets 50mg (per tab)				\$26.80		
Total For Invoice 1440361 Including GST of (\$23.26)					\$255.80		

Date	Ref. No.	Cust. Ref.	TX Type	Animal	Charges	Payments	Balance
24-02-2020	1441400		Invoice	Mocha	\$229.00		\$7,578.71
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
<i>Total For Invoice 1441400 Including GST of (\$20.82)</i>					\$229.00		
25-02-2020	1441639		Invoice	Mocha	\$229.00		\$7,807.71
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
<i>Total For Invoice 1441639 Including GST of (\$20.82)</i>					\$229.00		
26-02-2020	1441878		Invoice	Mocha	\$229.00		\$8,036.71
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
<i>Total For Invoice 1441878 Including GST of (\$20.82)</i>					\$229.00		
27-02-2020	1442171		Invoice	Mocha	\$229.00		\$8,265.71
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
<i>Total For Invoice 1442171 Including GST of (\$20.82)</i>					\$229.00		
28-02-2020	628610		Payment			\$2,000.00	\$6,265.71
28-02-2020	1442433		Invoice	Mocha	\$229.00		\$6,494.71
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Hospitalisation 4 - ICU				\$229.00		
<i>Total For Invoice 1442433 Including GST of (\$20.82)</i>					\$229.00		
02-03-2020	1442886		Invoice	Mocha	-\$6,494.71		-\$0.00
North Melbourne							
Qty	Description				Total		
1	Goodwill - Post Operative				-\$6,494.71		
<i>Total For Invoice 1442886 Including GST of (-\$590.43)</i>					-\$6,494.71		

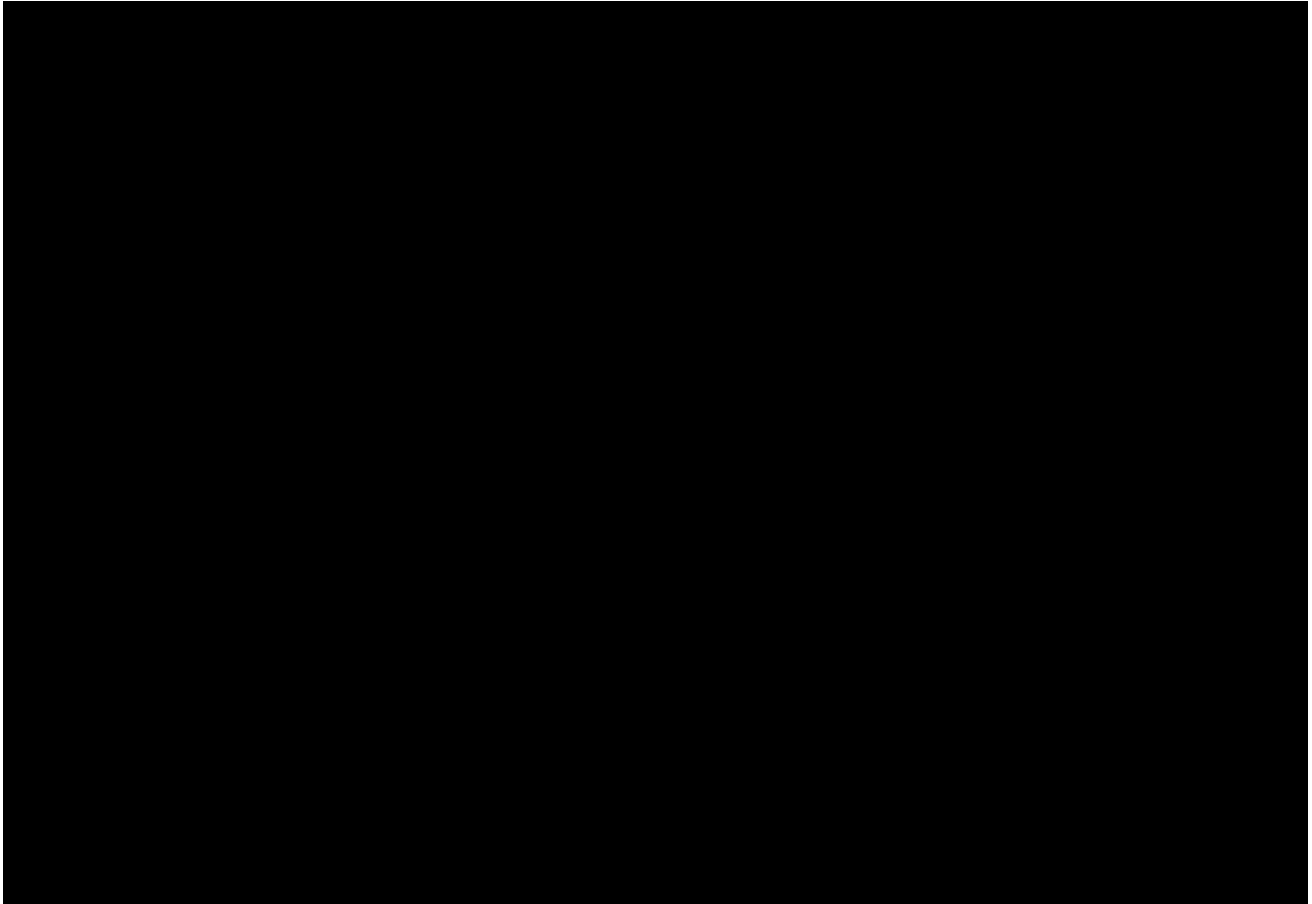
			Final Balance (02-03-2020):		\$0.00
March	February	January	December+	Amount Due	
-\$3341.84	\$3341.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	



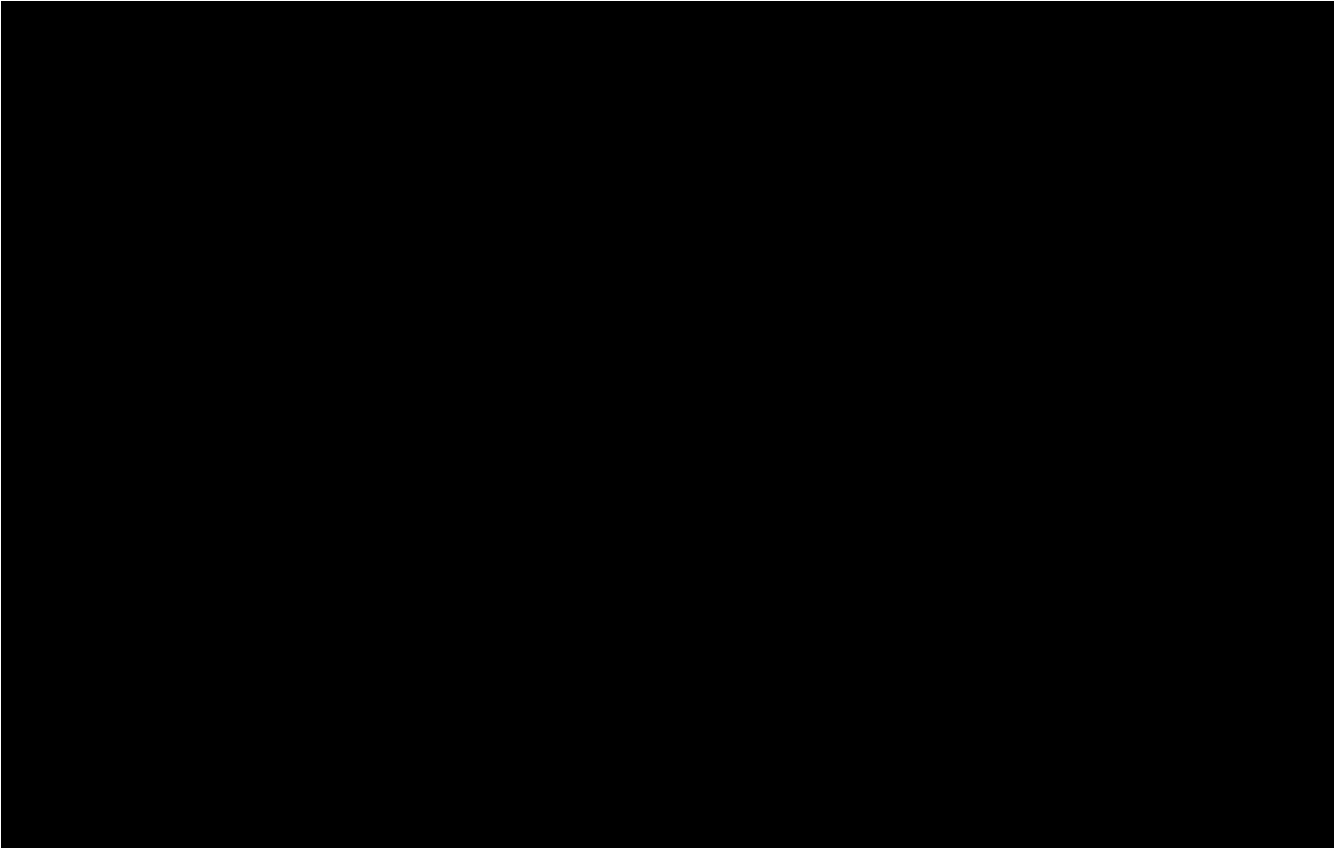
Attachment 12: Photo of off-leash dog attack injury



Attachment 13: Photo of cyclist after collision with off-leash dog



Attachment 14: Photo of chihuahua attacked by off-leash dog



Attachment 15: Letter from resident and psychiatrist, Dr Peter



20/6/22

Sally CAPP
Lord Mayor Melbourne

Dear Ms. Capp. re: Dogs off Leash - Murchison Square

As you are aware Murchison Square is a small National Trust listed ornamental park.

It is a place of tranquility and beauty where the community socialises, people picnic, children play and adults exercise. The Square is surrounded on all sides by roads and residential properties, as well as many cyclists travelling to and from the CBD along Spring St.

Dogs off leash in this small area would create ~~by~~ both physical and mental health impacts on people by their excrement being less likely picked up, the danger of injuring especially children, the elderly and knocking cyclists off their bikes, or being injured themselves by running in front of cars.

The expected increased number of dogs on the Square is likely to result in more barking and noise levels, to which nearly 10% of people are 'hypersensitive' to and lead to disturbed sleep and insomnia in surrounding residents and shift workers with resultant higher distress levels in them.

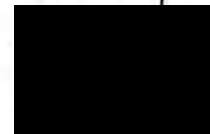
P.T.O.

Also there is a condition called 'Cynophobia' which is an overwhelming fear of dogs affecting some 7-9% of the population that causes serious emotional and physical distress, with anxiety, social isolation, depression and even ~~post-traumatic~~ post-traumatic stress disorder affecting these traumatised children or adults for life, despite treatment.

I have seen these conditions or outcomes in my practice and therefore want to conclude that a larger fenced in area would be more suitable for a dog off leash park, for both people and dogs as outlined in this letter.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this matter

Yours Sincerely



P.S. I write this letter as an almost 40 year resident of Murchison Square.

Attachment 16: Letter from resident Julie [REDACTED]

5 June 2022
[REDACTED]

Submission that Murchison Square should not be an off leash dog area

I am one of a number of residents on Murchison Square actively opposed to Murchison Square becoming an off leash area.

There is a need for an off leash area in Carlton: a safe area for dogs so that they don't run into traffic with a large enough space that they can run around and do not cause too much wear and tear; an area where owners can socialize while looking out for their dogs ; and an area where excited barking does not cause a nuisance. This proposal is not the answer.

A seriously flawed process and no true consultation with those directly affected.

The consultation process has been seriously flawed, it was designed to tick the 'off leash area for Carlton' box by achieving only one result (timed access in Murchison Square). It was not a genuine consultation. In many respects, it has been completely accidental whether residents on the Square were aware of the details of the proposal. The views of residents on the Square have never been specifically sought (we have been lumped in with anyone else who might have a view). The Council has never addressed residents' specific objections. As to the timed access, it was recognized that given the heavy use of the Square , including by families, small children and the elderly, only short timed access , if any , would be appropriate. But as to timed access of 14 hours a day (from 6 pm to 8 am says the report to the Committee) that is the first I have heard of it - previously a couple of hours a day was proposed in the early evening and morning. Almost the entire time now proposed will not be in daylight hours.

Why Murchison Square is not suitable

Murchison Square is an unfenced small heritage square, smaller than Argyle and Lincoln Square and around the same size as neighbouring Macarthur Square and one block from the sizable park of Carlton Gardens North. It is surrounded by houses and many of us have bedrooms or living areas opposite the Square so we are directly and adversely affected by noisy use, particularly at night. Canning St which borders the Square is a busy thoroughfare and the bordering Murchison St and Owen St lead down to Nicholson St which is even busier. Since the pandemic there has been a huge increase in the numbers of people and dogs who use the Square and there has also been increased use in the evening (picnics, exercise and dog walking) and in the morning . It is not used just by Carlton residents but also by Fitzroy residents across Nicholson St (as there are also limited parks in Fitzroy) and by non residents who drive to the Square.

If the Council proceeds with this proposal other residents and I can expect to be disturbed every night by the excited barking of dogs chasing each other or playing ball or chasing possums who come out at night , and by groups of owners talking. The barking or loud talking sets off a chain reaction of barking of the many dogs who live around the Square and who then need to be calmed. This is a problem, particularly when it is dark and it is unreasonable of the Council to encourage use of the Square in the dark. There have been previous concerns about use of the Square overnight – vandals, drinking, broken bottles, occasional drug use – and I for one, don't want to be woken by a barking dog and then also have to check each time whether there is a problem in the Square.

I have also seen off leash dogs chase the possums who live in the Square and hurtle down to approaching traffic in Nicholson Street, so the proposal poses a danger to the dogs themselves

It is also unrealistic to expect that dog owners will be able to pick up after their dogs – the proposed timed access is rarely in daylight hours and owners will not be able to see.

Dogs also dig and roll and cause other wear and tear. Murchison Square's heritage deserves to be protected and not be subject to off leash visits by all the dogs of Carlton and Fitzroy, let alone those from other suburbs who drive in to picnic

Flaws in the consultation process

The Council unilaterally proposed Murchison Square as the off leash area despite it being a small area . It has refused to consider any area in Carlton Gardens North or any of the other Squares or Reserves (either as an alternative or in conjunction with Murchison Square). The question may properly be asked, why just one space why not all the spaces in Carlton? A section of Carlton Gardens North (timed access) is the obvious appropriate area as dogs would not be in danger from traffic and if the area is set back from the street, their barking would not annoy local residents. So why not? In the first stage of the consultation process, the Council said only that off leash areas were incompatible with high levels of visitation. Subsequently the Council said it was policy the Gardens remained an on leash area but gave no reasons. This is despite the fact that Carlton Gardens North is specifically to be managed, among other things, for local use and has all forms of recreational activities , including personal exercise, ball games and skateboarding . Timed access outside the Museum's usual hours would not impede with visitors . Murchison Square itself also has high levels of visitation.

The Council conducted no targeted consultation of affected residents in round 1 of the consultation, not even a letterbox drop. One only knew about it if an avid reader of the Participate Melbourne website or one came by chance on a pop up in the Gardens or in the Square. The consultations also occurred between lockdowns. As many of the people who happened to be consulted were dog

walkers and there is a need for a dog off leash area it is to be expected that the only proposal put received high support

The Council refers to a petition of 135 signatures received from residents in 2018 as supporting the use of Murchison Square as an off – leash area. This statement is actively misleading as the proposal was for a 6 month trial only for 1 to 2 hours a day (not the 14 hours permanent solution now proposed) with residents on the Square to have a say whether the trial should be continued. I was one of the neighbours involved in discussions round the petition. That petition was initiated at the suggestion of Council officers who felt that Council would only act if a petition was organized and in an effort to get something happening – there was no suggestion this would be an acceptable permanent solution or that other areas should be off limits. Since submitting the petition back in 2018 the person who originally organized the petition (Melanie) has moved outside the City of Melbourne, progress on the petition is largely being driven by a Fitzroy (not a Murchison Square) resident, and there has been a huge increase in both the number of dogs and people who use the Square and the times at which they use the Square eg evening picnics and early morning exercise. There has been no direct follow up with those who signed the petition. I signed the original petition and now, along with my other neighbours, recognise that with the changed use of the Square it is not appropriate as an off leash area, let alone as the sole off leash area in Carlton.

The second round of consultations was made by a letter dated 11 November 2021 which I understand was sent to owners/occupiers within 200 metres of the Square , a much broader number than residents who would be directly affected. The statement that there were 495 respondents is indicative of the unreasonably wide net of the survey – it is a small square with far fewer residents. Further and most importantly there was nothing in the cover letter (dated 11 November but not received until 3 December, only a couple of weeks before consultation closed,) or the web page which stated the hours of proposed timed access. I submit that the views of residents on the Square should have been sought directly and should be given greater weight than those not affected directly by increased use, greater noise from, and depredations on the Square

The summary of feedback in the report to the Committee also neglects to mention that the petition containing 17 signatures opposing the proposal came from residents on the Square directly affected and thus should be given considerable weight. There has been no direct engagement with us on the issues raised and we have seen no evidence that any of the issues raised have even been considered– again another tick box approach that all that was required was getting a response to a question, not considering the response.

The summary of the consultation process said decisions would be made in early 2022. Since responding in December 2021 we heard nothing until last week

On the evening of 3 June 2022 I received an email that the Committee would be considering a report on 7 June, only 5 days away. I received that email only because I had signed up to Participate Melbourne . Most of my other neighbours around the Square knew nothing of the recommendations put to the Committee or the meeting - despite being ratepayers/occupiers around the Square and having previously made submissions and signed petitions with contact details. The specific recommendation of 14 hours timed access only appeared in the fine print of the paper, is, as far as I am aware, new and has not been put to residents. Completely inadequate notice.

Not consistent with previous consultation processes

Some years ago residents were asked whether Macarthur Square should be considered as an off leash area. The views of residents on that Square were given greater weight and the proposal did not proceed. The Council also provided full summaries of the comments made in support of, or against, that proposal. The Council has not treated the current proposal in the same way.

Indeed, I find it difficult to see that the Council has approached this as anything other than a political exercise. The push for off leash areas has been driven not by the Council, but by pent up need (including by the now years old Murchison Square petition which it seems Council now wants to use for its own political ends). The Council engaged management consultants in a process which, in my view, did not properly engage with directly affected residents. There has been no engagement or feedback about our concerns. The reporting, indeed even in the report to the Committee, has only been around the numbers, and as I hope I have explained above does not tell the real story behind the numbers.

Proposal should not proceed

My submission is that the proposal for an off leash area in Murchison Square should not proceed. Desirably the Council should be directed to look at an off leash area in Carlton Gardens North.

Julie [REDACTED]

Julie [REDACTED]

Note from Julie (24 June 2022): Minor correction. Since the FMC meeting I have been informed that the original petition was not for a trial. There were however discussions around a trial which were rejected as the Council wished to do its own process This does not affect the force of our argument that the old petition does not stand as support for this proposal.

Attachment 17: Letter from resident and dog-owner Angela

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to you in the hope that you can shed some light on the councils plans to make Murchison Square a dog park between 6pm and 8am daily (I think those timings are correct).

Firstly let me say, I am a dog owner, I always have been, I have a rejected farm dog from a sheep farm in Wonthaggi, he is a fabulous, energetic handful but I wouldn't have him any other way, I saved him and he saved me, dogs are the best kind of remedy for many of us. My mother worked for Animal Liberation in the 80's and we collected so many dogs from shelters we got letters from our local council where we lived telling us we couldn't have anymore than 5 dogs, so I love dogs, probably more than people to be honest.

So it is with regret that I must let you know that the idea to have dog off leach time zones in the small square in a space surrounded by 4 roads is a unfortunate and dangerous choice. I was wondering who from the council had sat in that park and watched the thousands and thousands of bikes and cars that zoom pasted daily, metres from where you propose dogs would be running and playing off leach?


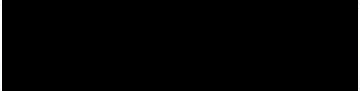
This is a small square that is used by so many people as a place to gather, have picnics and is especially great for parents and their kids to learn to ride bikes, skate and run, its just small enough to feel like its home and just big enough to feel alone when reading a book and its a desire path for people walking from Lygon Street to Brunswick Street as they stop, sit and eat and their ice cream.

I walk my dog to Melbourne Uni or any number of places when I run him and I sit in Murchison Square with him on lead and have a wine with my mother and father who are no longer able to walk that far with me and Alan the dog. . Apart from the dangers of the surrounding roads in such a plan, removing the parks usage as a meeting spot for so many people, locals and visitors alike seems like a ill conceived and cruel plan after we had bonded and co-existed in this small square during the 2 years of lockdowns.

Please reconsider this plan, I love the idea of dog parks and if this was the size of Carlton Gardens or Edinburgh Gardens I would 100% be in full support but I cannot support and idea that makes it dangerous for dogs, cars, bikes and people. This is an accident waiting to happen.

I would be more than happy to walk with you through the square with Alan, he can show you how fast he can run onto the road if someone throws a ball near it (jokes...but kind of not since he's a border collie).

Thank you for your consideration.
Kind regards
Ange


Chef, Owner and Director Hale Bars Pty Ltd


Attachment 18: Letter from Morry Schwartz (1)

Schwartz Media

Morry Schwartz [REDACTED]

Dogs in Murchison Square

1 message

Morry Schwartz [REDACTED]

6 June 2022 at 07:42

[REDACTED]

Dear Fiona,

The residents who live in the four streets surrounding Murchison Square are anxiously and vehemently opposed to the inclusion of this small community square in the 'Dogs in Public Space' off-the-leash program.

They signed a petition against it last December, which is not surprising. If there are others who were in favour, that would surely be due to the fact that they don't live adjacent to the park and are not affected by the proposal. I also suggest that their voices should bear less weight than those who are directly affected.

Surely there must be similarities between property owner rights in town planning cases (such as overshadowing, the right to light etc.) and proposals such as this one initiated by a local authority? The rights of neighbouring properties must surely be protected.

Council has not informed most owners adjacent to the park of the coming meeting, let alone sought to protect their rights. In fact it seems that it has tried to hide its intentions, tried to slip it by them somehow. I find it hard to understand the motivations behind this.

The residents who live adjacent to the park bought their properties without 'dogs-off-the-leash' in the park, and at prices which reflected that. Council is proposing to take an action which will diminish the value and amenity of their properties and the quality of their lives. There is no doubt about this - properties adjacent to the park will lose value and amenity.

The park is used at all times of day by the residents, and by many others - the elderly, their grandchildren, families - for quiet conversation, for picnics, for exercise, for their relaxation. This will not be possible at times that dogs are off leash.

Dogs bark, dogs excrete, dogs bite, dogs fight with each other, their owners often join in. Some dogs have animus towards bicycle riders (and Canning Street is a main route for bicycles), and some dogs make people feel unsafe -they are afraid of dogs.

The Council gave very short notice for the hearing this Tuesday night - the notice arrived in residents' inboxes late Thursday afternoon, and they were asked to have their responses submitted by the following Tuesday morning. Far worse, it sent the email to only a handful of the houses surrounding the park. Not even many of those who had signed an earlier petition against the project were informed of the forthcoming meeting.

Together with a couple of neighbours, I spent much of the weekend drafting a new petition. We walked it around the park to all those who were home on Sunday evening, and I wish someone from the council had been with us. They would have seen how worried and anxious people are about the proposal and what it might do to their lives. Except for one lady with a big dog who was for the proposal, given that it would allow her to let her dog roam free, every single household signed the petition.

We will be submitting the petition today, as required, however I was wondering if it would be possible for council to remove Murchison Square from as a potential site before the meeting? Small, precious Murchison Square is so clearly not suitable. It would save a lot of people much anxiety.

Attachment 19: Letter from Morry Schwartz (2)

Schwartz Media

Morry Schwartz [REDACTED]

Murchison Square

1 message

[REDACTED] 14 June 2022 at 12:16

The Right Honourable Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors,

Please hear our voices.

I want to try to convey to you the sense of dread that has fallen over the households of Murchison Square.

Have you visited the square? It is a most pleasant and elegantly laid out little park. The residents living around it, and many others from the surrounding neighbourhood, enjoy it thoroughly. At all times of day and into late evening people gather, they have picnics, they chat, they walk, they exercise, they teach kids to cycle and they walk their dogs. It is a place that brings together all ages, young children to the elderly. It is the perfect realisation of Marvelous Melbourne, and the kind of grace and amenity that makes ours one of the world's most liveable cities.

But for us, all this is now under threat. Dogs will be free off leash late afternoon, all night and in the mornings. An effective curfew will be placed on those who don't feel safe around unleashed dogs. Barking dogs and fighting dogs will disturb the peace, and the sleep of residents. When the dogs have left in the morning, dog excrement will keep people out of the square. The dogs will dig up the garden beds. They will run onto the four streets that surround the square and attack cyclists, and inevitably, sooner or later, a pedestrian.

There are over 30 houses on the square, many with bedrooms facing it. I've talked to most of them, and they are not against amenities for dogs, and if there are places that are suitable to let them off their leashes they would support that, but this small, residential heritage square is not one of them.

Almost every single person and family who live here, in contentment and peace, implore you and the council to take the proposal off the table. To remove from us the anxiety we are all feeling.

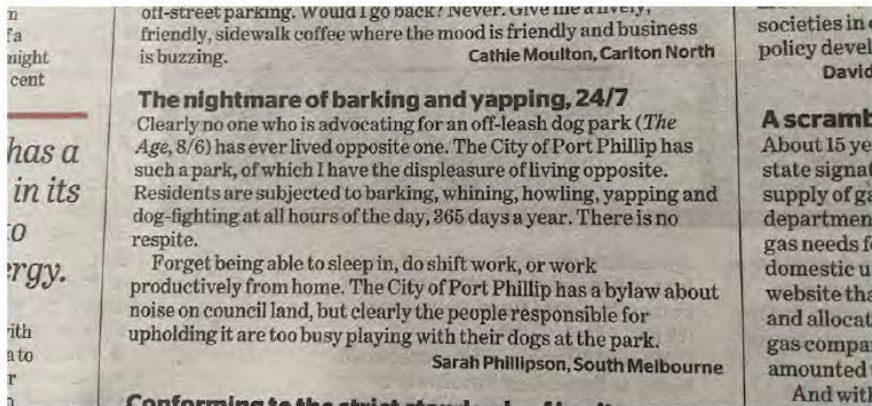
Last week there were two letters to the editor of The Age, which further increased our dread and anxiety.

We invite you to visit the square and meet with some of us, to see for yourselves how inappropriate is the plan.

Please don't impose a curfew on us. Please don't imperil the safety of our children and our elderly. Please protect our right to sleep. Please protect the heritage of the square. Please think of the cyclists. Please think of the dogs.

Please hear our voices.

Morry Schwartz AM



Schwartz

Listen to [7am](#), a daily news podcast from the publisher of *The Monthly* and *The Saturday Paper*.

Attachment 20: Children's plea to Lord Mayor

16 June 2022

The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of Melbourne
Ms Sally Capp
City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603 Melbourne
Victoria 3001 Australia

Via Email: lordmayor@melbourne.vic.gov.au,

Dear Sally,

My name is Hephzibah [REDACTED] and I am representing some of the children who live on Murchison Square.

We have grown up and enjoyed using the park as our playground – we have learned to crawl, walk, and cartwheel; ride bikes, scooters, and skateboards – have made giant chalk drawings, sold lemonade, kicked footballs, played cricket, and had birthday parties in it all of our lives.

We walk our dogs, rabbits, and cats here. We love the parrots that nest in the trees, the cockatoos that flock in at night and the possums that scurry around. I have even seen a fox.

We play with neighbours and friends after school, have pizzas and picnics and love rolling in the grass and making daisy chains with the millions of flowers that grow, especially on hot summer nights.

We feel safe here and do not want Murchison Square ruined by dogs running around off lead, trampling on the flowers, messing up the park and stopping us from playing.

Many of us do not have a garden and this is where we play - and some of us are scared of dogs, especially when they bark at us and chase our balls.

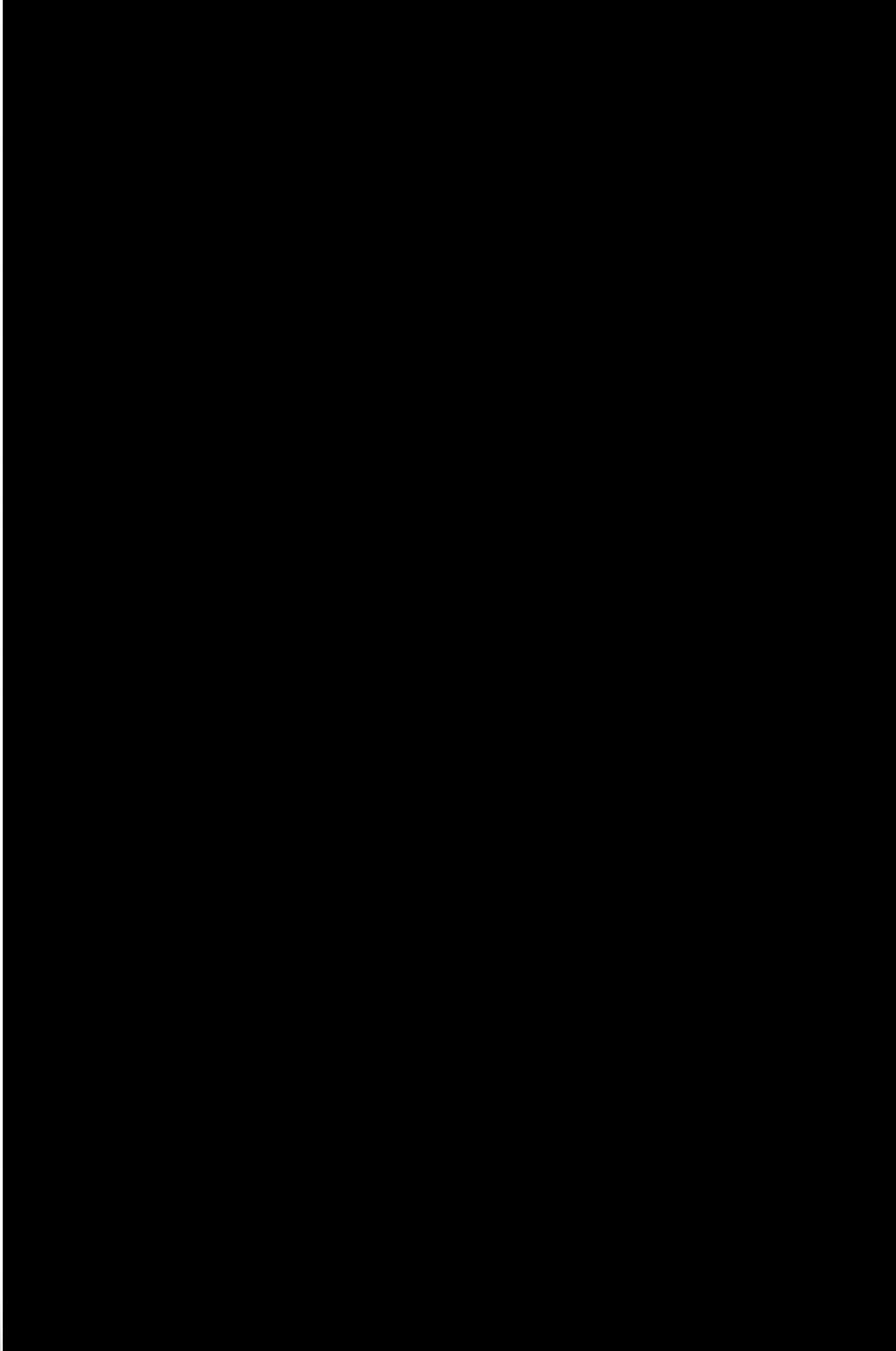
We hope that you will not turn Murchison Square into an off-lead dog park. It is a special place for everyone in the neighborhood to enjoy as it is.

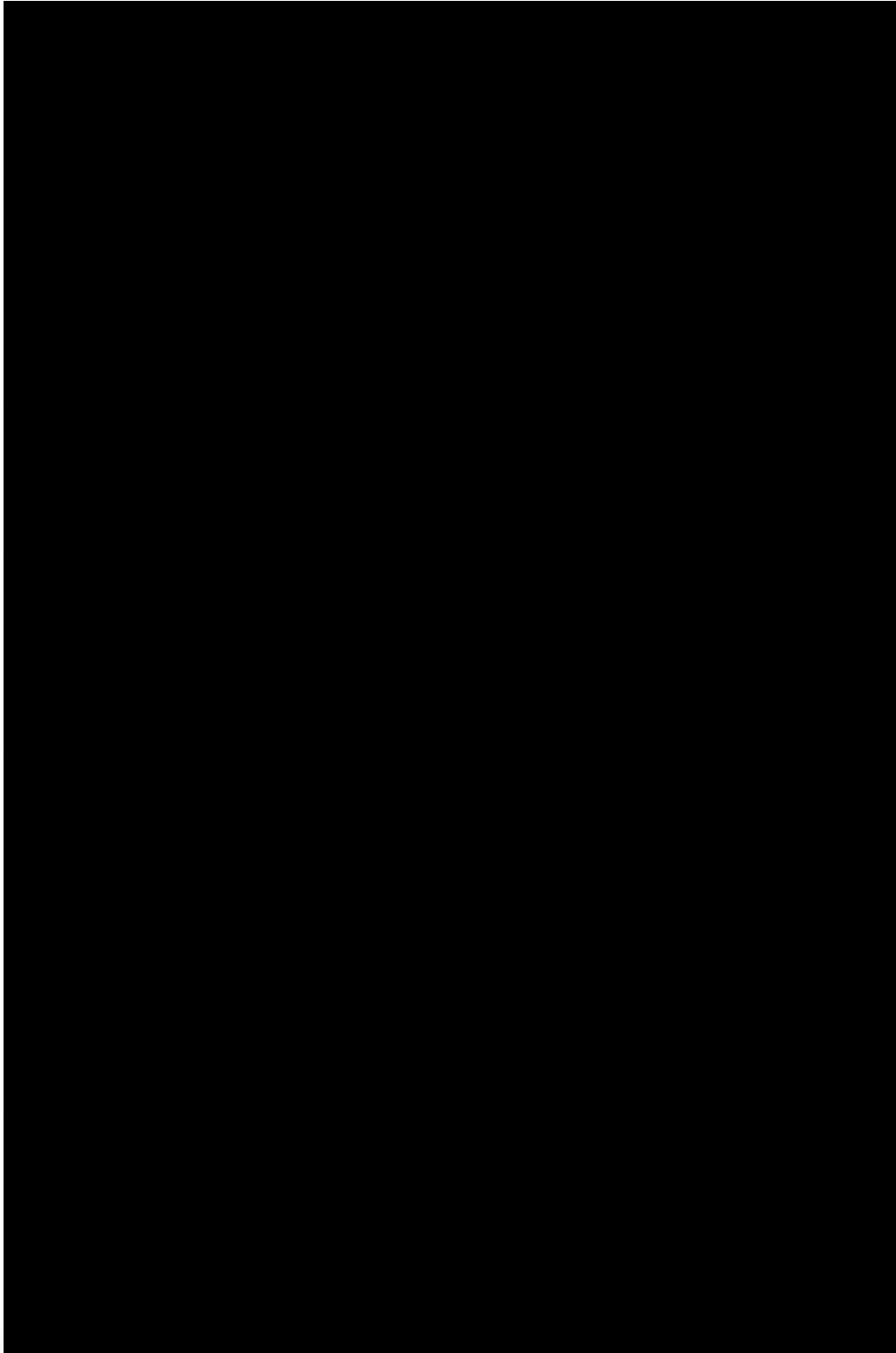
From the Murchison Square kids,

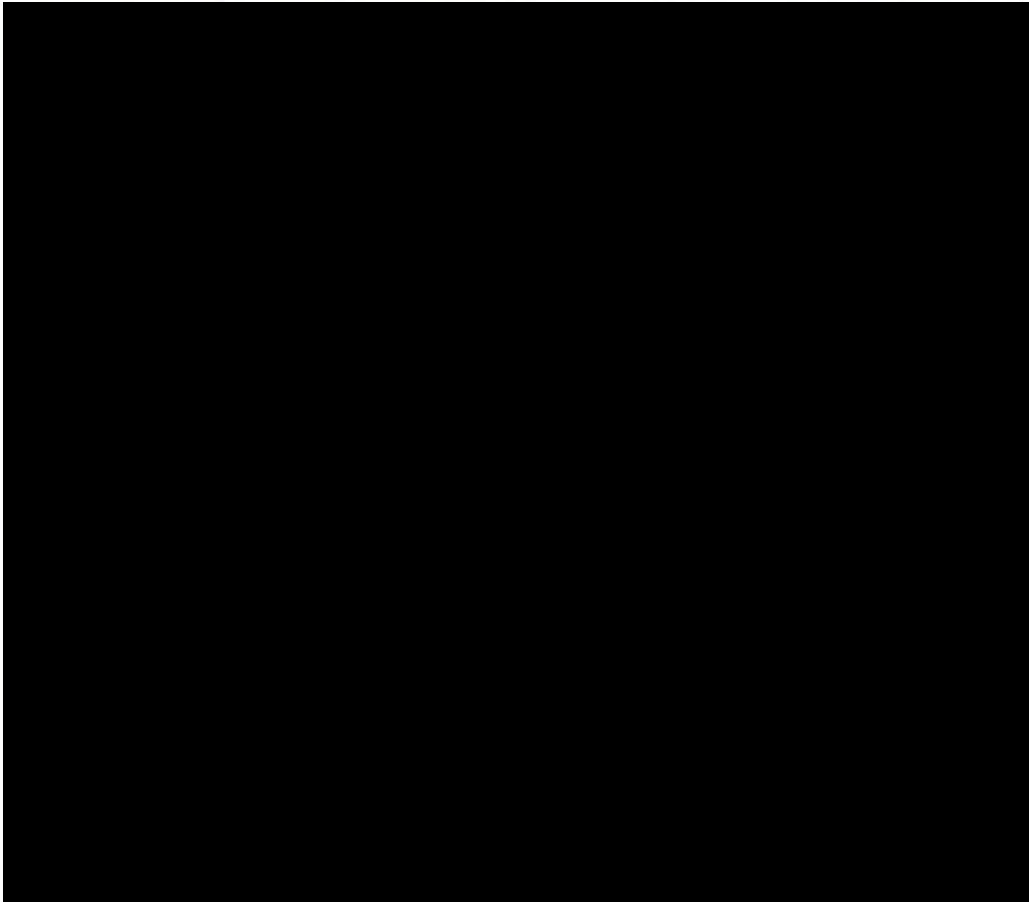
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Here are some photographs of us in Murchison Square:







Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * Deanne Butterworth

Phone number: *



Email address: *



Date of Council meeting: * Tuesday 28 June 2022

Agenda item title: Review of Dogs in Open Space: Murchison Square

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

I am opposed to making Murchison Square an off lead dog park between the hours of 6pm to 8am. I don't not live in the area, I live in the CBD, but I believe this is an ill thought through poorly considered option for both dog owners and current Murchison Square users. I have not owned a dog for 7 years but even if I lived nearby Murchison Square and had a dog I would not exercise the dog in this square as it is simply too small with many risk factors.

Murchison Square is a small and elegantly designed garden with two diagonal paths providing four triangles of green space and some chairs. It is a small and lovely neighbourhood park in Carlton enjoyed by locals and City of Melbourne residents from further afield. For many years I have enjoyed using this square, and I particularly enjoyed using it when my son was quite young, meeting friends and their children in the evenings for picnics as an alternative to Carlton Gardens nearby. Now he is of primary school age we often head there in the evenings after school before riding back to the CBD. Friends would walk from the Fitzroy side of Nicholson Street, others would come from Carlton, some from North Carlton, and we would all meet there to enjoy the quiet open space.

I am opposed to making Murchison Square an off lead dog park for the following reasons:

1. It is too small and surrounded by roads on all four sides. There is the real danger of dogs off lead running into the four roads or the popular and highly used Canning Street bike lane.

2. It is too small to properly manage dogs who will likely intrude upon other park users. In this instance I am thinking of dogs racing up to evening picnickers – often many families and children. This will cause people to become scared and limit their use of the park.

3. The park is used by many older people who might find it easier to walk on the flat terrain of Murchison Square rather than up the Carlton Street end of Carlton Gardens. Having dogs off lead in a small park with older folk around will increase the risk of falls and injury when a small or large dog runs at them and frightens them.

4. In 2021 I gave feedback to onsite CoM officers in Carlton Gardens for the Carltons Gardens Masterplan consultation. I spoke of a few things and one of them was some access to an off lead area for dogs in Carlton Gardens. They gave a flat out reply of 'these are Gardens not a park so there can't be an off lead area'. If the officers had asked my opinion on Murchison Square being an off lead area I would have been very clear in saying it is a bad idea.

I understand there is a need for more off lead areas in the City of Melbourne from having lived in Fitzroy, Carlton, and the CBD while owning a dog but I believe the proposal of utilising Murchison Square as one option is a one which will lead to safety issues for dog owners, current park users, bike riders, and car drivers.

Do you also wish No
to attend the
Council meeting
in person, noting
that there is no
provision to make
verbal
submissions at
Council meetings?

*

Privacy acknowledgement: *	I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
Name: *	Tim Bracher
Phone number: *	██████████
Email address: *	████████████████████
Date of Council meeting: *	Tuesday 28 June 2022
Agenda item title: *	6.1
<p>Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit <u>by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.</u></p> <p>We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.</p>	<p>The Yarra River Business Association thanks the City of Melbourne for yet another year of financial and moral support for our business community.</p> <p>More than ever before, the City's support has been a beacon of hope among the gloom of the lockdowns and now that we are into recovery.</p> <p>Melbourne may have suffered the most from the past 2.5 years, but the support we have received from the Council has been exemplary and outstanding in so many ways.</p> <p>Here's hoping for smoother seas ahead.</p>
Do you also wish to attend the Council meeting in person, noting that there is no provision to make verbal submissions at Council meetings? *	No

Subject:

Agenda Item 7.1 Notice of Motion: Cr Dr Olivia Ball, Julian Assange

Dear City of Melbourne Meeting Group

This is a written response in regards to the Melbourne City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday 28th June 2022, and in particular Agenda Item 7.1 Notice of Motion: Cr Dr Olivia Ball, Julian Assange.

Thanks to Cr Dr Olivia Ball and her role in forwarding this Motion, and thanks to Deputy Lord Mayor Cr Nicholas Reece for seconding it. I support this motion. City of Melbourne continue to support Mr Julian Assange, and they are to be commended for this. Thanks to the tremendous work by the City of Melbourne in compiling the background briefing into this matter.

After reading through all of the background briefing contained in the motion, the obvious conclusion that can be made is that it is entirely appropriate, fair and reasonable for the City of Melbourne to maintain its posture of supporting Julian Assange.

The statement issued by Amnesty International, with the headline - "USA must drop charges against Julian Assange", is in harmony with the position City of Melbourne has on this matter.

Julian Assange should be freed.

Best regards,
Chris Thrum

Phone - [REDACTED]

Note: This email address is restricted access and confidential. Please do not share or publish it. Thank you.

Submission – CoM Council Meeting 28 June 2022, Agenda item 7.1 Notice of Motion: Assange

to:

com.meetings@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Dear City of Melbourne,

Please see attached a pdf of my submissions for **City of Melbourne Council Meeting 28 June 2022, Agenda item 7.1 Notice of Motion: Cr Dr Ball, Julian Assange and Agenda item 5.1 Annual Plan 2022-23**

<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/committees-meetings/meeting-archive/Pages/Council-Meeting-28-June-2022.aspx>

Kindly submit the same pdf for both 7.1 and 5.1. - they are inter-connected.

As agreed, please send my submission to the Lord Mayor and Councillors without sharing or publishing my email address.

Thank you,

Regards,

B. McNicholas

Director, Walk in St Kilda Rd & Environs

Convenor, Planet Ark National Tree Day, Nature Care and Lighting Events.

Consultant, Heritage and Cultural Heritage Tourism

27 June 2022

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

Ref: <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/committees-meetings/meeting-archive/Pages/Council-Meeting-28-June-2022.aspx>

1. Re: City of Melbourne Council Meeting 28 June 2022, Agenda item 7.1 Notice of Motion: Cr Dr Ball, Julian Assange

“(5) Requests the Lord Mayor write urgently on behalf of the Council to Australia’s Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Attorney-General in support of strenuous diplomatic intervention to free Mr Assange and have the charges against him dropped.”

Thank you, this Motion is supported.

It is requested that Councillors Ball and Reece, who have moved the Motion, and all of Council, also apply the same stated principles of fair treatment and strenuous support for democracy and democratic processes, protection to citizens, transparency, removal of conflicts of interest and respect for The People having a voice, to all matters at City of Melbourne (not just nominally but in practice).

Let’s apply these same principles and this fervour to a re-assessment and re-arrangement of the Management of **Queen Victoria Market** as well so we can keep the special iconic place as an historic fresh food, produce and products market that is allowed to organically evolve and change, being driven and distinguished by the creativity of the people and their produce and genuine stories, rather than stifled and turned by construct into another ‘Food Hall, ‘Shopping Mall’ or supermarket ... *sam’ol’...same ol’*... or generic ‘events’ and ‘festival’ space, i.e. losing it to a general Precinct as less meaningful, non-Queen Victoria Market “open space” (a term Council has taught us rings alarm bells of colonisation and loss in this context).

Councillor Dr Olivia Ball and Councillor Nicholas Reece, perhaps you could do a Motion on Queen Victoria Market next and how the voice of The People should be heard in its management and direction, requesting a revision and change of management of Queen Victoria Market (QVM), an independent dedicated Master Plan for Queen Victoria Market, reclamation of its name and space from the broader Precinct, and establishment of a Community and Stakeholder Reference Group or Advisory Group embedded in the pre-planning stage for QVM.

2. Re: City of Melbourne Council Meeting 28 June 2022, Agenda item Agenda item 5.1 Adoption of the Annual Plan 2022-23

See page 31, “Major Initiative 13, Queen Victoria Market”

The Plans for Queen Victoria Market are not democratic, they disallow organic creative change and evolution of the market and its produce and products, thus limiting its unique character, usefulness, economic potential and success, and appeal for the community, for cultural heritage tourism and visitors. This puts Melbourne’s “unique identity and place”, City of Possibility, a stated priority, Annual Report, page 28, in jeopardy and is contrary to stated principal “Our built, natural and cultural heritage is protected”. These Plans are not supported.

It is requested that Council pauses, takes a new approach, embraces change for effective, embedded community inclusion in decision-making re QVM, adapts to allow the market to change organically, which is key to its success, innovation and authenticity and to modern visitors in a changed world since Council developed these Plans long ago, and supports that strongly, protecting its status as a distinct, defined, unique identity, rather than focusing, at the expense of Queen Victoria Market (QVM), on its environs and the Precinct and other matters, competing interests and ‘events’. Suggesting that the future growth and success of QVM relies on replacing part of its land space with an Arts Centre from Southbank comprising shipping containers (i.e. a completely different business) and replacing Market stalls and businesses for external events (e.g. Melbourne Fashion Festival,

Melbourne Food and Wine Festival) and competitor businesses (e.g. 7-11 installation and its Market coffee under-quoting) is not managing Queen Victoria Market but neglecting it and replacing it.

Counting visitors to an Arts Centre you re-position on QVM land does not mean you are bringing additional people to Queen Victoria Market or that you are promoting or managing Queen Victoria Market – it is counting visitors to a different place, it is *instead* of managing and promoting QVM, and it diminishes the place and its opportunities and public offerings.

With these Plans, City of Melbourne is replacing much of Queen Victoria Market, reducing its size, taking away its land, promoting competitors, renovating, it seems, predominantly to provide facilities for other businesses, events and interests. If you act as a non-learning organisation and resist change to these old, dated, wrong Plans, Council will demonstrate that it does not understand or respect the great asset and resource Queen Victoria Market is, that CoM is not resilient and visionary, and we will all be the losers, particularly our future Melbourne.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

B. McNicholas

Director, Walk in St Kilda Rd & Environs

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * James Sinnamon

Phone number: *



Email address: *



Date of Council meeting: * Tuesday 28 June 2022

Agenda item title: In support of proposed motion for Julian Assange

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

The United States, which spends as much on its military forces than the next nine highest spending countries combined, has, since 1945, by one estimate, killed more than 20 million people. [1] These people were killed by the United States in its wars against Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and elsewhere as well as in its covert operations against an even larger number of countries. [2]

In contrast, Julian Assange, through whose Wikileaks news service, we have learnt so much about those United States' wars since the late 20th century, has broken no Australian law, no Swedish law and no British law.

Yet, Julian Assange has spent more than than 3 years, since 11 April 2019, in solitary confinement for 23 hours per day and faces the prospect of even worse treatment at the hands of the United States for the rest of his life should he be extradited there. The 'crime' for which Julian Assange, who is not even a United States' citizen, has been indicted, is threatening national security in breach of the 1917 Espionage Act. For breaching this law United States intends to lock him away for 175 years (i.e. for the rest of his life) in solitary confinement, the conditions of which would be even worse than what he is now enduring at Belmarsh Prison.

Were the United States to succeed in its goal of kidnapping Julian Assange, then what other journalist anywhere in Britain, Canada, New Zealand, possibly even in Australia and much of the rest of the world, could feel safe to publish any story that the United States' government might find embarrassing? At the whim of any US politician or of any US official who feels embarrassed by any published story across much of the globe, the author of that article could also find himself/herself arrested thence extradited to the United States where he/she would be made to suffer the same fate that is planned for Julian Assange.

Any person with a streak of humanity within them must surely be appalled at this prospect both for Julian Assange and for other journalists. Were that person able to do anything to both prevent that extradition and to end Julian Assange's imprisonment, he/she surely would do so without further delay.

I believe that our newly elected Labor Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is in a position to force the United Kingdom to free Julian Assange. He has been in office for 5 weeks now, surely long enough to be shown that his 'quiet diplomacy' with the UK and the US is unlikely to win Julian Assange's freedom.

It is long past time that our Prime Minister raised the issue of Julian Assange before either the United Nations or the International Criminal Court. [3] Were he to do so, or even just to state that he intended to do so, both the United States and the United Kingdom would quickly find that they won't have a leg to stand on as much of their monstrous treatment of Julian would be revealed in great detail across the world. The international outcry against those countries would be huge.

Rather than face that, the United Kingdom would almost certainly end Julian Assange's illegal imprisonment and the United States would almost certainly desist with its illegal efforts to extradite him. Julian Assange would finally be free to get on with his life again with his newlywed Stella and their two children.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese could bring this about very quickly if he chose to act.

I still believe that initiatives such as this motion proposed for the Melbourne City Council could help persuade the United Kingdom to free Julian Assange. Just possibly this motion could also finally help persuade the Prime Minister to act to free Julian Assange, so I commend this motion to be moved by Olivia Ball and to be seconded by Councillor Nicholas Reece

Yours sincerely,

James Sinnamon
Frankston South

FOOTNOTES

[1] See "U.S. Regime Has Killed 20–30 Million People Since World War II" (24/4/2017) by James Lucas at <https://www.globalresearch.ca/u-s-regime-has-killed-20-30-million-people-since-world-war-ii/5633111>

[2] Countries, which have suffered covert meddling at the hands of the CIA include China, Italy, Greece, the Philippines, Korea, Albania and various other Eastern European countries, Germany and various other Western European Countries, British Guiana, The Soviet Union, Haiti, Guatemala, Algeria, Ecuador, The Congo, Brazil, Peru, Iran, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Syria and various other Middle Eastern countries, Iran, Chile, Brazil, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Ecuador, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Bolivia, Iraq, Angola, Zaire, Jamaica, the Seychelles, Grenada, Morocco, El Salvador, Nicaragua and our own country, Australia – from "The CIA – a forgotten history" (1986) by William Blum.

[3] I have described all of this in "How you can end the illegal imprisonment of Julian Assange – an open letter to Australian Labor Prime Minister Anthony Albanese" (24/6/22) at <https://candobetter.net/james-sinamon/blog/6382/how-you-can-end-illegal-imprisonment-julian-assange-open-letter-australian>

Do you also wish Yes
to attend the
Council meeting
in person, noting
that there is no
provision to make
verbal
submissions at
Council meetings?

*

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: *

Jill Quirk

Phone number: *

[REDACTED]

Email address: *

[REDACTED]

Date of Council meeting: *

Tuesday 28 June 2022

Agenda item title: *

7.1

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.

We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

I urge council to vote in favour of this motion in the interests of democracy and human rights.

Do you also wish to attend the Council meeting in person, noting that there is no provision to make verbal submissions at Council meetings? *

No

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * SHEILA NEWMAN

Phone number: *

[REDACTED]

Email address: *

[REDACTED]

Date of Council meeting: * Tuesday 28 June 2022

Agenda item title: Agenda item 7.1 Julian Assange

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

I urge all council members to vote for this agenda item to help Julian Assange. I applaud your initiative.

Furthermore, why not also urge the Primeminister to allow our Parliament to debate the illegal imprisonment and torture of Julian Assange? Why has so little been said on the floors of our Parliament about the plight of that most well-known and most revered Australian anywhere? Why has our Parliament prevented motions in support of Julian Assange being put? Why has so little time been given by our Parliament in recent years towards the issue of Julian Assange? Why not finally enable fellow Labor MP Julian Hill's foreshadowed motion of 16 June 1921 in support of Julian Assange to be finally put to Parliament and debated? (See <https://candobetter.net/james-sinnamon/blog/6382/how-you-can-end-illegal-imprisonment-julian-assange-open-letter-australian>)

Do you also wish to attend the Council meeting in person, noting that there is no provision to make No

verbal
submissions at
Council meetings?
*
