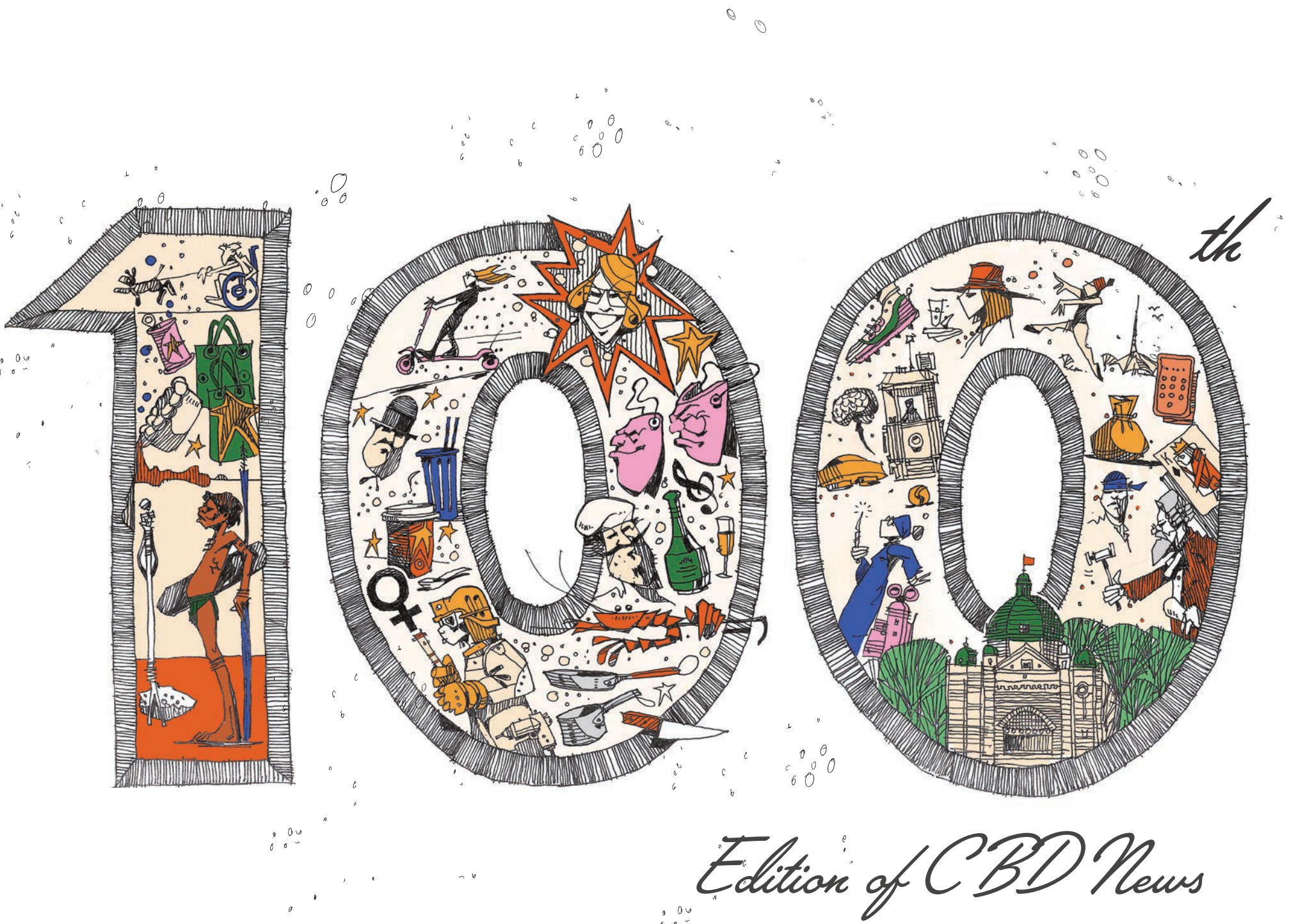


# CBD NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P21



HEALTH, PAGES 03 & 07

## A Salvos building in the mix for injecting room



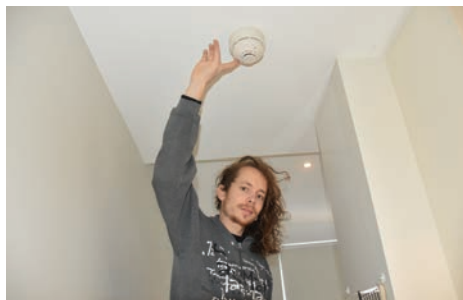
COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGES 03 & 10

## B Deal struck on QVM's Southern Site



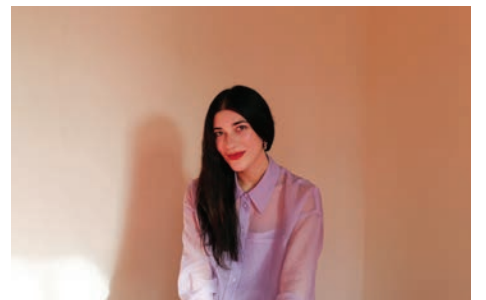
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## C Resident taken to court over burnt toast



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## D CBD author releases new novel West Girls



Lilian Kwan David Umama Trinity Paderno Austen Kosasih Taylor Sims Max Hui Tommy-Lee Davies Michael Pastrikos Giorgio Fulli Bence Balazs Tayla Hore

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▲ Edition 1 of CBD News - August, 2014.



▲ Founding CBD News publishing editor Shane Scanlan with Sean Car in 2019.



▲ Cover illustration: Michael Lindell. Design: Amy Frost.

# Then, and now ... welcome to our 100<sup>th</sup> edition of *CBD News*



*Well, who would have thought we'd make it to 100 editions? Yet here we are ...*



Never mind the ongoing wave of challenges the local media sector continues to ride, we also managed to emerge out the other side of a once-in-a-generation pandemic!

And, it was also during COVID that this newspaper's co-founder and its original "heart and soul" Shane "Scoop" Scanlan sadly passed away shortly after retiring and handing over the keys to myself.

How proud he'd be to see us make it to 100 editions after all the energy he and so many others invested into getting this operation up and running back in 2014.

I'll never forget Shane and I pushing trollies up and down the CBD's many hilly streets delivering the very first edition of *CBD News* in August that year. Talk about a labour of love!

To borrow a line from Shane's introductory op-ed in that inaugural edition, he quoted the words John Pascoe Fawcner used to introduce the CBD's first paper in 1838, which still ring true today ...

"A very small degree of support, timely afforded, will establish a newspaper here," Fawcner wrote 186 years ago.

Those words resonated with Shane then, and they still resonate with me now when I think of how far this local newspaper has come in its first 10 years.

While the support shown towards *CBD News* by our community has been anything but small during the past decade, our monthly, hyperlocal



▲ CBD News co-founders Shane Scanlan and Shine Dighe.

model, built on quality, independent reporting and "timely afforded" support is what has allowed us to reach our 100<sup>th</sup> edition.

The vision of Shane, co-founder Shine Dighe and many other local supporters to establish this newspaper is to be commended, and I'm proud to be able to mark this occasion.

Of course, it's mainly testament to our local community, which has embraced *CBD News* by welcoming it into homes and businesses with open arms. We're nothing without the support of those we seek to represent.

While there are too many people to thank, I'll say a general but heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who has supported us along our journey to 100 editions, from my wonderful team, both past and present, to the many "champions" who make up our community; you know who you are!

It's amazing to think just how much the CBD has changed just in the 10 years since our first edition. As its "rhythm" continues to evolve after the pandemic, we hope to continue to evolve along with it and keep sharing news and stories that matter to the community.

Welcome to our 100<sup>th</sup> edition of *CBD News*. Here's to many more! ●

*Sean Car*  
Publisher - *CBD News*

## Celebrating "The voice of postcode 3000"

*I grew up in a news-obsessed family. Ever since I can remember, current affairs and political issues were discussed around the dinner table, and different viewpoints would lead to lengthy debates.*

WORDS BY *Lord Mayor Sally Capp*

Thanks to my upbringing, I've got what some would call an "insatiable" appetite for news. I'm fascinated by it, I love consuming it, and I respect the power it has to educate and inform a community on the issues that shape their lives.

Over the past 10 years, *CBD News* has cemented itself as a trusted news source covering breaking news, politics, education, health and so much more.

As the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, I see the media as an invaluable tool for keeping our community informed. At the City of Melbourne, we work for the residents and traders, and it's vital they have a trusted news source to turn to when it comes to city issues. *CBD News* has played an integral role in helping us reach the residents and workers who call Melbourne home.



During my journey as Lord Mayor, I've enjoyed sharing City of Melbourne stories with Sean and his team of journalists, who all must be congratulated on reaching this milestone and for the hard work they put in each day (and for sometimes having to ask the difficult questions).

*CBD News* has covered everything from major infrastructure developments and economic growth to our non-stop events calendar.

I admire the strong sense of community Sean and his team have built online, often helping vulnerable community members amplify their stories.

It's hard to believe it's only been 10 years since the first edition of *CBD News* was published – it certainly feels like much longer.

"The voice of postcode 3000" has a lot to be proud of in its past 100 editions, and I can't wait to see the stories that are yet to come. ●

## What others said ...

**Adam Bandt – Federal MP for Melbourne**

"Melbourne is different. It understands the importance of high-quality local representation. It demands excellence and innovation. It rejects the big organisations who are more concerned with power than the people. That's why *CBD news* is so special and important. That's why it's the news for me."



▲ Adam Bandt (right) at the launch of CBD News in 2014.

**Raf Camillo – President, Residents 3000**

"I still remember when our immediate past president John Dall'Amico and I used to take a trolley full of the latest edition of *CBD News*, and we would visit local businesses all around town asking them to allow us to have the paper distributed every month, from coffee shops, convenience stores and even newsagents."

"That was done in our free time on the week-ends or lunch hours, all to support and create a strong voice for our local community."

"And, today here we are at the 100<sup>th</sup> edition! What a milestone for the team at Hyperlocal News, for Sean Car and Shane Scanlan (in memoriam), and for our CBD community too."

**Katrina Sedgewick – CEO, Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation**

"Congratulations to *CBD News* on celebrating this special milestone of 100 editions from the team at the Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation. *CBD News* has played a pivotal role in the CBD community – for local businesses, city workers and residents. We look forward to many more years of success and quality local news."

**Ellen Sandell – Victorian MP for Melbourne**

"The *CBD News* is such a great source of local insight. I love reading about what's going on in our neighbourhood and sharing what I'm working on with CBD residents. Congratulations on a huge milestone to the *CBD News* team."

**Luke Harris – President, Collins Street Precinct**

"Since its inception, *CBD News* has been a crucial source of news for Melbourne and beyond. In more recent years, the Collins Street Precinct has had the pleasure of sharing many stories with *CBD News* and its readers. The support we have received has been crucial for city businesses during what's been a challenging three years and we look forward to continuing to read and partner with *CBD News*." ●

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▲ A render of a conceptual proposal for Queen Victoria Market's "Southern Site" on Franklin St.

## Developer deal struck in \$1.7b Queen Vic Market revamp; three new towers proposed

*The City of Melbourne has announced a historic partnership with property developer Lendlease to embark on an ambitious \$1.7 billion transformation of the southern end of Queen Victoria Market.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The proposed development, the largest urban renewal project of its kind to be undertaken by the council, includes three new buildings consisting of build-to-rent units, affordable housing, student accommodation and offices, which will be all connected to the market by the restoration of the existing it's superfluous heritage Franklin St stores.

There will also be a 1.8-hectare public park created at the existing open-air car park, to be known as "Market Square," as well as a 220-space underground car park to be built within the development area known as the "Southern Site", which is bordered by Franklin, Queen, and Peel streets.

A new Queen's Corner Building will also provide a civic pavilion adjoining Market Square to the north, south and east, providing amenities for the public space and supporting the activation of the square.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2024 and be completed in 2028, subject to planning and heritage approvals.

Overall, the project is expected to generate more than \$1 billion in economic activity and create more than 4000 new jobs.

The major redevelopment is in addition to the council's announcement of proposing to create a linear park on Franklin St that would stretch from QVM to the under-construction State Library Metro station, covering the equivalent size of three basketball courts.

According to the council, the linear park will be realigned to "unlock" the precinct redevelopment, which will be known as "Gurrowa Place".

Designs have been released for the 1250-square-metre linear park, which would feature 40 trees, and see four lanes of traffic reduced to two.

At their July 11 meeting, councillors endorsed a public consultation process for the linear park, together with Market Square and the Queen's Corner Building in what are billed as "new public assets".

Cr Capp encouraged the community to have their say before consultation closes on August 23, noting the neighbourhood was expected to be home to 20,000 new residents and more visitors in the next two decades.

She said Gurrowa Place would transform the site into a "vibrant new precinct bursting with uniquely Melbourne experiences – creating an enduring legacy for the Queen Victoria Market for generations to come".

*Continued on page 10.*

*Community voices concern over Southern Site, page 11.*

## Salvos in mix for CBD injecting room as Lord Mayor says government delays "highly damaging"

*Lord Mayor Sally Capp says "ongoing conjecture" about where a safe injecting facility will be located in the CBD was taking a toll, as locals surrounding the Salvation Army headquarters speak out against a "ludicrous" proposal.*

WORDS BY *David Schout & Sean Car*  
HEALTH

The Victorian Government is fueling "angst and anxiety" among CBD residents and traders from continued delays to a decision on where it will locate the state's second safe injecting facility, City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

Reports in July suggested the Salvation Army hub on Bourke St was the latest CBD location being considered by the Andrews Government to house a medically supervised injecting room.

But the government, whose injecting room rollout first flagged three years ago has been beset by delays, did not comment on the reports as locals await a decision by Mental Health Minister Gabrielle Williams.

Since late May Ms Williams has held a report from former Victoria Police commissioner Ken Lay including key recommendations for a CBD injecting room however, at the time of publishing, was yet to make a decision on the site.

The Lord Mayor said she had been blindsided.

"No, I was not aware of that," she told 3AW's Neil Mitchell, of news that the government was considering the Salvation Army hub.

"We have not had any updates from state government on their plans for this facility," she said, adding that the Lay report, too, had not been shared with key players at Town Hall.

A frustrated Cr Capp, who said that the council should have seen the report by now, argued the government's inaction was having real world impacts.

"This is becoming highly damaging. I've already had a trader on the phone earlier this morning. The angst and the anxiety that comes from all of the rumours and the rumour mill, is overwhelming for so many traders



▲ The Salvation Army building on Bourke St.

... this is just another sense of uncertainty and anxiety that traders don't need when they're still trying to recover from the enormous disruption and devastation of COVID."

CBD News spoke with a number of locals and traders living and operating within the Bourke Hill precinct where the Salvation Army headquarters is located, many of whom expressed serious concern with the idea.

Among them were the owners of iconic Bourke St café Pellegrini's, which is located directly opposite the Salvos' building.

"We're deeply worried about having an injecting room right across the street," Pellegrini's owner David Malaspina said. Adding that all traders in the precinct were "united against the proposal" and that the speculation was proving "very damaging".

"This is something we have to be very careful with in exposing to the CBD. The City of Melbourne is a beautiful city and here we are down the road from Parliament House – it's an historic place."

*Continued on page 7.*

ART CULTURE TRADE

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The deadline for the September edition is August 18.

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# Night-time's fine, daytime's not: Council calls on experts to bridge city's economic gap

*With the council's "night-time economy" committee set to lapse, it has shifted focus to boosting day time trade.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
ECONOMY

The City of Melbourne is calling on business and industry experts to join a new committee focused on boosting the city's 9am to 5pm economy, which continues to struggle in the post-COVID era.

As Melbourne's night-time economy thrives, the council has created a "City Economy Advisory Committee" to advise on the challenges facing daytime trade and bridge the gap between the two.

The move to establish a new committee, the terms of reference for which were endorsed at a July 11 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, comes as research further revealed a gap between the two economies.

New inflation-adjusted data revealed that night-time spending was 12 per cent higher in April 2023 compared with April 2019.

Conversely, spending during business hours in April 2023 was 15 per cent below April 2019.

The research also showed that morning commuter activity (between 6am and 9am) at Flinders St was currently at around 60 per cent of the pre-COVID benchmark.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was determined to bring those figures closer together, and asked Melbourne's business experts to come forward.

"We're calling on Melburnians with expertise and experience across a range of business and industry sectors to put their hand up to join this new committee and help us shape the future of

Melbourne's daytime economy," Cr Capp said. "We want to learn how we can bring more people into the city to boost daytime business for our traders."

The new committee, made up of six to 10 members plus two councillors, was set to include figures with a strong connection to industry bodies, small business, major employers and/or other stakeholder groups, and live, work or own a business operating in the City of Melbourne.

It would look to provide advice to the council on the current challenges relevant to the city's economic recovery and suggest projects and initiatives that could positively improve it.

Despite the rising cost of mortgage repayments and rent across the nation, Melbourne's visitor economy continues to return strong numbers.

However, the wide adoption of a hybrid working model since the pandemic, which sees employees work some days in the office and some at home, has impacted certain businesses throughout the city.

A report from management to the council spelled out the difficulties faced: "There is a strong symbiotic relationship between small businesses in 'amenity' sectors such as retail, hospitality, personal services (e.g., dry cleaning) and office-based sectors such as financial services, professional services, information technology/telecommunications and public administration," it read.

"An active, 'buzzy' city is attractive to office workers, while office workers are also key customers for amenity businesses."

The permanency of these shifts remained a key question as to the future of the city's daytime economy, as spelled out in the report: "Are current patterns of work a temporary legacy of the pandemic or are they a 'new normal'?" It asked.

The council's City Activation portfolio chair

Cr Roshena Campbell said a renewed focused was needed.

"Our night-time economy has recovered strongly with spending and visitation across key precincts exceeding pre-pandemic levels. The critical challenge for our city now is to ensure our daytime economy also recovers and grows strongly," she said.

"Our new City Economy Advisory Committee will provide Council with the advice of industry and business to ensure our initiatives bring more people into the city."

In late 2020 the council established a "Night-Time Economy Advisory Committee" as a COVID-19 measure to prop up an ailing arts, hospitality and live music sector.

The committee lapsed on June 30 as it had "largely served its purpose", however was set to be replaced with periodic "deep dive" roundtable discussions rather than regular committee meetings.

These "topic-specific" half-day gathering would be held two to three times annually and focus specifically on, for example, live music, noise, or city safety.

"I'm proud of the role the committee has played in providing expertise and advice to boost the city's economy after dark," chair Penny Miles said.

"This new approach of in-depth roundtables will ensure the industry can work through some of our biggest challenges and opportunities to continue to build on the spectacular night-time momentum." ●



*David Schout*  
JOURNALIST  
DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

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# A building built on gold



*The year is 1858, and Melbourne is on its way to becoming the most affluent city on the planet, as the rush for gold gripped Victoria, and the world.*



WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Marcela Lehocka*  
HISTORY



Gold was pouring into Melbourne from the Victorian gold fields and being stored in the Treasury on Williams St (now demolished), which was proving increasingly inadequate.

The question then stood, where does one store hauls of gold bullion from Ballarat, Bendigo and beyond?

That question was answered with the construction of the Old Treasury Building (OTB) on Spring St.

The job for the design of the OTB was given to young architect, John James "JJ" Clark.

He was 19 when he began the design, but he was an old hand in the department having joined the then Colonial Architect's Office at 14 when his family emigrated to Melbourne from Liverpool.

With Mr Clark's design came 12 bluestone vaults, two feet thick, destined to house and protect the most precious commodity in the world at that time, gold.

Those vaults still sit under Victoria's

infamous political street and can be toured with the help of the friendly staff at the OTB.

"It is unknown just how much gold was stored in the building, whether unknown by design or lost to time, we will never know," OTB education officer, Katie Dunning said.

"We do know that the Government Escort started bringing gold directly here from 1865. Research into this time of the OTB's life will form the basis of a new exhibition we plan on opening in 2024," she said.

"The vaults were also used as government record storage as most departments' records were kept in less-than-ideal conditions. Parliamentary records show that some were stored directly next to timber yards, so fire was a constant concern."

According to Ms Dunning, the vaults had other uses, including accommodation for guards and soldiers, which was eventually featured in the exhibition *Growing up in the Old Treasury*.

While the contents of the vaults and their



value may not drop the jaw as they used to, they still provide a unique and somewhat mysterious insight to a time when Melbourne sat atop the world.

"The Old Treasury Building is a wonderful undiscovered gem, which surprises and delights all," Ms Dunning said. ●

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### Hidden Secrets



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We're introducing simpler parking to reduce confusion

## Simpler parking in the CBD

The City of Melbourne is making kerbside parking simpler and fairer in the CBD by introducing cheaper rates for off-peak times, waiving fees for 15-minute parking sessions by using the EasyPark app and unlocking hundreds more spaces.

Work is underway to review and revise parking in every CBD street to install simpler signs and make sure loading zones and accessible (disability) spaces are in the right locations.

We're also introducing clear spaces in every street for passenger drop-off and pick-up, to reflect the changing ways people enter and exit the city.

All you need to do is check the signs to understand the parking conditions.

These CBD parking improvements will be complete early next year.

We'll soon be improving parking in other neighbourhoods across the municipality and will engage businesses and the community to understand what is needed so we get the balance right.

The changes are not 'set and forget', as we'll follow up to make sure the new parking conditions are working well.

This approach optimises public kerbside parking, which makes up only 5 per cent of all parking in the municipality. The remaining 95 per cent of parking is managed off-street in residential, private and public car parks.

We'll also continue working with off-street parking operators to make it easier to find and access the 68,000 public off-street parking spaces – so drivers can make the best choice for their time in the city.

Our new CBD parking plan was informed by the experience of about 1,000 parking users and does not propose any increase to the current maximum \$7 hourly parking rate.

Simpler signage and conditions will reduce confusion and could result in a 10 per cent decrease in parking fines.

To learn more about simpler CBD parking, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/simplerparking](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/simplerparking)

### WHAT'S CHANGED?

- Simpler parking signs to reduce driver confusion
- Consistent 2-hour parking limits every day from 7am to 10pm, including Sunday
- Fairer, data-led pricing, with a new off-peak rate of \$4 per hour after 7pm weekdays and all weekend
- Introduction of off-peak rates on Sunday
- Free parking to support short stops of up to 15 minutes (when using the EasyPark app)
- Optimising underused spaces and converting loading zones to 2-hour parking after 4pm – making hundreds more parking spaces available in the evenings
- Consistent loading zone time limits for drivers to make deliveries, as well as disability parking and dedicated pick-up and drop-off spaces that are easier to find and use

### IN BRIEF

#### GET THE FACTS ON THE VOICE

Learn about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament and the upcoming referendum. We're committed to truth-telling and supporting respectful conversations. Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/voice](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/voice)

#### CHILDCARE CENTRES VIRTUAL TOUR

Find a childcare centre that suits your child and family's needs by taking a virtual tour. Go to [melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au) and search Lady Huntingfield Early Learning and Family Services and North Melbourne Children's Centre to take a tour and learn more about our childcare options. Both our centres are accepting registrations for children aged from 0 to 5 years.

#### COMMUNITY MEALS SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Our Community Meals Subsidy Program provides funding to not-for-profits in the City of Melbourne to create connections for older people through food. A subsidy of \$6 per meal is available to eligible organisations. Applications close Thursday 31 August at 5pm. Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/communitymeals](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/communitymeals) for more.

#### DIGITAL PERMITS

Applications for busking permits and other business permits are now online, making it easier for you to do business with the City of Melbourne. Smart tech gives you 24-hour access to apply for permits, get copies of permits and invoices, and ask for changes. Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/permitsupport](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/permitsupport) for more.

#### BOOST COVID PROTECTION

With the arrival of winter and waned immunity in the community, together we can take steps to protect ourselves and each other from COVID by getting a 2023 booster dose from a doctor or pharmacist. You can also collect free rapid antigen tests – visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/freecovidtests](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/freecovidtests) for details.

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# Salvos in mix for CBD injecting room as Lord Mayor says government delays “highly damaging”

Continued from page 3.

“We have tourists here, and we actually want tourists to come back ... and this [an injecting room at the Salvos] is what we’re proposing? It’s ludicrous. Why would you put something so special in jeopardy?”

The Bourke Hill Association, an alliance of traders and residents, has launched a petition in opposition to the proposal, which had already attracted more than 1000 signatures at the time of publication.

Many traders say they support the concept of a safe injecting facility but that the Salvos’ building is simply the wrong location for it.

Hayden Marlow of women’s couture salon Blonde Venus on Crossley St said that while he agreed there was a need for an injecting room in the city, it would be better placed at a nearby hospital.

“Why not put it at St Vincent’s [Hospital]? It’s not far away, it’s very close to the city and you’ve got the medical facilities there,” he said. “I think that the Salvation Army site already has a kind of a detrimental effect on this area anyway, and if you put an injecting room, it’s just going to exacerbate it. I see the need to help the people, but it’s just the wrong location.”

Neighbouring trader Charles Maimone, whose tailoring business has been operating from Crossley St since 1972, echoed this same sentiment.



▲ Crossley St tailor Charles Maimone (right).

“If there’s any problems, the hospital could deal with them,” he said. “This is supposed to be the most elegant part of Melbourne,” adding that an injecting facility in the area would only add further strain on businesses which were still struggling after COVID.

Gingerboy manager Arthur Cullen also agreed, saying, “great concept, bad location”.

“The theatre district is around the corner, all the restaurants, and there’s also a lot of field trips that happen to Parliament House, so there are always a lot of families and kids in the area,” he said.

Director of Bourke St women’s fashion store Marais, Karlton Huang, whose business is located next door to the Salvation Army building, said the area was already plagued with safety issues.



▲ Pellegrini’s manager Rocco Desmagnetizou (left) and owner David Malaspina (right).



▲ Marais owner Karlton Huang.

In March this year, Mr Huang was stabbed as he tried to defend his business, and the shop now has a lock and doorbell due to ongoing issues with people shoplifting and abusing his staff.

“We have a lot of issues here already, and if they put that [an injecting room] in there [Salvation Army building], it will be five times worse,” he said.

“It’s not a good idea. It will just create more problems.”

Residents 3000 president Raf Camillo, a long-term resident of the CBD who lives around the corner from the Salvation Army building, said putting the facility at that location would be “a complete mistake”.

“Residents and business are part of the fabric of the city, and this is a historic part of the city where families for more than a century have been coming to theatres and come with families and congregate,” he said.

“This is not only for us. The Bourke Hill precinct is for the whole country, for tourists, for visitors. So, why put it here? I think it is a complete mistake, it’s wrong, it’s not considering the community and we need to think this through better.”



▲ Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo.

Cr Capp said she would take up the issue with the state government, however her office did not reveal whether any talks had taken place when contacted by *CBD News*.

In a statement, Salvation Army commanding officer Brendan Nottle reiterated his support for the facility.

“After more than 20 years working in the CBD I have seen first-hand the ongoing impacts of drug overdoses and drug-related deaths,” he said.

“I have said for many years we need a second supervised injecting room in the CBD because it will save lives. Any proposed location is a matter for the Victorian Government and I will leave it to them to get on with their work.”

When it first appointed Mr Lay to oversee the injecting room rollout in July 2020, the government nominated community health service Cohealth on Victoria St as its preferred site.

However, that facility was subject to strong pushback from the council due to its proximity to vulnerable residents and the Queen Victoria Market, eventually leading the government to scrap its plans.

Cr Capp said the Salvation Army hub was a potentially worse site to pursue.

“When it was first announced years ago now at Drill Hall near Queen Victoria Market, all of the same issues that we identified then – in terms of impacts on traders and local residents – I think are multiplied in a position such as Bourke St,” she said.

“I also spend a lot of time up at the Salvos and the incredible work that they do. But it’s not an integrated health facility. Both of these aspects are in the report on how we need to fix the North Richmond facility. They are all in the report prepared by Ken Lay, these are absolutely integral considerations for any such facility. And I think that everybody needs to feel satisfied that they’ve been addressed.”

Since removing Cohealth’s Victoria St site as an option, it had been widely suspected that the government would select the former Yooralla building at 244 Flinders St (which it purchased in 2021) for the new supervised injecting facility. However, it is understood this was one of several options.

Dr Stan Capp (no relation to Cr Capp), a CBD resident of more than 20 years, recently met with Mr Lay to express his views, and relayed that he was broadly supportive of a medically supervised injecting room.

Speaking from a personal perspective to *CBD News*, and not in his role as president of local residents group EastEnders, Dr Capp said it was imperative local amenity was prioritised.

“This is not an impossible task,” he said.

“A commitment to addressing this significant issue while improving local amenity is a reasonable expectation.”

In considering a location for a CBD injecting room, Dr Capp – who has worked as a CEO in a range of health care organisations in Australia and abroad – along with fellow resident Pamela Lyons has developed a set of guiding principles to be used as a framework for assessing any site.

Among the principles are that the injecting facility is at an accessible but discreet location and offers pathways to wraparound services typically provided by a community health organisation.

To support the Bourke Hill Association’s campaign against a safe injecting facility at the Salvation Army building, you can add your name to the petition at [change.org](https://www.change.org) by searching “Save the historic Bourke Hill precinct Melbourne”. ●

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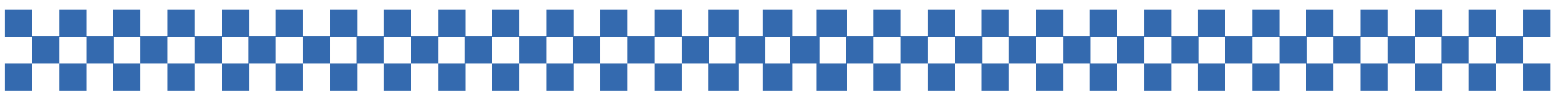
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## Man hands himself in after alleged sexual assault

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
CRIME

A man has come forward to Victoria Police after a sexual assault occurred at a shopping centre in the CBD on July 2.

The arrest of a 47-year-old man follows an incident at a shopping centre on the corner of La Trobe and Swanston streets on Sunday, July 2 about 3.30pm where a teenage girl was allegedly sexually assaulted.

The man handed himself in to a northern suburbs police station on July 13 following an appeal by Melbourne Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team detectives, who also released an image of the man they believed could assist their enquires.

Police interviewed and released the Delahey man who is expected to be charge on summons.

Police thanked the media for their help in the public appeal. ●

## Fifteen arrested as police swarm city in safety operation

*A woman wielding a knife is among 15 people to be arrested following a three-day police safety blitz in the city.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

Victoria Police saturated the CBD patrolling busy areas including public transport hubs as part of Operation Broom, which ran from July 11 to 13.

It saw 50 officers per day targeting persons of interest or those with outstanding warrants in relation to robberies and thefts, while also cracking down on drug crime and anti-social behaviour.

The 15 arrests were for outstanding warrants, and drug possession and weapon offences, while 78 infringement notices were issued for traffic offences.

Among those arrested was a 37-year-old woman who approached police brandishing a knife at Melbourne Central about 3pm on July 11.

Police said the woman allegedly tried to walk away while throwing a knife to the ground.



They attempted to stop her when she allegedly became aggressive and produced another knife before officers used capsicum spray and arrested her, police allege.

She was charged with weapon offences and resisting arrest and will appear in court.

As part of the operation, Passive Alert Detection dogs were also called in to sniff out anyone carrying illicit drugs, which saw four drug offences identified.

Highway Patrol units using automatic number plate recognition technology checked 725 cars – 70 of which were intercepted with one drunk driver being caught.

The operation also involved uniform and plain clothes police together with specialist resources from the Public Order Response Team, Mounted Branch, Transit Safety Division, and the Dog Squad.

Melbourne Acting Inspector Colin Provan said, “Our goal is to always increase safety for those who live, work and visit Melbourne.”

“Operation Broom aimed to prevent crime, target offenders, and improve overall safety in the city. This work in the city will not stop.”

Anyone with information about criminal activity is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au) ●

## Woman charged over CBD robbery

CRIME

A woman has been charged over an alleged robbery in the CBD on June 27.

Victoria Police allege the victim was approached and attacked by a woman in Elizabeth St about 9.45pm.

The woman allegedly stole the victim’s mobile phone and handbag and fled the scene.

She was located by officers on Flinders St and later arrested.

The victim, a 49-year-old Richmond woman, received non-life-threatening injuries and was assessed by paramedics at the scene.

A 39-year-old Melbourne woman has been charged with robbery, theft, recklessly cause injury, assault by kicking and common law assault.

The woman will appear at Melbourne Magistrates’ Court on September 11. ●

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
CRIME

A CBD woman is among nine people to be charged after \$750,000 in cash, drugs, and swords were seized in a wave of suburban raids including at Southbank properties, conducted by Victoria Police.

The 28-year-old woman was arrested and charged with possessing various drugs of dependence after search warrants were executed over a five-day period from July 10 to 14 at properties in Albion, Braybrook, and Kalkallo, resulting in five arrests.

The woman was bailed to appear at Melbourne Magistrates’ Court on October 2.

Warrants were also executed at two Southbank properties on July 17, in which a 34-year-old Southbank man was arrested.

Police allege he is the leader of a drug syndicate believed to have trafficked large commercial quantities of methylamphetamine and heroin across Melbourne.

Luxury bags and jewellery believed to be

valued at more than \$100,000 were seized at one Southbank property, while a 2018 Porsche Macan and a small heroin press found in the car were seized from another.

Police charged the Southbank man with trafficking a commercial quantity of a drug of dependence. He was remanded to appear at Melbourne Magistrates’ Court on November 20.

The raids are part of an investigation by detectives from the Major Drug Squad into alleged drug trafficking by an Asian organised crime syndicate. It has so far resulted in a total of nine people being charged after the investigation began in September last year.

Further search warrants were executed at properties on February 24 including Southbank, Deer Park, St Albans, and Braybrook where police seized drugs and articles used in the preparation of drugs of dependence for sale and about \$400,000 in cash.

A 32-year-old Southbank man has since been charged with trafficking a commercial quantity of methylamphetamine. He was bailed to appear at Melbourne Magistrates’ Court on

July 17.

Residential properties in Sunshine and Sunshine North were also searched on June 22, where police found a clandestine laboratory, and seized an alleged commercial quantity of what is believed to be methylamphetamine, precursor chemicals, about \$100,000 cash and a 2020 Mercedes Benz GLC63.

At the St Albans address, a loaded handgun, ammunition, an imitation handgun, and quantities of what police allege appear to be heroin and methylamphetamine were seized, as well as six Samurai swords, luxury bags and cigarette lighters, and about \$50,000 cash.

At a Braybrook property, drugs, and about \$50,000 cash, as well as an imitation firearm and cannabis plants were seized, while quantities of what allegedly appeared to be methylamphetamine, ketamine and MDMA were found at a storage facility in Braybrook.

Police are continuing their investigating. Anyone with information about illicit drug activity is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or make a confidential report at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au) ●



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# Resident taken to court over burnt toast



*A high-rise apartment tenant accused of “tampering” with their smoke alarm after burning toast is now facing legal action in what he says is “unnecessarily stressful”.*



WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY



Beaudi Anderson said he couldn't silence his smoke alarm after burning toast in his apartment on February 23 – which, unbeknown to him, had led to multiple other alarms to malfunction within the building at 200 Spencer St.

A technician was sent to his apartment three days later to fix the alarm, but after thinking the issue was resolved, Mr Anderson was shocked to be told three months later that his landlord wanted him out because he had allegedly jeopardised the safety of other residents.

“They [real estate agent] told me my landlord was trying to evict me over that situation, saying that I tampered with their fire alarm,” Mr Anderson said, adding his landlord was seeking \$1700 to cover the bill for the technician's services.

Mr Anderson, 28, refused to pay as he maintained he was not in any wrong, with the matter now listed for a hearing at the Melbourne's Magistrate's Court on July 25.

“I could not get this thing to silence, it had no buttons or batteries so I [disconnected it and] just put it back and it eventually stopped,” he said of his smoke alarm, which was “something any reasonable person could do by accident”.

“I did not tamper [with] it in doing so.” The building's owners' corporation (OC), Binks and Associates, said the tenant failed to report the smoke alarm issue, which “affected several apartments”.

“Obviously tampering with a smoke alarm is a dangerous thing to do and while the OC has no direct contractual relationship with a renter, it expended a significant amount of effort to ensure that the renter (via its rental agent and landlord) was aware that the action the renter took was not acceptable,” Binks and Associates' managing director Ben Commerford said.

Mr Commerford said the OC's essential safety measures contractor attended its regular weekly inspection on February 27 this year “and discovered an issue with the system that affected several apartments and after being brought to the attention of the manager, was rectified within two hours”.

But he made clear “the OC has no ability to evict a tenant, this is a matter between the two parties to the rental contract”.

After conducting his own investigation, Mr Anderson said he discovered the building had a conventional fire alarm system installed, in which fire or smoke is detected within a zone, meaning multiple areas rather than a specific location. This is believed to possibly delay emergency responders from pinpointing a fire.

According to RED Fire Engineers technical

director Aaron Nicholson, who does not conduct any services or maintenance at 200 Spencer St but agreed to comment about different fire alarm systems and building code of Australia requirements, said unwanted activations or faults showing at a fire indicator panel should be reported to owners' corporations.

“Conventional fire detection and alarm systems are older technology than the newer addressable fire detection and alarm systems,” he said.

“In simplistic terms, think of conventional systems as all detectors on a single wire which runs out in a line and stops at the last detector. This means that removal of a detector breaks the line and the detectors past that point cannot be ‘seen’ by the fire indicator panel and will not operate.”

Mr Anderson, who moved out of the building on his own terms in May, reported the matter to Melbourne Greens MP Ellen Sandell who has since written to the Minister for Emergency Services to escalate the issue.

“I'm really concerned to hear reports that dangerous fire alarm systems could be putting residents at risk throughout the city,” she said.

“The state government should immediately investigate this matter and take steps to ensure that all CBD residents have high-quality, safe fire alarm systems installed.”

A Fire Rescue Victoria spokesperson said: “If building residents have a concern about their building's fire safety system or its components, firstly raise it with the building management. If they feel it has not been resolved, they can contact Fire Rescue Victoria via the website and report a fire safety issue.” ●

**For more information:**  
[frv.vic.gov.au/reporting-faulty-equipment](http://frv.vic.gov.au/reporting-faulty-equipment)



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## ROAD BIKE LANES

Look out for the new bike lanes separated by a kerb on St Kilda Road. These upgrades physically separate vehicles and bicycles to improve the safety of 3,500 cyclists who use the road each day.

Sections of the new bike lanes from Linlithgow Avenue to Dorcas Street, and Toorak Road to St Kilda Junction have opened, creating safer travel on St Kilda Road. Works on the remaining sections will continue until the Metro Tunnel Project is complete in 2025.



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# Developer deal struck in \$1.7b Queen Vic Market revamp; three new towers proposed

Continued from page 3.

“This globally-iconic precinct will be a place to celebrate, with spaces for events, world-class retail and new laneways and arcades to complement the beloved market experience,” she said.

Three new buildings, which will be powered by renewable electricity, will overlook the historic market precinct, Flagstaff Gardens, and the CBD, with the tallest tower, at 49 levels, providing about 1100 student accommodation beds, to be delivered by Scape.

A “next generation” sustainable office and retail building will be spread across 28 levels and add about 43,000 square metres of new workplace, while a third 46-level tower will consist of 560 residential apartments including build-to-rent and 15 per cent affordable housing.

The restored Franklin St stores, which will be kept by the council, will “create a vibrant retail hub that complements the market’s unique offerings”.

The divestment of the southern precinct to Lendlease, which was formally announced on June 28, follows a landmark agreement with the state government in 2014 when it gifted the 3.2-hectare site to the City of Melbourne so it could be sold to the private sector, with all funds being reinvested in the market’s renewal.

“Traders will benefit from more customers and activity, with every dollar of this sale reinvested into the preservation and renewal of the precinct,” Cr Capp said.



▲ (Above and below) Renders of the conceptual proposal for the Southern Site at Queen Victoria Market.



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Lendlease managing director of development Tom Mackellar. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp addresses the media.

“

*It will celebrate the rich history of the place, while introducing new spaces for the community and a vibrant precinct that welcomes locals and visitors.*

”

The council said Market Square would be “unlocking one of the largest open spaces in the CBD”, and maintained there would be no loss of parking, with the new basement car park to be in addition to the 500 spaces already open in the Munro development.

Plans to remove the Queen St roundabout, as well as the design of the intersection are under way, though these have been met with concern with residents, along with altered future traffic conditions, which they say would “significantly impact the general access for cars to the market”.

But Cr Capp said public consultation would be held in about two months, which would include traffic management “and to get feedback on issues such as congestion”.

“I think the great thing about this project is that the residents ... don’t need to drive anywhere, it’s such a fantastic precinct, everything you could want for places to work, places to

shop, and places to study are right here,” she said.

“All of our efforts are really aimed at making sure that the precinct works well and so a lot of effort that’s already gone into looking at traffic management plans, street designs, and then consultation which is ongoing.”

Cr Capp said there would be staging of the development program “to ensure the open-air car park remains open”, in which half of the area will be used for construction staging, while “leaving half open and when we need the other half we’ll switch over.”

“We understand the importance of car parking to this precinct and particularly for our traders and their customers and we’ve maintained that commitment to parking availability.”

However, Friends of Queen Victoria Market president Mary-Lou Howie expressed concern the high-rise developments would “overwhelm and dominate the market”, with the profits being “driven by a cash-strapped council”.

“Lendlease, in partnership with the City of Melbourne, is building another massive wall like the since demolished Gas and Fuel building on Flinders St, which will divide the north and south aspects of the CBD,” she said.

Ms Howie added converting the open-air car park into a park was the council’s plan to “pedestrianise” the market, arguing it would not provide convenient and accessible parking, particularly for the disabled and the elderly.

The new car park, Market Square and the Queen’s Corner Building will be the focus of the earlier stages of the project when construction begins.

Lendlease is collaborating with the Wurundjeri Elders on the precinct’s design. It has also worked with NH Architecture, Kerstin Thompson Architects, 3XN Australia and Searle x Waldron Architecture, in conjunction with Openwork and McGregor Coxall, to conceptualise the proposed development scheme for the site, which will be targeting

carbon neutral precinct certification and 5 and 6 Star Green Star ratings.

Community members will be invited to have their say on a range of project components over the coming months.

Gurrova Place will complement the heritage sheds’ restoration, the new Munro library and community hub, hospitality and retail offerings in the Munro development and Mirvac’s build-to-rent project on Therry St. ●

**To have your say on transforming Franklin St:**



This year, all Australians will be invited to make history by saying ‘yes’ in a compulsory referendum to alter Australia’s Constitution by enshrining an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

The Constitution is the founding legal document of our nation, providing the basic rules for the government of Australia. The Constitution is our nation’s birth certificate.

Over many years we have spent a lot trying to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians, but we haven’t got better results.

If the referendum succeeds, the Voice to Parliament means Indigenous Australians will be consulted and give advice to Government

to design better solutions for issues that affect them.

This will lead to better outcomes for Indigenous Australians in health, employment, and education – because we know when Government listens to people, we get results.

For most of us, saying ‘yes’ won’t change much. But for Indigenous Australians the Voice will bring about tangible change. There is nothing to lose, but so much to be gained.

*L. White*

**Senator Linda White**  
SENATOR FOR VICTORIA



**Say yes!**

Authorised by L. White, Australian Labor Party, 62 Lygon St Carlton VIC 3053





▲ Chair of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's heritage committee Professor Charles Sowerwine (right) with residents Richard Grace (left) and Sean Kelly (centre), who are concerned about the proposed development at QVM.

## Market's historical integrity at risk over development, residents and heritage advocates fear

*Residents have voiced strong opposition to a plan to build three large buildings on the southern side of Queen Victoria Market (QVM), arguing such a move would compromise the market's rich heritage status.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HERITAGE

The \$1.7 million proposal announced in June proposes to build towers up to 49 levels high for student accommodation, residential apartments, and offices, while the existing open-air carpark would be converted into a public green square.

But residents have raised concerns that the proposed development, in which the council is partnering with developer Lendlease to undertake the project, would "prove detrimental" to the historic landmark of 140 years.

"The proposals for commercial and residential developments, while progressive, risk altering the essence of the market," resident of 30 years Sean Kelly said.

"The fervent push to eradicate car parking in an attempt to promote public transport raises concerns," he said, adding while it was a commendable notion for its environmental aspirations, it "overlooks the practical necessities of many market goers, particularly the elderly and families," he said.

"This delicate balancing act between progress and preservation isn't easy, but it's a challenge that must be met to protect the QVM's vibrant essence. As we chart the course for its future, we must ensure that the QVM continues to resonate with the multicultural spirit of Melbourne, as it always has."

Another resident, Bob Evans, agreed, saying increased traffic congestion and loss of convenient parking, together with the uncertainty traders faced over the terms of their leases, "threaten the viability of the market".

"The council boasts of its consultation processes, especially the Participate Melbourne websites. However, from experience, market stakeholders have realised that 'consultation' ignores views that do not align with pre-existing plans and objectives. The scepticism and frustration are palpable," Mr Evans said.

Chair of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's heritage committee, Professor Charles Sowerwine, said the Society "deplored" the proposed development.

"If there is one thing the market doesn't need, it's more mediocre high-rise extending from Elizabeth St," he said, adding the new park "is only a pretext" and would be "aimed at 'events'".

"As a green space, the new park will be hemmed in with high towers. The council have discarded the planning strategies of maintaining a low-rise heritage buffer around the market in favour of developer driven building."

Under the plans, a linear park is also proposed for Franklin St, while the large roundabout at Queen St and Franklin St will be removed, much to the disappointment of residents who fought hard to save it, not only for its effectiveness to calm traffic, but also for its greenery.

"Many people are actually unaware of the Franklin St north/southern site development and its implications," resident of 30 years Richard Grace said, adding "recent press releases show one angle from a 'green' park perspective."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the proposal, subject to planning and heritage approvals, was a "strong sign of confidence in Melbourne as a destination for investment, workers, residents and visitors".

"These projects will cement the future viability of the market for traders, boosting visitation and improving the way Melburnians experience this precinct," she said. ●

## Site of former historic Kilkenny Inn hits the market

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PROPERTY

Developers behind a proposed \$350 million revamp of iconic former Kilkenny Inn are "considering their options" after the prominent corner site hit the market.

Melbourne-based developer and builder Hickory has announced its intention in seeking a prospective investment partner or buyer "to share the vision" of the historic site at the corner of King and Lonsdale streets.

The site secured planning amended approval in 2022 and has since undergone demolition after fire tore through the building on May 24 last year.

The City of Melbourne endorsed plans in 2021 for an 80-metre office and retail tower behind the three-storey 1915-built Kilkenny Inn.

The building's façade was kept during demolition to "unlock the project's true development potential, offering world class amenity and landscaped terraces on multiple floors," according to Hickory.

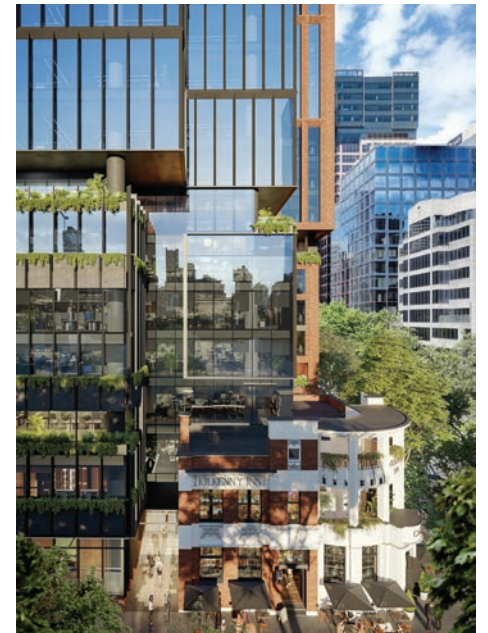
Commercial real estate agent Cushman and Wakefield is leading the sales campaign for 580 Lonsdale St, with its international director and co-head of investment sales Oliver Hay predicting it would generate significant competition.

"We are entering a unique time in the Melbourne CBD with the supply of developable land becoming increasingly tight, coupled with tightening planning controls, as time goes on corner sites of this scale will become virtually non-existent," he said.

"Given the amenity attributes in this location as well our current population growth rate and housing undersupply, we expect strong interest from luxury residential and multi-family sectors as well as tourism and commercial sectors."

Asked why Hickory was choosing to put the site on the market, Mr Hay said, they were "open to all options".

"It's been a hotly contested site; they've been



approached many times so they're considering their options."

The site's "flexible zoning" allows for multiple uses within various asset classes, including residential, student accommodation and hotel services.

Hickory CEO Michael Argyrou said the company was committed to revitalising the precinct with projects such as 570 Little Bourke St in joint venture partnership with Maxcap and Argo Group, ICD Property's Aspire tower at 299 King St, and Melbourne's first Meriton Suites Hotel at 140 King St under way.

"We see the vision of transforming this pocket of Melbourne's CBD and are pleased to be part of this precinct's vibrant evolution, creating better places for future communities," Mr Argyrou said.

The building at 580 Lonsdale St is recognised for its architectural significance, with the site also located within the City of Melbourne's heritage overlay. ●



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# RESTORING OUR CITY'S HERITAGE WHILE SHAPING OUR ICONIC MARKET EXPERIENCE FOR TOMORROW

The Gurrova Place project is the biggest mixed-use development in Council's history. *Artist impression, subject to approvals and consultation*



*Artist impression, subject to approvals and consultation*

Market Square will be a key feature of the Gurrova Place development

It's one of Melbourne's most famous destinations attracting some 10 million visitors each year.

It's home to more than 650 small traders and family-owned and operated businesses.

It is the longest-surviving marketplace of its size and diversity in Australia.

It's a critical part of Melbourne's early development, and continues to play a central role in the city's cultural, business and social life.

Through the renewal of the Queen Victoria Market and surrounding precinct, the City of Melbourne is restoring the market's heritage while delivering modern facilities to make the market work better for traders, customers and visitors, and revitalising this growing part of the city.

More than 40 per cent of the renewal program has now been completed with works continuing across the precinct.

It's not just a project about a market. It is a once in a lifetime, city-shaping urban renewal project that will deliver for the fastest-growing part of our city.

Queen Victoria Market will always remain a fresh food open air market and will retain its unique atmosphere, heritage and affordability.

In this special feature we take a look at the projects we've delivered and the ones to come that will ensure the future of our city's 145-year-old magnificent market for generations to come.

To keep up-to-date with works, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/qvmrenewal](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/qvmrenewal)

## MARKET TRANSFORMATION PART OF HISTORIC \$1.7 BILLION PARTNERSHIP

Melbourne's beloved Queen Victoria Market is set to undergo a \$1.7 billion transformation.

The City of Melbourne will partner with Lendlease to transform the market precinct in what is the biggest mixed-use development in our history – attracting more customers and boosting business for traders.

Gurrova Place will be developed by Lendlease, following our landmark divestment of the Southern Precinct – generating more than \$1 billion in economic activity and creating more than 4,000 new jobs.

The once-in-a-generation project will enhance the traditional market experience Melburnians and visitors know and love – with iconic laneways and arcades to explore, a uniquely Melbourne retail offering, and new spaces to bring people together.

Gurrova Place will include build-to-rent apartments and 15 per cent affordable housing, student accommodation and a landmark office space across three buildings – all connected to the market by the soon-to-be revamped Franklin Street stores.

A new underground car park will provide 220 spaces for market customers, and 300 spaces on weekends. This is in addition to the 500 spaces already open in the Munro development – ensuring there will be no loss of parking.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the divestment of the Southern Precinct will transform the city's north with a vibrant new precinct bursting with uniquely Melbourne experiences “creating an enduring legacy for the Queen Victoria Market for generations to come”.

“Gurrova Place will enrich the traditional market offerings Melburnians and visitors know and love – attracting thousands of new residents, workers and visitors and boosting business for traders,” the Lord Mayor said.

“This globally-iconic precinct will be a place to celebrate – with spaces for events, world-class retail and new laneways and arcades to complement the beloved market experience.”

In consultation with Traditional Owners, Gurrova Place will pay tribute to the site's history. Gurrova means place of exchange or interchange, reflecting the purpose of the market.

The development has been designed by world-leading architects, and will set a new benchmark for sustainability – creating a precinct rich in biodiversity, while targeting Carbon Neutral Precinct Certification and 5 and 6 Star Green Star ratings.

Lendlease Managing Director Development Tom Mackellar said construction of Gurrova Place “begins the next chapter in the evolution of Queen Victoria Market”.

“Lendlease looks forward to working alongside the City of Melbourne, Scape and all project partners, and the community to deliver a reimagined precinct that preserves the heart and soul of this Melbourne landmark while ensuring it continues to thrive,” he said.

Gurrova Place will complement a range of projects we have already delivered in the precinct.

The divestment of the Southern Precinct follows an agreement with the State Government in 2014 to transfer the site to us to be sold, with all funds reinvested in the market's renewal.

Construction is expected to start next year with projects to be delivered in stages.

### KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne News* at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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Artist impression, subject to approvals and consultation

**HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR PLANS  
TO TRANSFORM FRANKLIN STREET**

We're proposing to create a new link between the heart of the CBD and the Queen Victoria Market along Franklin Street, paving the way for the landmark Gurrova Place development.

Along with a new Market Square and plans for a multi-purpose civic building, the transformation of Franklin Street will continue our investment in the Queen Victoria Market precinct.

Early works on the first stage of this project are set to start later this year on William Street, which will begin the works to realign Franklin Street to unlock Gurrova Place.

We want to hear your feedback about the project which will provide more open space for the growing community and improve safety and accessibility for all road users.

The Franklin Street transformation project proposes:

- 1250m<sup>2</sup> of open space for residents, workers and visitors to enjoy.

- Turning four lanes of traffic into two, maintaining access for motorists in both directions.
- Better connections for people moving between the CBD and Queen Victoria Market.
- More trees and plants, providing 40 per cent more coverage and helping create a cooler environment.
- Improved safety for the community with new pedestrian crossings, lighting and reduced traffic flow.
- Stormwater flooding management with draining upgrades and water sensitive urban design solutions.

The transformation of Franklin Street is part of the \$100 million Transport and Amenity Program – a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the State Government.

Community members can have their say on the Franklin Street draft concept design until 23 August at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)



An artist's impression of a revitalised Franklin Street

**NEW FOOD HALL**

Construction of the market's exciting new dining experience is nearing completion.

Set to open later this year, the new Food Hall will offer customers a contemporary place to eat, meet and enjoy the market atmosphere.



**QUEEN STREET PLAZA**

Through the renewal program we created a new pedestrian-friendly plaza in Queen Street, between the toilet block and F to M sheds, with more trees, more shade and more seating for customers to stop and enjoy the unique market atmosphere.

Completed in 2019, together with the visitor hub and additional retail locations in String Bean Alley, the plaza welcomes visitors entering from the south and draw customers into the heart of the market.

**MORE SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS**

Traders and customers told us that making Queen Victoria Market more sustainable is important.

Solar power, stormwater harvesting and an on-site organic waste recycling facility are just a few of the projects proposed for the renewed market precinct.

We've already powered up more than 1,550 solar panels to cut carbon emissions and reduce the market's electricity bill.

At the project's completion, the market will be powered by 3,765m<sup>2</sup> of solar panels.



**HERITAGE SHED RESTORATION**

We're investing \$30 million to restore the market's culturally and historically significant open air sheds, securing them as the unique backdrop of the market experience.

Ten of the 12 sheds have been restored since 2020. This year, the heritage shed restoration program moves to the final stage in Sheds H and I, with works to repair and strengthen structural elements, painting, new insulated roofing to improve the temperature under the sheds, and upgrade of common area services.

**MUNRO DEVELOPMENT**



Right on the doorstep of Queen Victoria Market, at the corner of Queen and Therry streets, will be the city's largest new library and community hub.

Works to fit out the new space have begun and are due to be completed later this year.

The development will include a library and community hub, family services, 2500 m<sup>2</sup> of new open space and laneways, new hospitality and retail stores.

Affordable housing apartments and 500 underground car parks for market customers opened in December 2021 and boutique hotel and apartments for long-term rental were completed in November 2022.

**SAFETY AND SEATING PART OF STREETScape WORKS**

As the Munro development nears completion, the final stage of works involves upgrading the streetscape, including the roadway, in front of the development along Therry Street and Queen Street.

As a key gateway into the market, the upgrade of the streetscape will greatly improve safety, create a more welcoming and pedestrian-friendly street with wider footpaths, more greenery, lighting, shade and seating for customers to stop and enjoy the market atmosphere.

**IMPROVING MARKET FACILITIES**

Planning and heritage permits have been approved for two new purpose-built facilities in Queen Victoria Market.

Construction of the Trader Shed and Northern Shed are set to begin later year and will deliver essential services for traders and upgraded facilities for all market workers, shoppers and visitors.

**STRING BEAN ALLEY**

Twenty-six independent traders in bespoke shipping containers now call String Bean Alley home and provide a uniquely Melbourne shopping experience in the heart of the market.

String Bean Alley and the new pedestrian plaza on Queen Street are part of a series of key market improvements identified in the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Master Plan. These projects directly address feedback from customers and traders and as well as recommendations from the People's Panel.





## CBD author releases new novel: “nothing feels better than just being engaged with the story”

*CBD author Laura Elizabeth Woollett is baring it all in her latest novel West Girls as she confronts themes she has grappled with for a long time, and uses real-life inspiration to explore them.*

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

To be published on August 1, *West Girls* follows on from the success Ms Woollett had with her previous short story collection, *The Love of a Bad Man*, and two novels, *Beautiful Revolutionary* and *The Newcomer*.

This latest novel demonstrates what Ms Woollett does best as she combines a collection of short stories and weaves them together with

both subtle and obvious connections.

“During the pandemic I was trying to start a new novel but it wasn’t happening, so I thought I would just write some more short stories as procrastination,” Ms Woollett told *CBD News*.

“I went back and started to think about this child character [Luna Lewis], and how she could grow up to be the same woman in [other] isolated short stories.”

“I also thought about ways of connecting those stories, and other characters I could bring into this world.”

Ms Woollett has put a lot of time and effort into *West Girls*, with its origins dating back to 2017 when she did an Asialink writing residency in Jakarta. She also continued to work on the novel during her time as the City of Melbourne’s 2020 Boyd Garret writer-in-residence.

It’s a work she is “very excited” and “proud” to share with readers.

The main character of *West Girls* is Luna Lewis, a young girl who reinvents herself to

escape her isolated city and chase a career in modelling, although it only leaves her grappling with what she has sacrificed and the type of person she has become.

While the various stories and characters’ journeys are works of fiction, Ms Woollett confirmed that she used “seeds of inspiration from my own life and [made] them more interesting by developing them into characters that go to more extreme places”.

As well as playing with hypotheticals, Ms Woollett draws on themes that are important in a lot of her previous works.

*West Girls* not only focuses on internalised misogyny and the inventive ways in which women love and hurt one another, but also class and race.

“I have written on class and race before, but people haven’t really latched on to them in my work because misogyny has overshadowed it, so I wanted to put it front and centre,” she said.

“I also wanted to write a bit more about

work, capitalism and ambition, and how that plays into exploitation of the self and others; all things that have been interesting to me for a long time, but I hadn’t written about as much in the past.”

When not busy telling stories, Ms Woollett can be found working as a bookseller at CBD bookshop Hill of Content, at 86 Bourke St.

But it’s her passion for storytelling that continues to see her flourish in the industry.

“Nothing feels better than being engaged with the story and working on it, and not necessarily knowing where it is going,” she said. “Just being in that moment and writing stories you love and are interested in is something to hold on to and enjoy at any stage of your career.”

*West Girls* is published through Scribe Publications as part of a two-book-deal, with Ms Woollett once again set to take a risk with her next book.

For more information:

[lauraelizabethwoollett.com](http://lauraelizabethwoollett.com) ●



## Violin virtuoso and piano prodigy join forces at Melbourne Recital Centre

*Feted for his effortless renditions of the otherwise impossible – from Paganini and Locatelli to Brett Dean – Ilya Gringolts’ performances and recordings have established him as one of the quintessential violin virtuosos of our time.*

He has performed as soloist with the world’s leading orchestras, including a recent collaboration with the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

As part of Melbourne Recital Centre’s newly established *International Classics* series, formerly *Great Performers*, Gringolts joins pianist Aura Go for the first time since collaborating at the 2016 Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival in Finland.

Their shared passion for contemporary music unites them here in the Australian premiere of modern master Wolfgang Rihm’s *Phantom und Eskapade*, dedicated to Anne-Sophie Mutter.

Rihm’s invocation of the fantastical alludes to the Schumann sonata and its preoccupations with imagination and myth. The Mozart sonata will unveil the crystalline sounds of Gringolts’ Stradivarius violin.

Australian music, arts and culture magazine, *Limelight*, said, “it’s difficult to imagine a more complete violinist than Ilya Gringolts,” while major German newspaper, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, lauded the virtuoso by exclaiming, “one can hardly play the violin more expressively and uncompromisingly than Gringolts”.

Intimate, moving and awe-inspiring, the *International Classics* concert experience offers audiences the opportunity to witness the compelling virtuosity of artists from across



the globe as they perform a curated program of music in an award-winning venue specially designed for classical music to soar.

“In this series we showcase an outstanding lineup of musicians from around the world, who make the most intimate recital into epic memories,” director of programming Marshall McGuire said.

“These are artists at the top of their game, delighting and inspiring audiences in great venues of the world. There’s no magic at work here – it’s simply incredible artists having a conversation with an audience, in Australia’s best recital venue.” ●

For more information:  
[melbournerecital.com.au](http://melbournerecital.com.au)

## 2:22 - A Ghost Story: A real theatrical event “unlike any production in the world”

*Supernatural thriller 2:22 - A Ghost Story is making its way to Melbourne’s Her Majesty’s Theatre after creating much buzz on London’s West End and in Los Angeles.*

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Helping bring British writer Danny Robins’ critically acclaimed, award-winning production to life from July 25 are esteemed performers Gemma Ward, Remy Hii, Daniel MacPherson, and Ruby Rose.

“We are thrilled with the stellar cast that has been assembled for *2:22 - A Ghost Story* and delighted to provide Australian audiences an opportunity to see this group of iconic Australian performers up close and personal on-stage,” Torben Brookman from Runway Entertainment said on behalf of the producers.

“*2:22 - A Ghost Story* is a thrilling night out that is laugh-out-loud funny and nail-biting in equal doses. It’s been a hit with audiences in London and LA, so we’re pleased to be bringing it to Melbourne.”

During the course of one evening, audiences will be transported into the lives of husband-and-wife Jenny and Sam, played by Gemma and Remy, as they come together for a dinner party with their friends Ben and Lauren, played by Ruby and Daniel.

During the seemingly normal night, the mood soon changes when Jenny’s belief of a ghost being within the house leads the characters to question their relationships and beliefs, leading to boundaries being pushed and secrets spilled.

As a way to resolve the suspicions the group decides to stay up until 2:22am – the time at which Jenny had constantly been hearing the sounds.



Gemma and Remy told *CBD News* that they were both “delighted” to act within a genre that hadn’t been previously well covered in theatre.

“It has certainly created a really big buzz overseas, and so when I came across it, I was not only thrilled to get involved in a genre like this – thriller bordering on horror – but I was so taken aback by how much humour there is in the script and how engaging the conversations are,” Remy said.

“I think this is going to be a real theatrical event for Melbourne and it’s going to be unlike almost anything in Australia right now, so definitely get your tickets.”

Reiterating the cleverness of the writing, Gemma added it was the ending that “was the cincher for me”.

For the Australian premiere of the cult global phenomenon, *2:22 - A Ghost Story* will be set in Melbourne and directed by Matthew Dunster.

The spooky and adrenaline-filled production will also only be showing at Her Majesty’s Theatre for a strictly limited season, opening on July 25 before wrapping up on August 20. ●



# CBD Local

## Bobby Bajram: More than a mountaineer

*Aiming higher than most, 56-year-old Bobby Bajram has set himself the ultimate challenge of conquering the 8840-metre summit of Mount Everest; a lifelong aspiration that not even his multiple sclerosis (MS) can get in the way of.*

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Maria Vasileva*

Despite doctors advising that the climb would be a “likely fatal outcome” for Bobby, he is determined to prove that, disability or not, nothing can stand in the way of achieving your dreams.

“I’m doing this to say to everyone with a disability or anyone that’s just having a bad day, you’ve just got to try your best and have a crack,” Bobby said.

At just 13 years old, Bobby was the youngest Australian to be diagnosed with MS. His condition finds him in 24/7 pain as well as legally blind and he can spend months at a time confined to a wheelchair.

In a situation that would warrant a glass-half-empty approach, Bobby embraced the reality of living with MS and promised himself that one day he would walk to the top of the world - a dream that will make history as the first Australian with a severe disability to do so.

“I can die very quickly, but this keeps me alive,” he said. “My motivation is that if I don’t do this, I’m dead - my life is literally on the line.”

Having already summited three of the world’s highest peaks, including Mount Kala Patthar, Mera Peak and Mount East Lobuche, Bobby has his sights set on a March 2025 Everest climb.

Due to his condition, he requires a specialised



support team of medical practitioners and mountaineers to accompany him, which he is raising money for through a GoFundMe campaign.

A testament to his unwavering positivity, Bobby is confident of an Everest success despite the difficulties that lie ahead.

“I know I’ll make it,” he told *CBD News*.

“If I get sick, the whole expedition stops for four to five days until I can recover at Base Camp, then back up we go.”

In preparation for the climb, Bobby follows a strict gym routine with help from his friends at True Fitness. He has also been training with Aligned Leisure in the pool with the hopes of competing in the 100-metre freestyle at the 2026 Para Commonwealth Games, prior to the Victorian government’s recent withdrawal.

Bobby’s infectious energy and passion for “just giving it a go” proves that the sky’s the limit when it comes to what he can achieve.

“You can do anything you put your mind to, if you want to do it,” Bobby said.

“When it comes to disability, we’re just one group of people wanting to have a fair go.”

The City of Melbourne has been one of Bobby’s biggest supporters, with Lord Mayor Sally Capp passing on a council flag for him to carry up the mountain alongside the Australian flag.

Rather than funding the expedition through sponsors, Bobby hopes that his journey to the top of the world can be an example of “the community banding together” to show its support for people with disabilities.

“The point of me going is to represent everybody,” he said.

“When I put those flags on the summit of Mount Everest, all of Australia will have helped me get there.” ●

### To donate:

[gofundme.com/f/bobby-for-everest](https://gofundme.com/f/bobby-for-everest)

## Police pounce on stolen van, shocking retailers

*Retail workers in Little Collins St have been left stunned after recounting the dramatic moment police swooped on an allegedly stolen van, dousing those inside with capsicum spray.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees & Rhonda Dredge*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

Workers watched as police converged on a black Mercedes Sprinter parked outside The Georges apartment building in Collins St on Wednesday, July 12.

“A guy was in the driver’s seat. They sprayed him through the window,” one witness, Linnea Lindquist, said.

By the time TV news crews arrived three people had been handcuffed and were sitting on the footpath without shoes.

A woman with a blonde ponytail was particularly poignant with her head bowed down low and her handcuffed arms in full view.

Laura Garvie watched the drama unfold from the door of fashion boutique Lindsay Nichol New York just a few shops up from The Georges.



“It was about 12.45 pm. I was sitting at the desk in a bubble when all of a sudden there was a massive commotion on the street,” she said.

“I ran out and they [police] pulled people out of a van, pepper spraying them and pushing them on the ground.”

She said the roads had been blocked off and that the police had been reportedly tracking the van on City Link cameras.

“They had 30 cops out there. The fact that they [the van] came into the city was silly.”

Baristas at the coffee shop across the road from The Georges had the best view of the operation and a slightly different take.

Ms Lindquist was making coffee. She said the van was parked when the police arrived. “It was parked for ages,” she said. “The cops were ready to pounce.”

“It was shocking. A bit entertaining. We had

the door closed. We were watching. They pulled a dog out of the van, a pit ball.”

She said the young woman was in the back seat of the van and stepped out. The police put her in cuffs but did not pepper spray her.

The suspects were detained on the footpath for about 90 minutes, according to onlookers, while police waited for ambulances.

Victoria Police confirmed three men and a woman were arrested. A 31-year-old man was charged and bailed on drug possession, while a 36-year-old man was charged and bailed on drug possession, possession of a weapon, and committing offences while on bail.

Both will appear at the Melbourne Magistrates Court on August 11.

A 22-year-old woman has been released pending further enquiries.

The fourth offender, a 51-year-old man from Western Australia, was, at the time of publication, in hospital under police guard.

Merri-bek Crime Investigation Unit detectives made the arrests following an aggravated burglary and theft of the Mercedes van.

“The offenders allegedly forced entry to a home on Station Rd in Glenroy in the early hours of Tuesday July 11 stealing keys and fleeing the scene in the stolen van,” a police spokesperson said.

“Efforts by police to track the vehicle with assistance of the owner, along with coverage in the media and the safe city camera operators, aided in the location of the offenders and van.” ●



## Late library book returns 68 years later

COMMUNITY

A library book borrowed in 1955 has finally made its way back to the State Library of Victoria, in what senior librarian Tom Vasey described as a “big surprise”.

The book, *A History of Malvern*, was a staggering 24,853 days overdue when Graeme Coulson made the unexpected return on June 8.

Mr Coulson found the book while clearing out his late mother’s home in Echuca.

“I’ve only been at the library for a few years, but I’d never heard of this happening before so I wasn’t sure what to do,” Mr Vasey said.

“When Graeme came up to the ‘ask a librarian desk’ saying he had a book to return, I was ready to explain that we are a research and reference library and why you can’t take books out of the building.” ●



## PAPER REPUBLIC

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# QVM Trader Profile

## Keeping customers' style on point for 14 years

“*Iris Zhang has been an integral part of Queen Victoria Market for many years, and it was the reason why, when she decided to open her own fashion store, there was no other location more suited to her dream.*”



WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

After starting out part-time at another stall, while studying both accounting and marketing at RMIT University, Iris celebrated the completion of her studies by opening two stalls in the market.

In 2008 she opened *Iris Bamboo Crafts*, closely followed by her fashion accessories business

*IC Fashion* in 2009, which she runs with her husband Chris Zhu.

To this day, both businesses still exist but under the one stall, and Iris couldn't be prouder of the space she has created for customers.

“At our store, we take immense pride in creating a cheerful and welcoming atmosphere for all our valued customers,” Iris said.

“Our top priority is to ensure that our customers have a fantastic shopping experience with us.”

Within the stall visitors can find everything from unique collapsible baskets in shapes of apples, rabbits, and frogs to hats, scarves, gloves, and eyewear.

As a fashion-enthusiast, Iris likes to ensure that what she sells is suited to all customers, and that the accessories are available in a variety of materials.

Everything from wool to felt, cotton, cashmere, leather, acrylic are on offer, in both thermal and fashion styles.

“We see these accessories as making a point of difference to your wardrobe, and to your personal style, and there are many styles and colours to choose from,” Iris said.

“We source our products from Australia and overseas, and our main supplier is Melbourne-based, with many of our products also seen in Australian fashion houses.”



To help make the shopping experience more personalised Iris offers engravings on the baskets and makes sure that enough staff are always on hand to guide shoppers towards an accessory that is right for them.

“Our friendly and dedicated team is always at hand to assist our customers in finding the perfect hat size that fits comfortably or helping them discover the ideal hat style that best suits their individual taste and personality,” she said.

“Whether you're looking for something classic and timeless or trendy and modern, we'll make sure you leave with a smile, sporting a hat that truly reflects your unique style.” ●

**For more information:**  
[icfashionaccessories.com](http://icfashionaccessories.com)

SENATOR LINDA WHITE

## One year in parliament

*I firmly believe you are never too old to learn new things.*

WORDS BY *Senator Linda White*  
SENATOR.WHITE@APH.GOV.AU

I have tried to stick to this philosophy my whole life, both during my first year in parliament and before, taking every opportunity I can to learn more about our country and how we can improve it.

Given the Albanese Government's first year has been focused on delivering a better future for Australians with policies like cheaper child-care, energy bill relief and making medicines cheaper, so far, I have found this outlook to be helpful in my role.



Restoring integrity to politics was a key election commitment of the Albanese Government. I was privileged to lead the parliamentary committee into the new National-Anti Corruption

Commission (NACC), playing my role in bringing all sides of the parliament together to agree to establish a powerful, independent integrity commission for Australia. The new NACC started work on July 1.

As the government's representative on the Council of the National Library of Australia, I was lucky enough to take part in establishing Australia's first National Cultural Policy in a decade, including securing ongoing funding for Trove. This is because promoting Australian art and culture is something the Albanese Government takes seriously.

I was also proud to be part of the parliamentary inquiry into the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum. I learned that the Voice is a modest and practical way to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians, and the referendum later this year to change the Constitution to enshrine a Voice is an opportunity we should grab with both hands.

The Senate isn't all about Parliament House. Recently, I have been travelling Australia inquiring into regional banking services, hearing stories of banks abandoning our regional communities through branch closures.

In the last year I have also crisscrossed Victoria – from Wodonga and Kilsyth to Catani and Tatura – visiting schools, factories, farms, and festivals, meeting the people who make up our great state and listening to what is important to them.

I love that every day in this job is different. Each day I learn new things and meet new people and get to contribute to making Australia a better place. It is truly a privilege to be your representative in the Australian Senate.

If you want to learn more about my role and how parliament works my office is happy to provide a free information booklet on government, the Senate and democracy in Australia. Just give us a call on 03 9639 2798. ●



### C9 Chocolate & Gelato

C9 Chocolate & Gelato offers premium quality house-made gelato, desserts, and treats for every chocolate lover.

If you're craving something sweet, give C9 dessert bar a try and experience our irresistible desserts for yourself!

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LAW

## Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

*This song from the hippie '60s by Pete Seger reminds me of the present: where have all the workers gone?*

WORDS BY Peter Nevile  
NEVILE.COM.AU

Every industry seems to be suffering a shortage of workers. Perhaps they became too used to the largess handed out during COVID. Yet it is perplexing to note that we are experiencing record low unemployment. So, what's happening?

Are there simply more jobs, or are they using statistics? I am still finding restaurants so desperate for staff they need to limit their opening hours. There is a shortage of truck drivers, nurses, teachers, and I can go on.

You would think that having low unemployment would be extremely good for the economy, although I understand that the present Reserve Bank governor appears to disagree and thinks we would somehow be better off with a higher unemployment rate.

I accept that many of the people falling within the "unemployed" are probably not people you would choose to have as employees. A significant proportion of the population has no desire to do the menial jobs anymore. I think the changing face and races of our taxi drivers are a fair indication. We are, of course, not alone in this. You only need to go to most restaurants or hotels in the UK, France, and other European cities to find them staffed with either Eastern Europeans or people from the African continent.

It follows that we need to increase our migration. Australia has benefited greatly from migration, adding to our diversity, skills, culture, and, thank God, food. My mother's cooking, while best intentioned, was appalling.

The situation is somewhat curious in that there would seem to be an undisputed need for migration, although, of course, many of our unions would claim otherwise, suggesting that jobs should be primarily for Australians (whoever they may be). The question is, where are they?

We've recently had changes to our immigration system however, fundamentally we need talent, skills, capital investment, and business acumen ... if you take a cursory glance at the different categories of migration, it's basically a minefield. It's time for simplification. In addition, it is time to overhaul our visa system.

Another rather inconsistent policy, is the apparent determination of government to make investing in property in Australia as difficult as possible to a point where it becomes no longer economically viable for foreigners. There is an impost of an additional eight per cent of stamp duty, and now there is also an additional 4.3 per cent annual land tax to be paid on the value of all land exceeding \$50,000.

To me, the issue comes down to this. In the past we have seen foreign investment assist in the construction of many blocks of apartments. In due course, we've seen those investors eventually withdraw as their children leave or their circumstances change, and it becomes available for Australian housing stock. Now, it seems that while the government is telling us on one hand there is an extreme shortage of housing, on the other they are also providing a disincentive to foreigners to assist in building new housing stock. ●

## Help vulnerable people this winter and "give a sock"

*Sock retailer Underworks has come together with a number of charity partners to support vulnerable people this winter by donating 20,000 pairs of socks.*

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker  
COMMUNITY

The importance arises as households feel the financial stress of the nation's cost-of-living crisis, with Thread Together confirming that more than 3.5 million people do not have access to essential clothing.

To help support those in need, Underworks has been focusing on paying it forward throughout July, asking people to share a simple message via Instagram to bring attention to the cause.

"The *I Give A Sock* campaign allows people to play a meaningful part in helping vulnerable Australians stay warm this winter," Underworks CEO Sam Tadaro said.

"All you have to do is share an Underworks post on your Instagram feed or story, tag a friend, use #IGiveASock and tag @underworksaustralia. We'll then make a donation."

The annual campaign runs every year and sees donations of socks and other essential clothing items, such as underwear and thermal under layers, be donated and distributed through charity partners.

"We know from our charity partners that socks can be lifesaving items," Mr Tadaro said.

"Most people don't donate their old socks to charity, which is why there is a huge shortage. Basics like socks and underwear are things most of us take for granted and we want to change that. We are committed to paying it forward and encourage everyone to jump on board *I Give A Sock* and make a difference with us."



This year, Underworks is partnering with The Salvation Army, Foodbank Victoria, Lighthouse Foundation, and Thread Together.

The support for the cause is "heartily endorse[d]" by Commanding Officer of The Salvation Army, Brendan Nottle who reiterated, "for the people that we see every day who are sleeping on the streets, a pair of Underworks socks can actually be a lifesaving item".

"Clean, dry and comfortable socks can prevent serious health issues from occurring, which potentially may lead to someone's death," Major Nottle said.

"Not only are Underworks socks dry, clean and brand-new, but they are extremely comfortable, and they have become a hot item amongst the many people we see sleeping rough in our city and beyond." ●

**For more information:**  
[underworks.com.au/i-give-a-sock](https://underworks.com.au/i-give-a-sock)

STREET ART

## Big blue artwork

*July saw the completion of a major artwork The Blue Room by artist and provocateur Adrian Doyle.*

WORDS BY Piya Suksodai

Hidden in one of Melbourne's most prestigious institutions, Doyle has painted a 220-seat lecture theatre in his famous signature blue, "Empty Nursery Blue".

In 2012 Doyle hit international fame when he painted Rutledge Lane in its entirety turning it into a giant empty swimming pool.

Symbolically, Doyle has once again created an empty swimming pool, taking nearly 10 days to complete the installation, using 180 litres of paint. The artwork was only available to those invited.

The installation was very immersive, manipulating and changing the audience's experience, creating a distorted reality that visually played with audience, creating the feeling of being in an empty swimming pool.

The artwork lasted for just a short time as the ephemeral nature of these projects seem to be something that Doyle likes to celebrate.

The artwork was a moving and interesting experience, one that I am glad that I was able to see, as now the artwork only exists through documentation.



Doyle said this artwork would be part of a bigger piece for his solo exhibition which will be held at Hyphen Gallery and Museum in Wodonga in November. ●

# SAVE THE NICHOLAS BUILDING

Melbourne's iconic Nicholas Building is at risk of being turned into luxury apartments, a hotel, or a soulless commercial space, pushing out the hundreds of creatives who work there.

Join the campaign to save the Nicholas Building: Sign the open letter at [SaveTheNicholasBuilding.com](https://SaveTheNicholasBuilding.com) or scan this QR code.



**ELLEN SANDELL**  
GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

(03) 9328 4637  
office@ellensandell.com  
146 Peel Street  
North Melbourne VIC 3051



**THE GREENS**



HISTORY

Hold the front page! Melbourne's first printing office

*This image of a derelict building in a laneway off Market St was the scene of great activity in the early years of the colony...*

WORDS BY Dr Cheryl Griffin  
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA



It's where an antiquated printing press churned out the pages of Melbourne's earliest newspaper, *The Melbourne Advertiser*, dubbed by Garryowen (journalist Edmund Finn) "a miserable rag".

The first issue was published on New Year's Day 1838 and in the absence of a printing press it was handwritten by the paper's owner, John Pascoe Fawcner. After 10 editions, a dilapidated hand-operated printing press was put into action, although the newspaper closed soon after because Fawcner did not have a publishing licence. Undeterred, he was back a year later with *The Port Phillip Patriot*.

Fawcner's printing office was tucked away behind Lange and Thoneman's Market St store. This image was taken in 1887, just before Lange and Thoneman, who owned it by then, had it demolished.

They used it as a store for groceries and other goods and we are told that they were "somewhat reluctant" to demolish the building but did so because they wanted to build a larger structure on the site.

So, you see here a building at the end of its life, a decaying remnant of the earliest days of white settlement. Believed to be the oldest building in the city, it was held in place by the brick walls of the merchant's two stores. But those walls were crumbling, and sections had been rebuilt because of the level of decay.

With its shingled roof and earthen floor, it was a far cry from the magnificent edifices of "Marvellous Melbourne".

The photograph was provided to the *Australasian Sketcher*, which published it in July 1887, by Charles Atkin of Hotham (now North Melbourne), whose son, a member of the Amateur Photographic Association, was the photographer.

It seems that Atkin also gave a copy to Lange and Thoneman and from there it made its way to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's (RHSV) collection courtesy of Lange's daughter Mrs Marie Bage, a foundation member of the Society.

If you thought you recognised this image, then it's possible you saw it on the front cover of *Bearbrass*, Robyn Annear's wonderfully evocative imagining of early Melbourne. If you haven't already done so, it is well worth reading.

You will be absorbed into the life of Melbourne when it was just a village, before the explosive growth of the goldrush era and long before "Marvellous Melbourne" swept through the CBD in all its magnificence.

And if you're interested in finding out more about this period of Melbourne's history, please visit RHSV's current exhibition *Garryowen's Melbourne*, curated by Dr Liz Rushen AM. It's at the Drill Hall, 239 A'Beckett St (opposite Flagstaff Gardens) and runs until March 2024. ●

METRO TUNNEL

Metro Tunnel brings tantalising trail of First Nations artworks to CBD

*As the city shivers through a classic Melbourne winter, the Metro Tunnel's Creative Program is offering the perfect way to reinvigorate the mind, body, and spirit, with a stroll through Melbourne's CBD.*



Morris said the images reinforced ancestry, sovereignty and the undeniable wisdom and knowledge of millennia.

"This process decentres the focus on the individual subject and reinforces community and cultural connection to Country, to a philosophy that has always been here and will always be here," he said.

Morris is also CEO of The Torch Project, an initiative that supports First Nations people in Victoria whose lives have been impacted by the criminal justice system.

You can see works by artists from The Torch a short stroll away along the Metro Tunnel site fence on Franklin St. The expressive paintings explore cultural narratives, totem animals and a deep connection to Country. The Metro Tunnel Creative Program is designed to maintain Melbourne's vibrancy, liveability, and public spaces during construction of the project.

Creative Program Manager Sarah Robins said having a range of artists involved in the program challenged ideas of what First Nations artwork could be.

"We are thrilled to create opportunities for First Nations artists to exhibit in the heart of the city and for everyday commuters and visitors to Melbourne to see artwork by emerging and established artists," Ms Robins said.

Find out more at [metrotunnel.vic.gov.au](http://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au) ●

A trail of First Nations artworks along the project's site fences is an ideal route for winter walkers, as well as an opportunity to feel connected to Country.

Start your walk in Scott Alley off Flinders Lane to view an emotive piece by First Nations artist Emmy Webbers – *Power of Community*.

Webbers, who was born and raised within the Kulin Nations of Victoria, said the work was inspired by the 2022 NAIDOC theme "Get up, Stand up, Show up".

"As a community we have always been good at getting behind each other and these moments fill me with strong emotions; I feel pride and strength and support in these moments," they said.

Webbers' work won the Metro Tunnel Creative Program 2D Award in the 2022 Koorie Art Show, presented by the Koorie Heritage Trust.

Next head to Swanston St to take in Barkindji man Kent Morris' mesmerising mural along the City Square site fence.

The mural, *Sovereign Seconds*, is a series of photographic images that have been transformed into a kaleidoscopic network of patterns reflecting First Nations cultural knowledge systems.

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# Greening Guildford Lane

*Guildford Lane must be one of the most photographed lanes in the CBD these days. Being photogenic was not the aim. But for a core group of residents, creating a green haven was the necessary response to the towers engulfing us.*



WORDS BY *Katherine McPherson*  
THE GUILFORD GARDENER

Since the laneway greening began in 2015 (prior to the launch of the City of Melbourne's pilot program) the nearly forgotten industrial lane has come to life. The lane is now described by some as "quintessentially Melbourne".

And yet two decades ago, when I moved into Guildford Lane, the buildings were quite raw, almost unloved. Scattered between residences were motorcycle workshops, art studios and galleries, warehouses, and a substation. It felt deserted much of the time.

Offices and cafés have replaced workshops and alternative galleries. Established and emerging businesses are integrated with family homes in the lane.

Greening Guildford Lane has been transformational with mutually beneficial outcomes. The lane is now a destination for local, interstate, and international tourists. First-time visitors of all ages express surprise and delight; pausing, pointing, posing, talking, and laughing. Many walkers divert through the lane as they transverse this corner of the CBD.

Now the aim is also more smiles, less graffiti and rubbish. Journalists, researchers, garden enthusiasts and council representatives have

snapped, written, and tried to measure the outcome. Greener? Cooler? More prosperous?

But how do you value the development of a community, woven together over time like the thickening vines of jasmine that climb over three stories and grace multiple brick facades?

Quite a few people have contributed during the past seven years but remain relatively unknown. Without the council's pilot project, Guildford Lane would not be as green and desirable.

The project provided the necessary structure, focus and seed funding. But without the ongoing creative efforts of the community gardeners, early sponsors, and continued donations,

the lane would not be the place of pride and joy now worthy of celebrating and replicating.

This space, an emerging fragment of valuable social infrastructure, is still work in progress.

This lane is in my pores. There is a deep sense of belonging. The random juxtaposition of plant varieties that has evolved over time, have been nurtured and curated.

The integration of Australian natives as part of the council's Gardens for Wildlife program continues to be a worthy experiment. Many lessons have been learned about the nature of plants and people, about individual and community resilience. Many inspirational stories have been told.

The message depends on the storyteller, the audience, and the motivation. Knowing the lane inspires others makes maintaining the community garden easier and more joyful. For me, the best story is the one still emerging.

This is not just about the plants, but the people and the opportunity for sowing seeds of kindness and weaving the community together. Melbourne's city is in transition, change is inevitable. Encouraging and protecting green laneways is important work.

We must discover what else can be achieved. What is our dream? What is our legacy? ●

STATE MP (UPPER HOUSE)

# Parking woes

*The latest solution in search of a problem from the City of Melbourne quietly kicked off in July, with a new Sunday and late-night parking ticket regime for Melbourne's CBD.*

WORDS BY *Evan Mulholland*  
LIBERAL MEMBER FOR NORTHERN METROPOLITAN

If you haven't heard of it, you're not alone. Lord Mayor Sally Capp has been remarkably mute on spruiking her own policy to date.

I figured since she appeared to be media shy, I should share an overview of what's being rolled out.

Starting out in the south-east corner of the Hoddle Grid this month, before expanding across the whole of the CBD and sections of Southbank, all parking will be metered in Melbourne's CBD from 7am until 10pm, seven days a week. For the first time, parking will now be charged on Sundays. Whether you've parked with the sun or the stars in the sky, chances are

the meter will be running.

The council says it's all in the name of "clarity". But I'm not convinced there's much clarity coming from the Lord Mayor as to why we need to charge visitors to the CBD to park on near-empty streets at 9pm on a Sunday?

Find me a business that agrees with this plan, and I'll tip that West Coast brings home the Premiership flag.

Melbourne's CBD is the heart of Victoria's public transport system, home to five metro train stations, and the largest tram network in the world. But the council needs to accept, as has every other major city around the world, that cars are a necessary part of cities.

The continual ideological obsession by the City of Melbourne to demonise the use of cars, without a serious alternative, points to uncomfortable motivations. We need to call this policy out for what it is – a cash grab.

The council boasts that 95 per cent of public car spaces in the CBD are off-street, including many operated by the council themselves. If they were serious about reducing on-street parking in the CBD, why is the City of Melbourne charging \$12/hr in its own off-street car parks, like Council House on Collins St, whether it be 9am on a Monday or 9pm on a Sunday?

Perhaps there would be an argument for the Lord Mayor to squeeze some extra dollars out of visitors to the city if there was clear plan to ensure those funds were being returned to residents and businesses by improved services and amenities that make life here more liveable, and a friendlier place to do business.

Sadly, there's not much evidence of this. The City of Melbourne's priorities appear elsewhere. As revealed by this newspaper's sister publication last month, the council appears to be one of the only government authorities in the country refusing to drop new contracts with the beleaguered PwC. In the year to May, the City of Melbourne has shelled out \$369,000 to PwC.

Why are we using ratepayer funds to sure-up the troubled balance sheet of a company accused of serious misuse of confidential government information and subject to a police investigation?

PwC has been banned by Federal Treasury, the Reserve Bank and a number of other federal government departments. Daniel Andrews and Sally Capp remain the odd ones out dishing out contracts. How does that assist CBD residents and businesses, who are being slugged with new parking fees in a cost-of-living crisis?



When the City of Melbourne is running a deficit of \$17 million a year and has pushed back its projected return to surplus by another two years, the last thing we should be doing is enacting policies that turn business and visitors away. It's time for the council to admit this embattled plan is a failure and go back to the drawing board on what really is in the interests of residents and businesses.

*Evan Mulholland is the Liberal Member for Northern Metropolitan Region and Shadow Cabinet Secretary. ●*

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Authorised by Evan Mulholland MP Member for Northern Metropolitan Region, Unit 10, 2 Graystone Court Epping Vic 3076, Funded from Parliamentary Budget.



# Renaissance of reason

*The We Live Here Forum on housing affordability and short-term rentals showed that there are solutions to the crisis, and that people with different perspectives can work together to achieve results.*

Solicitor Tom Bacon from Strata Title Lawyers moderated a lively community discussion with MPs Ellen Sandell (Melbourne), and Gabrielle De Vietri (Richmond), and Deputy Mayor of the City of Yarra Edward Crossland, and resident activists from St Kilda and the Yarra Valley. Backed by publicly available data, the nexus between short-stays and the housing crisis was proven.

MLCs Sheena Watt and Evan Mullholland were unable to attend, as were all Melbourne City Councillors. We Live Here has accepted an invitation to meet with Evan Mulholland, and we will resume our regular meetings with the Consumer Affairs office, now part of the Government Services cluster.

The panellists put forward constructive action plans, and with the current complexion of the state parliament upper house, we feel the future is positive.

Our Yarra Valley resident activist also showed how statistical information can be used to support genuine solutions to the housing crisis.

Our resident activist from St Kilda reported on milestone achievements this year: the Municipal Association of Victoria adopted a policy of regulating short stays, and the association will advocate the government for uniform change across the state. At least four councils



have already introduced self-funding registration schemes.

The resident's analysis also showed that of 50 "short-stay" cases brought before VCAT by aggrieved residents, none had orders issued against the short-stay operator.

Tom Bacon offered explanations: either the short-stay legislation was incompetently drafted, or it was designed to fail.

Let's fix this, and fast. Registration of short-term rentals can deliver immediate results. If your MP is unaware of the issue, please write to

them. Write to your city councillors too.

### Cladding chaos continues – for some

Some apartment owners are still in limbo, with flammable cladding deemed not dangerous enough for state government support, and too dangerous for the council, banks and insurers.

Owners in some major buildings are facing financial devastation, unable to sell their apartments because of an outstanding building order to remove flammable cladding and rejection by lenders.

Flammable cladding was installed in thousands of buildings, with governments around the world blithely allowing the practice under the principle of "self-regulation".

The Victorian Government is as guilty as others. This disaster was allowed to occur, and our government assumed limited responsibility. The emergency fund set up under Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) had a headline budget of \$600 million, except the fine print revealed that around half was for government buildings, leaving about \$300 million for private buildings.

With more than 1000 Victorian apartment buildings affected, that was less than \$300,000 each. With costs between \$1 million and \$10 million, and often much more expensive, it was clear that most buildings would miss out. The budget was just too small. The government decided to fund only "high risk" buildings – with the definition of "high risk" being inscrutably secret.

The CSV money pot must be empty by now and we still have buildings suffering in cladding purgatory.

### Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to donate, please visit:

[welivehere.net](http://welivehere.net)



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# CBD安全注射室引发焦虑

市长Sally Capp表示，在中央商务区（CBD）设立安全注射室的“持续揣测”正在造成不好的影响。

David Schout

市长Sally Capp说，维多利亚州政府有关第二个安全注射设施的选址决定持续拖延，正在加剧CBD居民和商家的“焦虑和不安”。

7月份的报告表明，Bourke街上的救世军中心是Andrews政府考虑设立受监督注射室的最新CBD地点。

但州政府对此报告没有评论，其三年前提出的安全注射室决定延误至今，当地居民和商家正在等待州心理健康部长Gabrielle Williams的决定。



自5月下旬以来，Williams女士一直持有前警察局长Ken Lay的报告，其中包括对CBD注射室的主要建议，但在发布时，尚未就该地点做出决定。

市长说她对此一无所知。

她告诉3AW电台的Neil Mitchell，有关

州政府正在考虑在救世军中心设立注射设施的消息，“我根本不知道”。

她说：“我们还没有收到州政府关于该设施计划的任何最新消息。”她补充说，Lay的报告也没有与市政府有关方面分享。

市长表示，市政现在应该已经看到了这

份报告，认为州政府的不作为，正在对现实产生影响。

“这个影响正变得极具破坏性。今天早些时候我已经接到商家的电话。所有的焦虑都来自谣言和谣言工厂，对许多商家来说影响巨大，而且市区商家正在试图从巨大的疫情损失中恢复过来，不需要另一种不确定性和焦虑感。”

市长表示，她将在当天向州政府讨论这个问题，但她的办公室在后来联系本报时，并未透露是否进行了这些会谈。

救世军指挥官Brendan Nottle在一份声明中重申了他对该设施的支持。他说：“在CBD工作了20多年，我亲眼目睹了毒品过量及造成死亡的持续影响。”

“多年来我一直在说，我们需要在CBD建立第二个受监督的注射室，因为这将拯救生命。任何拟议的地点都是维多利亚州政府的事务，得由他们来作决定。”



## 警方突击搜查 一名女子被捕

警方在对南岸(Southbank)住宅的突击搜查行动中，查获了价值75万澳元的现金、毒品和刀剑，九人被指控，其中一名CBD妇女。

Brendan Rees

这名28岁的女子被指控拥有各种毒品。从7月10日至14日的五天里，警方在Albion、Braybrook和Kalkallo的住宅物业进行了突击搜查，五人被捕。

该女子已获保释，将于10月2日在墨尔本地方法院出庭。

7月17日，警方在南岸的两处住宅也执行了搜查行动，一名34岁的男子被捕。

警方称，这名男子是一个贩毒集团的头目，该集团在墨尔本各地贩卖大量甲基苯丙胺(冰毒)和海洛因。

在南岸的一处住宅里，警方查获了价值超过10万澳元的奢侈品包和珠宝，而在另一处住宅里，也查获了一辆2018款保时捷Macan，并在车内发现小型海洛因压缩机。

警方指控南岸男子贩卖大量毒品。他已被还押，将于11月20日在墨尔本地方法院出庭。

这次突击行动是缉毒大队侦探对亚洲有组织犯罪集团涉嫌贩毒进行调查的一部分。

自去年9月开始调查以来，迄今为止共有9人受到指控。



## 女王市场南端新合作开发项目

墨尔本市政宣布与房地产开发商 Lendlease 建立历史性合作伙伴关系，在维多利亚女王市场南端进行耗资17亿澳元的雄心勃勃改造工程。

Brendan Rees

拟议的开发项目是市政将进行的该类型最大的城市更新项目，拟建三座新建筑，其中有出租单元、经济适用房、学生宿舍和办公室，所有这些建筑都将通过修复现有改造后的Franklin街遗产商店与女王市场相连。

此项目将在现有的露天停车场上修建一个占地1.8公顷的公共公园，称为“女王市场广场”，并在开发区域内修建一个有220个停车位的地下停车场，称为“南端场地”，毗邻Franklin街、Queen街、和Peel街。

新的Queen's Corner建筑还将在北部、南部和东部建造一个连接“广场”的社区亭馆，为这些公共空间提供便利设施及广场的活动。

项目施工预计将于2024年初开始，并于2028年竣工，具体取决于规划和遗产审批。

总体而言，该项目预计将产生超过10亿澳元的经济活动，并创造4000多个新就业岗位。



除了这项重大重建项目之外，市议会还宣布提议在Franklin街创建一个线性公园，该公园将从女王市场一直延伸到正在建设中的州立图书馆地铁站，面积相当于三个篮球场。

根据市议会的说法，线性公园将为此区域的重建而重新调整，该区域将称为“Gurrowa Place”。

线性公园的设计方案已经公布，占地1250平方米的公园内将新植40棵树，交通车道由四车道减为两车道。



## “送袜子”慈善活动

袜子零售商Underworks与多家慈善机构合作，今年冬天捐赠了二万双袜子来帮助弱势群体过冬。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

随着澳洲生活成本的提高，家庭面临的财务压力显得尤为突出。Thread Together慈善组织证实，超过350万人无法获得基本衣物。

为了帮助那些有需求的人，Underworks一直致力于在整个7月份进行捐赠，要求人们通过Instagram分享一条简单的信息，以引起人们对这项活动的关注。

Underworks 首席执行官Sam Tadar表示：“I Give A Sock (送袜子)活动让人们能够在帮助澳大利亚弱势群体在这个冬天保暖方面发挥有意义的作用。”

“你所要做的就是你的Instagram动态或故事上分享Underworks帖子、添加一个朋友、使用 #IGiveASock并添加@underworksaustralia，然后我们会做捐款。”

这项年度活动每年都会举办，并通过慈善合作伙伴捐赠、分发袜子和其他基本服装物品，例如内衣和保暖内衣。

Tadar先生说：“我们从慈善合作伙伴那里了解到，袜子可以成为救生用品。”

“大多数人不会将旧袜子捐给慈善机构，这就是袜子严重短缺的原因。我们大多数人认为袜子和内衣等基本用品是本来就应有的东西，我们希望改变这种状况。我们致力于将这项活动进行下去，并鼓励每个人参与‘I Give A Sock’活动，与我们一起努力。”

今年，Underworks与救世军、维多利亚食品银行、灯塔基金会和Thread Together慈善组织合作。

欲了解更多信息：[underworks.com.au/i-give-a-sock](http://underworks.com.au/i-give-a-sock)



# What's on: August 2023



FOURTH FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH,  
10:30AM - 11AM  
**PRESCHOOL STORYTIME**

Share the wonder of books with your preschooler at this storytime with stories, songs, rhymes and activities.

Elizabeth St Pop-up Library

UNTIL OCTOBER 1

**GODDESS: POWER, GLAMOUR, REBELLION**

Iconic stories and characters from over 120 years of moving image are being celebrated. Discover the women who shaped their own roles, took creative control and fought a system that tried to exploit them.

ACMI, Fed Square



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 6:30PM  
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EVERY MONDAY, 10:30AM - 11:15AM

**PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AT CITY LIBRARY**

Share the wonder of books with your children aged three to five years at City Library's Preschool Storytime.

City Library, 253 Flinders Lane



UNTIL AUGUST 20  
**2:22 - A GHOST STORY**

The supernatural thriller 2:22 – A Ghost Story has become London's must-see theatre event, and will have its Australian premiere in Melbourne for a strictly limited four-week season.

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Queen Victoria Market, Shed C-D



UNTIL OCTOBER 8  
**PIERRE BONNARD: DESIGNED BY INDIA MADHAVI**

Melbourne Winter Masterpieces' latest exhibition. The iridescent paintings of Bonnard are presented within immersive scenography by Paris-based designer India Mahdavi.

National Gallery of Victoria



EVERY WEDNESDAY UNTIL AUGUST 20,  
5PM - 10PM

**THE WINTER NIGHT MARKET**

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