

## **SUBMISSION TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT**

THIS SUBMISSION IS MADE BY RESIDENTS 3000 INC, AN ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS OF THE MELBOURNE CBD; ESTABLISHED FOLLOWING THE “POSTCODE 3000” PROGRAM BY THE MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL AIMED AT ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS INTO THE CITY.

The submission addresses Terms of Reference a) and b) regarding the alienation of public land/public space.

The Royal Exhibition Building and the surrounding Carlton Gardens, is Victoria’s only World Heritage listing. And indeed it is Australia’s only non-indigenous cultural site listed except for the Sydney Opera House.

The listing by UNESCO of the Royal Exhibition Building (2004) recognised it as the only building remaining in use for its original purpose from the “Great Exhibition” movement of the late nineteenth century.

The Carlton Gardens were included in the citation because they formed an integral part of the site and its design. Attached is a list of illustrations from the State Library of Victoria which clearly show this point.

The Gardens themselves would not have been listed but for their relationship to the REB.

The North Garden was on at least one occasion used for temporary buildings to accommodate an overflow of exhibits from the REB. They were removed immediately afterwards. The North Garden now holds the Melbourne Museum, local tennis courts, picnic tables and children’s play equipment.

As pictures and plans show, however, the South Garden was designed and built for a completely different purpose. It was a “frontispiece” and setting for the REB. Inspired by the gardens of the Palace of Versailles, its provides a dramatic entry route to the REB through an array of avenues (“allees”) drawing visitors from Victoria Street towards the REB.

It also provided a “pleasure garden” (with ponds, parterre beds and seats) for visitors to walk through and rest and relax from their journey - both before going to the REB; and as a wonderful place to sit and recover after walking around the amazing exhibition of invention and industry inside. The magnificent Hochgurtel Fountain (the best fountain in Australia) with its representations of industry and commerce, was a further link to the REB. There was some statuary in the South Garden but this was decorative only, and was not part of an exhibition in the REB nor in the Gardens themselves.

**The South Garden was never used for exhibits – nor was it ever intended to be. In fact the reverse is the case. It was intended to be free, open, peaceful and a “picture frame” for the REB.**

This is why there should be no formal activities in the South Garden. Indeed the only time it is so used is for the annual Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, when the Garden is shrouded in a black opaque fence; and landscaping and other exhibits cover the lawns. During this period this whole World Heritage site (the REB and the Garden) is obliterated.

(The fact that the South garden was NOT used for exhibits has been specifically confirmed by the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria in a letter dated 22 August 2005).

**AUSTRALIA’S HERITAGE COMMITMENTS ARE SET OUT IN THE “BURRA CHARTER” .IT IS CLEAR THAT THE USE OF THE SOUTH CARLTON GARDENS FOR MIFGS BREACHES AUSTRALIA’S NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS.**

**WE ASK THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO STATE CLEARLY THAT THE SOUTH CARLTON GARDEN SHOULD NOT IN FUTURE BE USED IN ANY OTHER WAY THAN IT WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED – AS A FRAME FOR THE ROYAL EXHIBITION BUILDINGS AND AS A PLEASURE GARDEN FOR VISITORS.** (The MIFGS can be held in the REB and the areas north of that building including the Museum Plaza the Museum itself and other areas).

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## ATTACHMENT 1

### RELEVANT EXTRACTS FROM THE BURRA CHARTER WHICH IS ACCEPTED AS GOVERNING AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE PLACES

#### Article 6. Burra Charter Process

6.1 The cultural significance of a place and other issues affecting its future are best understood by a sequence of collecting and analysing information before making decisions. Understanding cultural significance comes first, then development of policy and finally management of the place in accordance with the policy.

6.2 The policy for managing a place must be based on an understanding of its cultural significance.

6.3 Policy development should also include consideration of other factors affecting the future of a place such as the owner's needs, resources, external constraints and its physical condition.

#### Article 7. Use

7.1 Where the use of a place is of cultural significance it should be retained.

7.2 A place should have a compatible use.

#### Article 8. Setting

Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place. New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate.

#### Article 9. Location

9.1 The physical location of a place is part of its cultural significance. A building, work or other component of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.

#### Article 11. Related places and objects

The contribution which related places and related objects make to the cultural significance of the place should be retained.

ATTACHMENT 2

**Some of the photographic evidence regarding use of the south Carlton Gardens during the 1880 International Exhibition and the Centennial Exhibition of 1888.**

All the references are to the State Library collection:

The 1880 Melbourne International Exhibition -

[www.slv.vic.gov.au/](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/) followed by

mispics/0/0/4/mp004416.shtml

pictoria/b/4/8/doc/b48034.shtml

pictoria/b/2/9/doc/b29930.shtml

mispics/0/0/3/docv/mp003371.shtml

The 1888 Centennial Exhibition –

[www.slv.vic.gov.au/](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/) followed by

mispics/0/0/7/doc/mp007085.shtml

mipics/0/1/0/doc/mp010123.shtml

pictoria/b/4/7doc/b47796/shtml

mispics/0/0/7/doc/mp007114.shtml (garden statuary can be seen – usual in pleasure gardens –BUT NOT EXHIBITS)

Many other photographs are available; as are books, catalogues and documents. Main sources - The State library of Victoria; The Museum of Victoria; the Trustees of the REB; Heritage Victoria; The National Trust; Victorian State Government Archives and others.

ATTCHMENT 3

How *not* to see a World Heritage site!

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.