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Puzzles & Trivia P21



A slice of heaven on Swanston St
Photo by Hanna Komissarova
The team at MiiLK Cake Studio (from left, Tia Tan, Calista Lee, Richard Tan, and Trini Lee) celebrate the opening of their shop on Swanston St. Full story on page 15.

“Green shoots” in city’s economy: new openings, traders enhance offerings and hotel bookings up

Building permits for retail and hospitality works have doubled during the past year, while hotel bookings are also on the rise, new data shows, indicating a reinvigorated confidence in the city’s economic recovery.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Economic analysis compiled by the City of Melbourne revealed more than 50 businesses applied to upgrade their retail and hospitality offerings in May this year – up almost 90 per cent on the 27 applications at the same time last year, and trending towards pre-pandemic levels.

Hotel bookings were also up 23 per cent on pre-pandemic levels, with more than 18,000 hotel rooms booked in May compared to 15,000 in 2019. However, supply continued to exceed demand.

The council’s data, taken from its “Economy Snapshot”, an activity guide launched earlier this year showing daily spends and average pedestrian activities, also showed foot traffic in the CBD was now busier on Sundays.

Evening and weekend activity had also increased significantly while the weekday-workday level had experienced a downward trend.

Leading consumer spending were the tourism and entertainment sectors, but some areas were slower to recover, such as hairdressers and beauty businesses, which had seen a five per cent drop in spending compared to 2019.

However, overall, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the latest economy analysis had signalled “plenty of cause for optimism” with “green shoots everywhere”.



▲ Siblings Nat and May Pongvattanaporn recently opened Thai restaurant Kan Eang at 306 Flinders Lane.

“The Melbourne economy is going through a period of extraordinary transition as new work and transport patterns result in significant changes in consumer spending patterns,” he said.

“Two years ago, we were the most locked down city in the world, now there are green shoots everywhere with a huge jump in building permits for hospitality and retail businesses with consumer spending particularly strong, despite the downward trend nationally.”

“I’ve never seen so many new restaurants and bars opening; even by Melbourne standards this is out of the box.”

Among those to have recently launched a hospitality business in the CBD is Kan Eang, a Thai restaurant situated at 306 Flinders Lane, that pays homage to family recipes intertwined with contemporary Thai flavours and cooking techniques.

Continued on page 5.

“Not improving at all”: Slowdown continues on accessible tram upgrades

Deferred La Trobe Street works are the latest delay to making tram stops accessible for those with restricted mobility.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

The Victorian Government continues to fall way behind deadlines to install accessible tram stops in the CBD and inner suburbs, according to disability advocates.

The “extraordinary oversight” meant promised improvements will arrive decades late, and result in keeping a marginalised community “invisible”, advocates say.

Most tram trips in Melbourne remain unavailable to those with restricted mobility, with just three in 10 stops in the city deemed “accessible”.

A requirement for public transport in all states and territories to be fully accessible by the end of 2022 has already been missed, and according to a 2020 Auditor General report it could take until 2066 to upgrade the entire Victorian network.

Disability Resources Centre projects manager Ally Scott said the current predicament revealed a devastating truth.

“Most of the community working on this now will not live to see that date,” she told *CBD News*.

Ms Scott said works to improve the tram network had ground to a halt.

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“Make Room” homelessness housing project a step closer despite objections

Plans for 50 studio apartments to house rough sleepers in a six-storey Little Bourke St building are progressing.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A CBD project that plans to house rough sleepers is a step closer, after \$1.1 million works were approved by City of Melbourne councillors despite almost 40 objections.

Partial demolition and building works at 602-606 Little Bourke St were unanimously backed by councillors as part of the “Make Room” project.

The initiative, between the City of Melbourne, Victorian Government, Unison Housing, and corporate and philanthropic sectors, plans to convert the building into secure accommodation for people experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough.

The building, on the CBD’s western fringe, will eventually offer up to 50 studio apartments and wraparound support services for residents who, according to the council, will stay for up to 12 months or until they are connected with long-term housing.

At an August 1 Future Melbourne Committee meeting councillors considered the changes needed to the building required to fit out supported residential accommodation, and whether they were acceptable from a heritage and urban design perspective.

The six-storey rendered brick building, constructed in 1952, was “in need of some much-needed TLC (tender loving care)” according to the council’s director of planning and building Julian Edwards.



A total of 38 people objected to the plans, concluding that the project would not provide a positive impact on the city.

Objectors said the Make Room project would decrease security and personal safety of surrounding residents, while increasing crime rates and litter.

Others said it would negatively impact nearby commercial interests and property prices.

However most of the objections were deemed irrelevant, as they focused on the “use” of the land as a supported residential facility, which did not require planning permission.

“Upon review of the objections received for the application, the majority of the concerns raised are associated with the intended use of the building for the Make Room project, and not in relation to the proposed works or heritage considerations,” an officer’s report said. “These concerns do not fall within the remit of council’s discretion when assessing the application, and therefore, cannot be addressed through this planning application.”

The approved works would see the building

be re-rendered, all external windows replaced, construction of a new pedestrian entrance and the landscaping of the roof to feature a rooftop garden.

It was set to be retrofitted and significantly improved (rather than demolished), something the council has been vocally supporting in recent times, particularly from an environmental perspective.

“We’d much rather see the retrofitting of an existing building rather than building something from scratch,” Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said.

“That helps preserve the fabric of our city – in this case a building that has received significant heritage grading – as well as being a far superior sustainable building outcome.”

The City of Melbourne has said the “landmark” CBD project was crucial for the city.

“People can re-take control of their lives when housing is available,” it said.

“However, without a continued supply of short term housing options in inner Melbourne, people will continue to end up sleeping on our streets.” ●

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CBD's culinary escape hidden at the bottom of a three-level shopping centre

“
Among the hustle and bustle of the city lies a safe haven of community and multicultural cuisine that will transport you back in time.
”

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*
BUSINESS

Situated in the heart of Chinatown, the Paramount Food Court couldn't feel further away from the crowds and energy of the Little Bourke St strip.

Below floors of retail spaces, a maze of twisting staircases and escalators will lead you to a foodie's paradise of tasty and truly authentic Asian cuisine.

The food court has existed as part of the Paramount Retail Centre since July 1997 and is currently home to a range of food vendors, serving up everything from Thai, Korean, Indian and Chinese, to Japanese and Sri Lankan.

Although the chaos of the midweek lunch rush would suggest otherwise, wandering through the space truly feels as if you've uncovered Melbourne's best kept secret.

Ceylon Wok is one of the food court's most popular venues, to which the consistent stream of people queuing at the register will attest.

For just \$12, they offer the most delicious (and filling) plate of traditional Sri Lankan food; the fried rice, eggplant curry and devilled

fish curry combo is a *CBD News* favourite.

However, unbelievably good, and unbelievably cheap food is not just unique to the one restaurant. A great deal can be found at just about any of the vendors within the food court; the only thing you have to worry about is deciding which cuisine you feel like eating.

The whole food court is also fully licensed, with many restaurants serving a variety of alcoholic drinks to enjoy alongside your meal.

Asia Unique is one of them, advertising a beer special that will set you back \$25 for a bucket of six beers that you can choose from their fridge; you might even spot Duncan, the restaurant's infamous regular.

The diverse crowd of families, solo diners, colleagues, and friends all seem to come together with a shared appreciation for the uniqueness of the experience.

Even in the madness, there is a comforting and tranquil quality to the space that perhaps comes along with the feelings of homestyle Asian cooking.

The building itself feels as if it's been untouched since its original construction, much like the prices resembling that of Melbourne life in the '90s.



Patterned tile floors, wooden tables, yellow overhead lighting and marbled orange and green columns covered in mirrors (so many mirrors) all work to preserve the space in time.

There are many food courts across the CBD and many places to enjoy some cheap eats, but nothing feels quite like the atmosphere of the Paramount.

A sense of homeliness and familiarity is what makes the space so special, feelings that you might not otherwise expect to come from somewhere hidden in the centre of a city like Melbourne. ●



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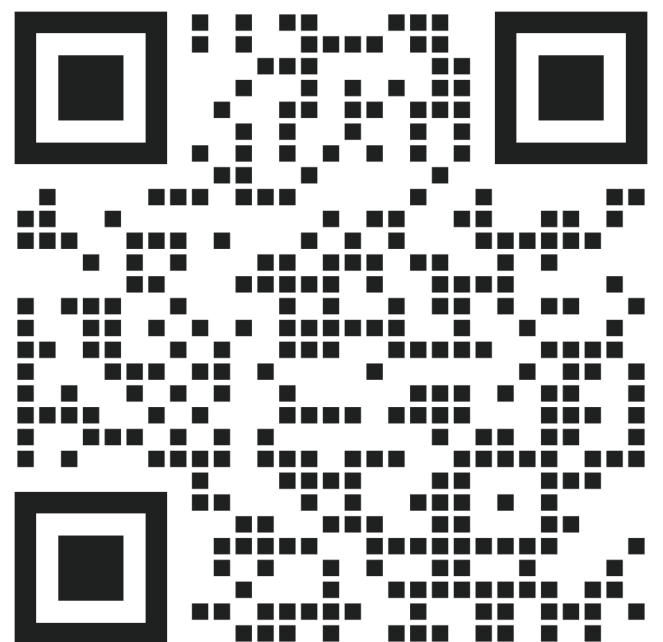
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▲ Thai restaurant Kan Eang at 306 Flinders Lane is one of a number of new businesses to open recently in the CBD.

“Green shoots” in city’s economy: new openings, traders enhance offerings and hotel bookings up

Continued from page 1.

The venue is operated by siblings May and Nat Pongvattanaporn, the children of former owners of Thai Culinary and Raan Kan Eang on Elizabeth St.

“It’s been an absolute pleasure opening Kan Eang alongside my brother and parents. We’re [my brother and I] both very fortunate to be guided and supported by our parents, as well as warmly embraced by Melburnians,” co-owner May Pongvattanaporn said.

“We’re finding we’re starting to establish regulars and in turn are always pleased to be greeted with warm, new faces. With this kind of support, we can only continue to grow!”

Kan Eang offers an array of unsung Thai dishes and showcases a range of family favourites that you’d be pressed to find elsewhere in Melbourne. Find them on Facebook ([facebook.com/raankaneang](https://www.facebook.com/raankaneang)) and Instagram (@[kaneang.melbourne](https://www.instagram.com/kaneang.melbourne)).

Cr Reece said the Economy Snapshot was designed

to give city traders the data and insights they need to take their businesses to the next level, “and it’s proving incredibly successful”.

“Since its [the Snapshot’s] launch, hundreds and hundreds of businesses have accessed the tool – a clear sign our traders are keen to embrace the city’s new rhythm.”

However, while he said it was pleasing to see key economic indicators trending upwards, Cr Reece acknowledged the city’s economy had some “ongoing challenges”, with the council doing everything to help small businesses.

This included initiatives such as Invest Melbourne and the Business Concierge Service, “making it easier to do business by cutting red tape and attracting new investment to boost confidence in our city”.

In other boosts to the economy, night-time events and activations had proven to be a popular drawcard for visitors, with a 24 per cent increase in night-time activity across the city in June with events such as RISING and the Queen Victoria Market Winter Night Market. ●

Council lays down models for more laneway greening in the CBD

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
ENVIRONMENT

Following the success of pilot greening projects in four CBD laneways since 2017, the City of Melbourne has officially endorsed three models, which it says will help see more laneways go green in our city.

At a council meeting on July 25, councillors unanimously endorsed the recommendations in an evaluation of the “Green Your Laneway” program, which has so far included Coromandel Place, Katherine Place, Meyers Place and Guilford Lane in the CBD.

The council report noted the “significant potential” for further laneway greening in the municipality, “with 70 hectares of horizontal minor road space available, and 150 hectares of vertical wall space, which is largely underutilised”.

“The pilot program tested if greening, combined with other place-making measures, could increase amenity, attract visitors and improve health and wellbeing for communities that live, work and play in Melbourne’s iconic laneways,” the report read.

With the evaluation seeking input from directly affected residents, businesses and visitors of each of the four pilot projects, the council has now landed on three models for future greening. They are:

- “Community driven”: greening that supports privately owned greening in permitted public space through the “Greening Melbourne” permit process;
- “Business and community



driven”: greening that co-funds privately owned greening in privately owned space that interfaces with the laneway’s public realm, supported by “tailored grants” through the council’s Urban Forest Fund; and

- “Council driven”: greening that delivers publicly owned greening in public space in accordance with the council’s “strategic and environmental goals”.

Speaking in support of the laneway greening program the council’s environment portfolio chair Cr Rohan Leppert said it was clear from the community’s feedback that the concept was “wildly popular”.

“Now it is five years ago [since the project began] and there has been a little bit of a bump with COVID, but if COVID taught us anything, it’s that people really, really value greening in the public realm,” Cr Leppert said.

“Whether those are parks or whether that’s any other opportunity, it’s fair to say I think that green laneways are a wildly popular concept.”

For more information: participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/green-laneways ●

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CHAMPION CHEESE SHOP NAMED SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

RIPE Cheese, at Queen Victoria Market, is a treasure trove for cheese connoisseurs, offering everything from prosciutto-wrapped treats from Bruny Island to gooey truffle toasties.

Hakim Halim is the “big cheese” behind this award-winning business. But he is quick to deflect all the glory to the cheesemakers themselves.

“I am most passionate about sharing the stories and produce of all the Australian artisanal cheesemakers to everyone,” Hakim said.

“Without them, RIPE will just be like any other generic cheese shop, deli and supermarket. They have done all the hard work in creating the best dairy products, and so credit goes to all our Australian producers.”

Hakim started his life in Melbourne as an international student 13 years ago.

He worked his way through various companies and experienced many hardships, including racial discrimination, before building his successful business.

“I thought being part of the corporate rat race was what I wanted. But once I started building a business with a purpose bigger than myself, everything made sense and I found joy,” Hakim said.

“That joy has pushed and motivated me to overcome any obstacles that we face, and work tirelessly to achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves.

“It’s incredible to be recognised in the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards, and I’m so humbled because I never could have imagined to be in this position when I first got here.”

Over his time in business, Hakim has seen the Australian cheese industry blossom. And he’s right there at the forefront of this growth, showcasing and advocating for local cheesemakers on the world stage.

“We see ourselves as the catalyst that brings Australian produce to the world. Last year, for example, we brought our cheese masterclasses to Singapore – who knows where to next?” Hakim said.

“We want to showcase Australian cheese and its producers through more advocacy, outreach, education and government lobbying. At the same time, creating more opportunities for future cheese experts through mentorship and scholarship programs.”

Hakim’s top tips for doing business in Melbourne

Are you planning to start or grow a business in Melbourne? Hakim has this advice for your onward journey.

“Melbourne has a very competitive business market with lots of different

concepts and brands, and discerning customers,” Hakim said.

“It is of the utmost importance to have a clear and genuine unique selling proposition that can be understood and appreciated for many years to come. Melburnians hate gimmicks!”

About the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards

Independent small businesses, and the dedicated Melburnians who run them, are the soul of our city.

Each year we say thank you to those making a significant contribution to the city’s culture, prosperity and liveability through the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards.

Alongside the overall winner, we also recognise Melbourne’s most innovative businesses. This year, Docklands-based startup Gaia Project Australia took out the Small Business Innovation Award.

While sending lettuce to space might sound like sci-fi, the Gaia team is planning for interplanetary growth, while changing the face of local agriculture to address climate change and food security.



Nadun Hennayaka of Gaia Project Australia

To learn more, search for Gaia at news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards

New audio warning for illegal footpath riders in e-scooter crackdown

“

New “in-app communication” trial on Swanston and Elizabeth streets sees e-scooters telling off their non-compliant riders.

”

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

A fleet of camera-equipped e-scooters has been rolled out in Melbourne, with new technology giving riders an audio warning for tandem riding and illegal travel on footpaths.

The 25 scooters from operator Lime feature “advanced camera capabilities” and will tell non-compliant riders to cease footpath travel, which is illegal in Victoria.

The “in-app communication” trial, now under way on Swanston and Elizabeth streets and in Jolimont, will also direct riders to park in designated zones to avoid footpath clutter in busy areas.

Early reports suggest the trial had reduced complaints by 55 per cent.

Unlike most other states and territories where electric scooter users can ride on footpaths, travel in Victoria is restricted to streets and bike/shared paths.

The City of Melbourne wants to crack down on those doing the wrong thing, to prevent incidents with pedestrians.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp praised operators

Lime and Neuron, but said she still received high levels of complaints about riding and parking on pavements.

“[They] have been very responsive to discussions with us. But there are a range of issues with how e-scooters are used. A lot of that comes down to human behaviour, which is the hardest thing to moderate, change and control,” Cr Capp said at the August 15 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, where councillors endorsed the trial.

“We do believe that the way the technology works means that there’s more we can do to ensure safety, and a big part of the safety is compliance. We want to be proactive in this.”

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, who owns a private e-scooter, said that prior to the meeting the council had received “a lot of complaints”, and that bad behaviour on scooters was particularly evident “late in the evening”.

“I reckon they’re a lot of fun. I’d like to see them continue in Melbourne, but we’ve got to crack down on the hoon element and work better than what it is at the moment,” he told 3AW.

In addition to the new audio warning on e-scooters, other technologies were being developed, including AI systems that prevent riders from “ending” a trip unless they provide a photograph of their e-scooter correctly parked.

Improved “dual band” GPS systems were also being developed, which the council has suggested could be looked upon favourably in future procurement processes.

Most providers currently use single frequency band technology to locate devices and create “no-riding” and “no-parking” zones.

And while this worked well in large locations such as Fitzroy Gardens or the Shrine of Remembrance, it is not accurate enough to prevent riding on a footpath while allowing riding on an adjacent street.

Operator Beam has said it would deploy 200 e-scooters in the City of Melton that can only travel at four km/h on footpaths, which would prove a significant deterrent.

A report from council officers suggested



providers who could not deliver accurate geofencing technology in future would be left behind.

“In any future agreements with e-scooter operators, officers would include requirements to take advantage of up-to-date technology as part of the procurement process,” the report said.

“Management would also seek to ensure that agreements are flexible and able to incorporate new technology as it develops and to exclude operators which cannot deliver appropriate technologies.”

Dangerous e-scooter use on footpaths continues to be a key complaint among CBD residents, workers and visitors.

However, there is also concern about poor parking practices that obstructs access, particularly for elderly and disabled pedestrians.

Cr Rohan Leppert said e-scooters’ impacts on accessibility were considerable, and the issue was something that required urgent attention.

“I am constantly reminded ... that if we can’t find a way to regulate or provide the adequate incentives through a contract to prevent footpath travel and parking in an inappropriate spot, then we’re preventing a class of people from participating in public life,” he said. “And that’s older Melburnians and Melburnians with

access issues, those who require aid with mobility. So, we have to get it right.”

A report from council management has advocated for expanded designated e-scooter parking areas, something it says is supported by Lime and Neuron.

This would include, in busy areas of high scooter use, “readily identifiable” parking zones spaced approximately 150 metres apart and large enough for five or more scooters.

The zones would be located on both kerbside spaces and footpaths, and riders would be directed to park by line marking and the app itself.

Council officers were currently identifying locations to trial the marked e-scooter parking zones.

“Many cities around the world are moving from free-floating e-scooter parking to designated parking, often clustered with other micro mobility vehicles [like] bicycles,” the report stated.

At the August 15 meeting, councillors requested management work with Lime and Neuron to “expedite the rollout of designated parking zones”, emphasising the need to find a solution soon.

The Victorian Government’s shared e-scooter trial – which involves the municipalities of Melbourne, Yarra and Port Phillip – began in February 2022. In March this year the trial was extended by six months and expanded to include private e-scooters.

The latest City of Melbourne report said it “appears likely that e-scooters will be permanently legalised in early October 2023”.

According to the council, Melburnians “have embraced the e-scooter trial”, surpassing five million rides since February last year, with almost 6000 trips a day, one of the highest rates in the world.

Both Lime and Neuron have argued that Melbourne’s shared e-scooters currently has a “higher-than-optimal rate of use per day” and said the fleet should be expanded from the current 750 per operator. ●

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“Not improving at all”: Slowdown continues on accessible tram upgrades

Continued from page 1.

“It’s currently not improving at all. Right now, there’s been a complete stop on all upgrade works as we’re aware.”

The Department of Transport’s 2021-22 Annual Report revealed that just two Victorian tram stops were upgraded to include level-access.

In the last year, upgrades to six stops on the CBD stretch of La Trobe St were promised by the government.

These weren’t built, nor mentioned in the following 2023-24 State Budget released in May.

The government confirmed with *CBD News* that planning and design work was under way for the six stops.

“It’s our priority to make sure our public transport network is accessible, and we are delivering projects that are making a real difference across the state,” the spokesperson said.

However, Ms Scott argued the rate at which both stops and trams themselves were being upgraded meant this was simply not true.

“Accessibility is about having low-floor trams meeting level-access stops, so it’s also about upgrading the rolling stock. Although we were promised in the (2021-22) budget 100 low-floor trams, they’re actually being delivered at the same rate as prior to that commitment ... it’s not an escalation of that work at all, it doesn’t represent a greater commitment to introducing more low-floor trams. So, really there’s no prioritising of it at all.”

Advocates say public transport accessibility is not simply an issue for those with a wheelchair, but includes the older population, people using prams and those with energy management conditions.

“There’s a huge community that need that kind of service that works for everyone. So, it’s very frustrating that the government is committing a huge sum to the Big Build project, none of which covers maintaining the existing public transport,” Ms Scott said.

Local residents in a wheelchair have previously told *CBD News* that it was not uncommon to wait for more than 10 trams to pass until an accessible low-floor vehicle arrived, turning what would be a short trip for most into an arduous journey.

“What that means is that people don’t use public transport. You’re not going to use public transport if you have to wait for an hour. You’re not going to use public transport if you feel unsafe. It just means that people aren’t getting out. There’s a real problem that this community are just invisible.”

Ms Scott said this further marginalised a community that in most cases required the low-cost transport option available to everyone else.

“There’s a huge intersection between disability and poverty. Very often these are people who can’t afford to run cars, they’re not people who can afford to get wheelchair-accessible cabs. They’re really dependent on public transport. It’s an extraordinary oversight by the current government.” ●

Council calling on locals to have their say on the CBD’s “Future Streets”

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne opened its 10-week consultation process with the community in August on its Future Streets Framework – a strategy which looks to completely reshape the CBD’s street space for decades to come.

The council’s draft framework, which was first unveiled in June, seeks to create a more equitable public realm for the city’s biggest users – pedestrians – flagging a range of measures to mitigate “space-inefficient” private vehicles.

Among some of the transformative measures proposed include “full or partial closures” to private vehicles on busy parts of Flinders, Collins and Spring streets, while the entire CBD length of Elizabeth and Swanston streets could also become car-free zones.

The initiative builds on the council’s overarching Transport Strategy 2030 (released in 2019), a key finding of which revealed that while nine in 10 trips within the CBD are done on foot, only a quarter of total street space was designated for footpaths.

Consultation on the framework was launched in early August via the council’s Participate Melbourne portal, while several online Q&A sessions for residents and businesses had already been staged at the time of publishing.

With consultation running until October 11 and plenty of opportunities for locals to have their say either in-person and/or online, Lord Mayor Sally Capp implored the community to get involved and help shape this critical body of work.

“Melbourne is the fastest-growing city in the country. We want to ensure it’s a thriving metropolis that can continue to welcome a growing number of workers, visitors and residents, while boosting economic activity for traders and employers,” Cr Capp said.

“The draft Future Streets Framework is about creating safer, more vibrant and accessible streets for everyone in the community – regardless of how they’re coming into and moving around our city.”

“Ninety-eight per cent of Melbourne’s public open space is in its streets. We’re using this as a tool to help guide future planning and design of our streets, making sure they are welcoming and versatile for all road users.”

“We’re calling on all Melburnians to have their say on our draft Future Streets Framework, because it’s a critical document that will shape our city for decades to come. We’re thrilled so many Melburnians have already shared their ideas and priorities and look forward to hearing from many more.”



At the time of publishing, the council said around 320 people had already responded to its online survey, while 230 people had attended public events, which include focus groups, community pop-ups and previously held online Q&A sessions.

Business owners and traders in the central city have been invited to attend focus group sessions, via business associations and other relevant stakeholder groups. These groups will concentrate on the use of city streets to support the supply of materials, goods, and services to local businesses.

A spokesperson for the council said early trends from respondents had so far indicated that safety and accessibility for all transport modes was “the highest priority for street planning and design into the future”.

Other notable trends included a strong desire for more greening and public space in future street designs, more bicycle and micro-mobility lanes and parking, as well as “enhancing dining experiences” i.e., outdoor dining.

Consistent with the rationale underpinning the premise of the framework to create a more equitable public realm, the council said traffic congestion continued to be the “biggest detractor” from spending time in a street.

Following consultation, the City of Melbourne said it would consider all feedback and present an updated Future Streets Framework to councillors for endorsement. ●

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QVM traders say increased costs would hurt business

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Queen Victoria Market (QVM) traders say uncertainty looms over the future of their businesses after being informed they will face additional fees to cover rising operational costs.

The market's management told stallholders in August that they would soon have to pay fees for services including utilities, storage, water and rubbish removal, which would be on top of their rent.

QVM's CEO Matt Elliott said the changes, to be effective from January 2025, were needed for the future financial sustainability of the market, with stallholder licence fees also to go up by four per cent in November this year.

"Unfortunately, like all businesses at the moment, the reality is we are facing a highly inflationary environment where costs associated with managing the market have increased significantly in the past few years and are currently exceeding revenue," he said.

"Electricity costs in particular have spiralled as more traders add large walk-in cool rooms which operate 24/7 – even on days when the market is closed."

Mr Elliott said he understood "no one likes to have to pay more" and they had "worked hard to keep rising costs to an absolute minimum", which he felt had "achieved a fair and balanced outcome".

But traders, who have already endured construction disruptions due to the market's renewal project, as well as doing it tough during COVID-induced lockdowns, said they were blindsided by the changes.

They said the fees would be unaffordable for many, particularly for fruit and vegetable traders who collect more waste and so use more related services, which could see them charged between \$1915 and just under \$4000 more per year, depending on the size of their business.

"The extra cost of waste disposal will make selling lettuce unprofitable unless the public is willing to pay \$6 to \$7 for each lettuce," produce trader Raymond Fong said.

Another trader, Rosa Ansaldo, who has been running a fruit and vegetable stall for 35 years, said the new fees should not fall on traders' shoulders.

"With no customers coming through the week, we need more customers to cover our outgoings," she said.

"There is no way we can support this and still be in business. I do not understand why there is an increase when the market is cleaner and smaller."

Stallholders are also confused after 650 solar panels were installed on the market's sheds a year ago to cut carbon emissions and reduce electricity costs.

In an email to traders, management said 2023–24 costs were forecast to be \$26.7 million – an increase of 18 per cent compared to the previous financial year despite having undergone "rigorous scrutiny of all expenditure".

"This exceeds forecast revenue of \$25.1 million for the same period. If action is not taken, the gap between costs and revenue is expected to grow further in 2024–25," the email said.

Mr Elliott said management to date had absorbed the cost of providing electricity and waste services while maintaining minimal licence fee increases and was committed to supporting traders and maintaining QVM "as an accessible and affordable place to do business".

But Friends of Queen Victoria Market president Mary-Lou Howie described the changes as a "money grab".

"It's a breach of promise really, they were promised no price increases during the renewal – traders were completely unprepared for this," she said. ●



▲ Renders of the proposed restaurant on Bourke St.

New French restaurant a "massive investment" to the CBD

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

There are plans for a new, and lavish, \$10 million French-themed restaurant to be operated by renowned restaurateur Chris Lucas in the CBD. In what will be welcome news for food lovers, the three-storey restaurant called "Batard" will be situated at 19-21 and 23-29 Bourke St and will feature a rooftop bar and courtyard.

City of Melbourne councillors threw their support behind the proposal at their August 15 Future Melbourne Committee meeting when they endorsed an amended planning permit that sought demolition and reconstruction works to the site subject to heritage controls.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece described the proposal as a "massive investment" to the Bourke Hill Precinct, which is known for its vibrant retail, café, and restaurant culture, as well as prominent landmarks, including Hotel Windsor and the Princess Theatre.

"At one end of the market you've got titans like Chris Lucas and Justin Hemmes making massive investments in multiple new venues," he said.

"At the other end, you've got a new wave of Asian restaurants which are so popular they have long queues of people waiting down the street; Hot Pot, Korean BBQ, and Ramen is so hot right now."

Cr Reece said the application for the restaurant was to vary an already approved permit, with the latest proposal seeking works including the reconstruction of two 15.9-metre-high chimneys inside the heritage-graded building which would be "rebuilt brick by brick".

"As part of the application, I do want people to know that one of

the requirements is that every brick in the chimneys and walls will be recorded, placed in an inventory and fully restored before it is used to reconstruct those chimneys and the walls," he said.

The site at 19-21 Bourke St is a "contributory" graded building while 23-29 Bourke St is a "significant" graded building in the council's Heritage Places Inventory March 2022 (amended May 2023).

Mr Lucas is the mastermind behind iconic venues such as Chin Chin and Gogo Bar, and his new venue is anticipated to become a must-see destination for food enthusiasts when it's expected to open next year.

The application received four objections with concerns the additional demolition would result in "facadism" (an architectural reference to preserving only the fronts of buildings), as well as drawings not showing the adjoining chimney or light well, and noise during construction and in the open areas once it is built.

Cr Reece acknowledged these concerns, but he gave assurances there would be "very strong conditions in place".

"I'm sure this will be an absolutely spectacular addition to Bourke St and the eastern hill precinct."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the proposed restaurant was "another statement for Melbourne projects like this continuing to grow the impressive reputation that Melbourne has not just as a culinary capital but as an experience capital".

"It's the sense of what makes Melbourne that specialness, that uniqueness that adds so much value for everyone in the Melbourne community," she said.

"We say thank you to the Lucas group, to all of your advisers and stakeholders for the vision that is also in this project." ●

International students strain under work restrictions

WORDS BY *Edmund Coleman*
EDUCATION

Work restrictions introduced by the federal government in July that limit international students to 48 hours per fortnight are having wide-ranging effects, with some students feeling the economic pinch and others being forced to leave the country entirely.

Mary Duritan, 27, studies cookery and lives on Swanston St. She considers herself "one of the few lucky ones".

When the work restrictions were introduced, Mary's employers continued to give her 24 hours a week, maximising paylips by rostering her on nights and weekends for higher hourly wages. Because of this, Mary says "so far" she hasn't noticed the drastic day-to-day impacts felt by some of her classmates. However, without the safety-net of being able to work more hours Mary is concerned about the future.

"I am nervous as to when I renew the lease in the apartment, and, of course, that comes with a rent raise. What I'm earning with the restrictions is exact for what I am paying now for rent and tuition," Mary told *CBD News*.

"If there was a \$100 or \$200 raise on rent or cost of living expenses I really don't know how I would pay for everything. The 24 hours [of work per week] support me just enough to get by. So, if the restaurant closes down for a few days, or if there's a holiday and they don't want to open on that day, then immediately I'll have a hard time paying the tuition for that month."

Mary also describes "heartless" situations where her friends and classmates have had their hours "slashed".

Matt Joven, 27, also studied cookery. After arriving in Australia in October last year, Matt found work in the kitchens at Yarra Botanica and Crown Casino. With talk of work restrictions being put in place, Matt says his hours began dwindling from March as employers began to question the long-term reliability of keeping international student staff.

From February to July, Matt's hours were more than halved, falling from 36 to 38 hours per week to just 16. During mid-August, Matt was forced to return to the Philippines, borrowing money for his flight home, in considerable debt.

"I pulled out of my student visa because I couldn't handle it," Matt told *CBD News* from the Philippines. "I haven't paid school [fees] in around four or five months. I had to pay my rent first, because otherwise I'd have nowhere to live."

Andrew Copolov is a PhD student at Monash University and initiated the Gig Worker's Hub in the Melbourne CBD. He has noticed the strain and confusion the working restrictions have caused delivery drivers in the city.

He said that according to the Transport Workers' Union, "about 90 per cent of people doing delivery work are migrants, the vast majority of whom are international students".

A spokesperson for the Department of Home Affairs told *CBD News* that it considered 48 hours of work a fortnight to be an "appropriate balance between work and study", recommending that if student visa holders were experiencing difficulty, they should contact their education provider in the first instance.

"During the pandemic, unlimited work rights for international students supported the local economy during extraordinary circumstances. With temporary migrant numbers now returning to usual pre-COVID levels, it is time to normalise student visa settings and ensure that the primary focus for students is to obtain a quality Australian education," the spokesperson said. ●



Flora Indian Restaurant & Cafe

The Flinders Street northern footpath is currently closed to way-through foot traffic at the Metro Tunnel site entrance between Swanston and Degraves streets until mid-September.

Flora will still be open to meet all your Indian food cravings. Immerse yourself in the sensory delight of Indian food with a range of fresh curries, breads and snacks.

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Supporting business

The robust CBD garden providing calm amongst the chaos



In a densely populated corner of the CBD, a small garden plays a modest but important role in meeting the human and social needs of local residents.



WORDS BY *Martin Mulvihill*
PRESIDENT - DRILL HALL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Some years ago, residents of the Drill Hall social housing units on Therry St persuaded the City of Melbourne to turn a nearby abandoned car park into a community garden and public recreation amenity.

The project, at the corner of Therry and Victoria streets, soon gained funding from the council and support from the wider local neighbourhood around the Queen Victoria Market.

The council was readily persuaded to use an accessibility-friendly design and provide paving, new seating and planter boxes.

Local volunteers joined the social housing residents to maintain the garden, creating a good model of social diversity and inclusion as well as accessibility.

The bureaucratic process behind this story may be mundane reading, but the City of



▲ Local resident Sangita showing off a radish she grew!

Melbourne deserves credit for encouraging the social housing residents to set up their own independent incorporated association.

This enabled them to apply for grants for social housing projects and later supported a second incorporated association to run the garden itself.

The strong connection, almost pathway, between the garden and the social housing units is symbolised by their lifts – *Art Lift 1* and *Art Lift 2* – displaying resident works with garden/art themes.

This was intended, like the garden, to make the lifts more welcoming, calming and accessible, especially for those suffering from claustrophobic fears – even more so if trapped in the lift.

What counts overall is how people engage with the garden space, and on the good days strange and wonderful things have been observed:

Wheelchair drivers elevating themselves to ridiculous heights among the sun flowers.

“Garden guerrillas” surreptitiously planting their favoured seedlings, cuttings etc., next to where the Lord Mayor officially turned her spade.

The resident magpie fluttering down from its spotted gum tree nest to investigate the fuss.

Local artists introducing their whimsical creative spin onto a canvas board array twisting with colour and energy among the plant boxes.

An organic anarchy and energy embraces humans and nature alike, popping up also, as mentioned, into the social housing lifts, where art and garden scenes jumble together in an ever-changing colourful array.

Lately, on not-so-good days, the garden is not immune to the harder stories of the world. They also demand a social space.

The tents of the homeless appear, disappear, and reappear, as city officials battle for control.

The garden, caught in between, gets battered, plants uprooted, left exposed to die.

It becomes an unwelcoming eye in a storm.

A barren sullen hostility overwhelms fertility and creativity; everyone is denied a city breathing space that should be shared by all.

The garden, nevertheless, is a survivor.

Many Drill Hall residents have experienced homelessness; they well know the garden cannot help solve the problem without becoming a problem itself.

The garden replaced a space that was an arid

arena for dull pointless bureaucratic head-butting with a green and pleasant space.

It survived an attempt to inundate it as an outdoor waiting area for a proposed drug injection room.

It insists on maintaining, in a very heavily built up and densely populated area, a modest but important role meeting the human and social needs of local residents, while serving also as an amenity for the broader passing public.

To sum up, the Drill Hall Garden has become an integral and organic part of the communities and voices described above.

Their drive and energy will ensure its durability and its future for everyone.

It is a great city place and should be supported as such. ●

The founding of Melbourne and its changing faces

EVENTS

On August 30, 1835, European settlers sailed from Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) aboard the schooner *Enterprize*. They landed on the north bank of the Yarra River and established a settlement, on the corner of William and Flinders streets – today known as Enterprize Park.

Prior to this time, the people of the Kulin nation: the Wurundjeri (Woiwurrung), Boon Wurrung, Taungurong, Djajawurrung and the Wathaurung, had lived in this area for thousands of years and are the traditional custodians of this land.

Today, the Kulin Nation share this land with the multicultural community of Melbourne, the centre of a thriving metropolis of 5.235 million skirting Port Phillip Bay.

The City of Melbourne itself has around 160,000 residents of which more than 25 per cent are of Chinese heritage. This is a result of the large number of tertiary students who study in universities located in the city.



Only 15 years from Melbourne's establishment, the Gold Rush of the 1850s saw Melbourne become the gateway to the Victorian goldfields which resulted in Victoria's population growing from 76,000 to 540,000. A large proportion were Chinese due to the close proximity and compatibility of the English colonial ports of Melbourne and Hong Kong at the time.

As evidence of this past history, Melbourne's Chinatown in Little Bourke St still thrives as an attraction to the centre of the City. Established in 1851, it has buildings built in the 1860s and still owned by the original Chinese societies.

Melbourne's multicultural mix changed with a large influx of Italian and Greek migrants seeking a better life when they arrived in Australia from 1945 to 1972.

Today, neighbouring Lonsdale St, around Russell St is home to Greek cuisine while Lygon St, Carlton boasts a thriving Italian food street.

Furthermore, there are three museums representing Chinese, Italian and Greek communities and cultures in the City of Melbourne:

- Chinese Museum at 22 Cohen Place.
- CO.AS.IT at 189 Faraday St, Carlton.
- Hellenic Museum at 280 William St.

Celebrate Melbourne Day at the Chinese Museum

Residents of municipality of City of Melbourne can visit the Chinese Museum for free from Thursday, August 31 to Sunday, September 3 and take a free guided tour at 11.30am and 2pm daily. Museum open from 10am to 4pm (free entry requires proof of City of Melbourne residential address).

While you're at the Chinese Museum, participate in the online mural wall with a short video telling why you like living in Melbourne! ●

For more information:
chinesemuseum.com.au

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

Voting in the referendum is compulsory. Not voting may result in a fine.

Locals, stakeholders endorse CBD end of Greenline, less convinced about Docklands side

Hundreds of residents and stakeholders have strongly endorsed designs for the eastern “city” end of the City of Melbourne’s flagship Greenline project but have expressed less certainty about the western “Docklands” side.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS



▲ Those surveyed were more positive about Greenline designs at the city end (left, at Barrarung Marr) compared to the Docklands end (right, at North Wharf).

Results from the council’s latest engagement process on Greenline, a four-kilometre green trail set run along the Yarra River’s north bank from Barrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge, revealed a divide between the project’s two sides.

A two-pronged survey that canvassed the thoughts of the public (residents, workers, visitors) and stakeholders (including business and community groups) revealed a strong endorsement for designs on the CBD side.

Asked whether they would spend time in the proposed spaces (depicted by designers), more than 80 per cent of the 500-plus public respondents said they were “likely” or “very likely” to visit areas at Barrarung Marr and Batman Park.

Three-quarters of those surveyed also responded positively to the proposed designs for areas at Banana Alley vaults and Sandridge Bridge.

“Batman Park is very tired and bit sketchy now so this couldn’t come soon enough,” one respondent said.

“Sandridge Bridge and Banana Alley currently has a dilapidated urban feel, greening it will be a great improvement,” another added.

This was reiterated in stakeholder responses, with more than half more likely than not to spend time in the three precincts in the eastern half of Greenline (Barrarung Marr, Falls and River Park).

However, those surveyed were less sure about the two precincts at the Docklands end, dubbed Maritime and Salt Water Wharf.

Less than 60 per cent of public respondents said they were likely to spend time in the newly designed spaces directly opposite South Wharf — including space outside Crowne Plaza and the Mission to Seafarers — and further west at North Wharf.

Criticism focused on a lack of greenery and proposed tree canopy.

“These are the least exciting to me, and I wouldn’t spend much time here. The Crowne Plaza seems a bit sterile with all of those hard edges and lack of canopy and greenery,” one respondent said.

“This is a very harsh environment that does not appeal. More trees and greenery are needed. Plants in rectangular boxes are not as appealing as a natural planting,” another responded.

There was also concern about the lack of proposed economic activation.

“I feel this side of the river is more commercial and less tempting,” one said.

“Crowne Plaza image reminds me of

Docklands, which usually has less people around compared with in the image above — why would people come here? Or how is this connected and convenient to access from other areas?”

The criticism of the westernmost Greenline precinct was even greater from stakeholders, who stated that the remote location made it tougher to attract visitors compared with the city end.

Councillors unanimously endorsed the draft Greenline master plan at the August 15 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it represented a “significant milestone” which delivered an “overarching framework” for the project.

“I think at master plan stage when we start to see this vision turn into reality, it’s important with a project of this scale being delivered across these time horizons that we feel confidence, that what we see in the master plan will turn into detailed designs and those detailed designs will be delivered on the north bank of the Yarra, and that’s why this is such an important milestone,” Cr Capp said.

The council has already committed \$97 million to the \$300 million Greenline project, however a proposed three-way equal funding model (of \$100 million each) partnering with the state and federal governments has, to date, yielded just \$20 million from the Commonwealth while the Victorian Government was yet to commit any funding.

The Lord Mayor, however, remained positive. “As we see these phases roll out we know that momentum will continue to be positive. This project has generated the highest of interest and enthusiasm from stakeholders which is a great testament to its success.”

Melburnians are now invited to provide feedback on the proposed plans (open until September 13) which will inform the final master plan to be released later this year.

Cr Rohan Leppert said that while more detailed plans for each of the five precincts were still to come, the coming months was important.

“The exhibition period is a genuine opportunity for the public to have their say,” he said.

“I want to continue this public conversation and understand how anyone and everyone, in all the diversity of opinion, is now interpreting the concepts that we’re putting to them, because we don’t have the detailed designs yet — that will come piece by piece. So, I want the imagination of Melburnians to be shared so that we can understand not just what one idea of the Greenline is, but how this is being received generally. That’s really important information.”

Works at Barrarung Marr, which represents the first section of trail, are due to commence before July next year. ●



David Schout
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CBD NEWS

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Discover fascinating aspects of the precinct’s culture, architecture and cuisine.

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Submit a short video to appear on our online Melbourne Day mural and win a food & wine prize! (T&C’s apply)

for more information

Supported by City of Melbourne, Melbourne Chinatown Association, and Hyperlocal News

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DOING BUSINESS IN MELBOURNE

Whether you run a bespoke bakery, are looking to scale-up your startup or even have grand plans to open your first flagship store, Melbourne is the best place to do business.

Home to 13,829 businesses, 527,738 jobs and with an annual economic output of \$212.3 billion, Melbourne tops the list as the nation's best city to start and run a business.

With our diverse economy, liveability, and rich talent pool, our city is fertile ground for startups, small to medium enterprises and global headquarters.

And at the City of Melbourne we recognise our business owners are the heart and soul of the city and the engine room of our economy.

Through initiatives such as Invest Melbourne and our Business Concierge, we're making it easier to do business by cutting red tape and attracting new investment to drive innovation and create jobs.

Find out more about how we can support you and your business, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business



SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

Start or expand your business in Melbourne with our Small Business Grants. Grants of up to \$30,000 are available to small businesses wanting to build on our city's reputation for innovation and creativity. Applications close 25 September. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessgrants

BUSINESS EVENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Got a bright idea for a conference, expo, workshop or networking event within the City of Melbourne? Apply for a grant of up to \$10,000 to bring your idea to life. Applications close 25 September. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/businessevents

Making magic happen for city businesses



Lisa Guest and the Business Concierge team are ready to provide customised service to small business owners

Meet the business concierge who's working behind the scenes to bring dreams to life for city businesses.

Every time Lisa Guest takes a call from someone with a question about running a business in the city, she looks for the magic in the moment.

"Behind every question, I know there's something delicate and important in our hands," Lisa said. She's a case manager with our Business Concierge Service.

"No matter how big or small the idea, here's a person who believes in their dream, and we get to help those ideas come to fruition."

Lisa and her colleagues are tasked with helping businesses connect the dots as they open, run and flourish in the municipality.

"Often when I'm speaking with a prospective business, I remind myself that it's more than a question about opening a cafe. Behind every idea, there's often a family. Maybe it's the family's life savings," she said.

Since January 2022, the Business Concierge team has provided free advice and mentoring to more than

15,500 city businesses – reducing the time it takes for a business to start up in the city and supporting them as they embrace Melbourne's new rhythm.

Woman of the world

Born to "hippy parents" in Argentina in a time of political unrest, Lisa was six when her family moved to Brazil. She grew up there and studied journalism.

Restless, she packed a bag and headed for Australia to learn English, surf and travel. She stayed in Perth for 23 years, meeting her husband and raising two children.

When her kids moved to Melbourne to study and broaden their horizons, she soon followed, and landed with City of Melbourne as a public health officer.

That's how she began to fall in love with the city, and got to know its small businesses by roaming the laneways to offer support throughout the pandemic.

Now she keeps her imagination and networks firing as part of our Business Concierge Service which offers a one-stop shop for business support.

Case managers help businesses navigate government processes and find the right services. They also share

trends, identify site locations and investment opportunities.

"We work with cafes and retailers, but also pop-ups and activations," Lisa said.

"We support startups, social enterprises – many are migrant women and that is very humbling.

"I have the chance to make a meaningful impact by supporting fellow migrants as they navigate the hurdles of starting a new life."

She calls opportunities like these "pinch-me moments".

"I'm not just in Melbourne, I'm in the thick of it. One day I'm on the phone with a business, hearing a big idea and it could be the next big thing," Lisa said.

"The next day I'm volunteering on the busking panel to decide who can perform in the Bourke Street Mall, hearing a keyboard player whose music just flows and transports you."

The Business Concierge Service will ramp up its work to support new and existing city businesses over the coming year, with a \$500,000 investment in the Budget 2023-24.

Got a big idea for a business? Unclear about a permit? For one-on-one advice, call our dedicated Business Concierge Service on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business), or submit your query online at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2022-23, the Business Concierge helped establish 51 businesses, resulting in 605 expedited jobs, \$28 million in capital expenditure and an estimated \$55 million in gross local product brought into the economy earlier than would have otherwise been the case.

FRESH IDEAS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD TRADE WITH NEW FUNDING



Melbourne Chinatown Business Association President Christina Zhao

Iconic local retail and hospitality businesses across Melbourne are getting a boost thanks to new funding through the City of Melbourne's Business Precinct Program.

The Business Precinct Program provides annual financial support to recognised precinct trader associations representing important consumer-relevant areas of the municipality.

We are supporting 10 precinct associations with more than \$850,000 in funding for 2023-24.

The funding is designed to support traders as they attract visitors to beloved retail and hospitality venues across 10 busy precincts in the municipality.

The funded precincts are: Carlton Inc., City Precinct, Collins Street Precinct Group, Docklands Chamber of Commerce, Greek

Precinct Association, Kensington Business Association, Melbourne Chinatown Business Association, Melbourne City North Business Association, North & West Melbourne Precinct Association and the Yarra River Business Association.

Associations funded under the Business Precinct Program undertake activities to boost the trader area on behalf of their members. They also build a robust membership with local street traders to strengthen community.

Precinct associations also create opportunities for local businesses to get to know one another and exchange information, run networking events and community festivals, and build regular communications with members.

Find out more about our Business Precinct Associations at melbourne.vic.gov.au/precincts

ECONOMY SNAPSHOT SHOWS CONFIDENCE AND GROWTH

More Melbourne businesses are revamping their premises, with new data revealing permit approvals for upgrades have nearly doubled in the past year.

Our latest Melbourne Economy Snapshot shows more than 50 businesses applied to upgrade their premises in May – up almost 90 per cent on the 27 applications at the same time last year, and trending towards pre-pandemic levels.

The snapshot also shows reinvigorated confidence in Melbourne's tourism sector, with more than 10,000 additional hotel rooms becoming available in the past four years.

Activity in the city has steadily increased throughout 2023, with the snapshot revealing the colder winter months have not deterred visitation, with a 24 per cent increase in night-time activity across the city during key June events.

The Melbourne Economy Snapshot aims to equip city traders with data and insights to better inform business decisions. Subscribe to our Business in Melbourne e-newsletter to receive the quarterly snapshot at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

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EXPERTS TRANSFORMING MELBOURNE'S BUSINESS LANDSCAPE

Melbourne as a leading tech city. It facilitates connections for new tech companies in the industry verticals, where Melbourne is a recognised leader.

Scott Tanner

Expertise in banking and financial services, real estate, digital transformation, and corporate governance



Our vision is to attract the headquarters of great businesses and future industries. We want to tackle and solve new global challenges and create new opportunities in a loop of learning, innovation and leadership.

Invest Melbourne can identify gaps and reinforce our strengths in attracting and retaining global industry leaders. We help industry and individuals create an exciting and dynamic environment where industry and individuals can achieve their full potential.

Rachel Watson

Expertise in renewable energy generation



Melbourne is already a key hub for energy companies in Australia, and renewable energy companies in particular.

Invest Melbourne is uniquely placed to foster business activity in the renewable energy sector, which will further enhance Melbourne's reputation as a green city of the future.

Dr Julie Wells

Expertise in the tertiary education, policy and partnership development



Melbourne is rich in educational, sporting, scientific and cultural institutions. I'd like to see that wealth leveraged and enjoyed by everyone.

My vision is for Melbourne to be a global hub for inclusive innovation – artistic, social, scientific – where everyone can participate and benefit. Invest Melbourne has a great part to play as a facilitator, enabler and partner with industry, business and government to grow investment and jobs right here.

Read more about the Invest Melbourne Advisory Board, and find out how Invest Melbourne is cementing the city's reputation as a global investment destination at news.melbourne.vic.gov.au/economy

Ever wondered who's behind the magic of turning Melbourne business ideas into reality? Meet the Invest Melbourne Advisory Board – the team that's dreaming up ways to help entrepreneurs start, grow and go global.

Invest Melbourne helps unlock business potential for many innovative and successful companies seeking to invest here in Melbourne. Are you among them? Harness this prosperity, connect with the right people at the right time, and achieve business success.

Amanda Coombs, chair

Expertise in financial services and innovation



We draw on our experience in finance, technology, innovation, energy, life sciences, logistics, property and education. The aim is to develop a pipeline of opportunities that will create jobs and ensure Melbourne is an easy place to do business.

We want Melburnians to be proud of their city and enjoy working and living here. There's great momentum for reimagining what Melbourne can be for businesses that are looking to land or expand in the city.

Andrew Carter

Expertise in med tech, pharmaceuticals and commercialisation



Invest Melbourne is a bold facilitator of ideas that prioritise long-term wellbeing over profit. Our vision is for a city that seamlessly blends work, leisure and life experiences. A place where getting together with colleagues, family and friends is desirable and easy.

Melbourne is a city that prioritises people and offers a mix of safe spaces. We acknowledge our past and improve our natural assets, and promote commuting options that are environmentally sustainable.

David Chen

Expertise in shipping, technology and general business leadership



My goal is to foster a business environment that champions sustainable supply chain solutions and puts Melbourne at the forefront of global logistic innovations.

Melbourne is a city where culture, technology, and sustainable logistics coalesce, ensuring efficient, eco-friendly business operations.

Amy Foo

Expertise in technology and digital innovation



I'm passionate about the tech industry, and seeing more cultural diversity and women in tech. By facilitating the right investment frameworks and policies, Invest Melbourne is creating sustainable economic growth.

As a global leader, we attract business, innovation and talent, and foster a vibrant city culture. That leads to good business and job opportunities for Melburnians.

Ian McCall

Expertise in information and communications technology, digital innovation



Melbourne is already a leading city in the globally connected technology community, home to a vibrant startup community, headquarters to home-grown technology giants and hosting a strong representation of global-leading tech companies.

Given the increasingly central role of technology in every sector of the economy, Invest Melbourne plans to amplify global recognition of

Investment in business is paying off for the city

Invest Melbourne, the City of Melbourne's investment body, is eclipsing its job creation and economic targets, further cementing our reputation as a world-leading destination to start and grow a business.

In 2022–23, the number of jobs created and capital expenditure

generated were 220 and 215 per cent above our targets respectively.

Invest Melbourne supported a pipeline of some 70 major projects which are set to create more than 1,650 jobs and contribute \$430 million in capital expenditure to the city.

Invest Melbourne's support is forecast to generate a \$500 million

estimated increase in gross local product (GLP) for the city through new jobs, the establishment of new businesses and headquarters, and capital expenditure.

Sixty per cent of the projects supported by Invest Melbourne were in the hospitality and retail sectors, with our Business Concierge service

providing assistance to manage permits and licensing applications, as well as general business advice.

Invest Melbourne is working across more than 140 projects – which could create or fast-track an estimated 8,000 new full-time jobs across the city and generate around \$1.3 billion in capital expenditure.

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Becoming Eliza, being Anna O'Byrne

Melbourne-raised, Anna O'Byrne's elevation from the Australian Girls' Choir to becoming an internationally renowned star soprano has been an incredible journey and an atmospheric ascendancy.

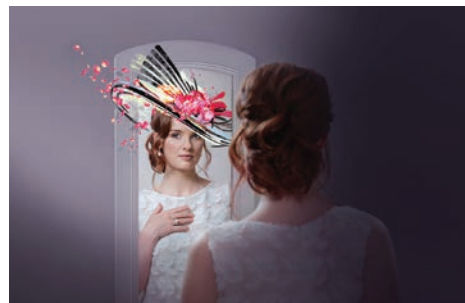
WORDS BY *Edmund Coleman*

In 2016, O'Byrne was hand-picked by Dame Julie Andrews to play lead-role Eliza Doolittle in the 60th anniversary production of *My Fair Lady*. For her performance as Eliza, O'Byrne collected rave reviews and mesmerised audiences, winning the coveted Helpmann Award for a performance that cemented the actress as

a generational Broadway talent.

Dame Julie Andrews, whose own portrayal of Eliza captivated audiences in 1956, venerated O'Byrne's performance and gave a glowing review of her upcoming show, *Becoming Eliza*.

"Anna O'Byrne is one of the loveliest Australian actresses in musical theatre today. Her portrayal of Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* was wonderful, and now her show *Becoming Eliza* is a tour de force. Don't miss it. It will warm your heart," Dame Julie Andrews said.



O'Byrne returned the praise, describing that "being directed by Dame Julie Andrews in the iconic role she made famous was an experience beyond anything I could have dreamed. Julie showed me such warmth, wisdom, wit and,

above all, generosity of spirit."

Of her upcoming one-woman show O'Byrne was equally gracious. "I hope to share a little of [Dame Julie's] spirit with the audiences of *Becoming Eliza*. I'm thrilled to bring my little show to my hometown so Melbourne audiences can finally see it," the actress said.

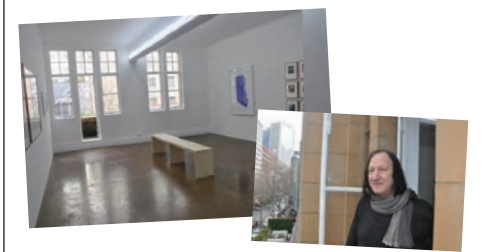
Coming to the Comedy Theatre for one night only, in *Becoming Eliza* O'Byrne reflects on her experiences, including the lessons learned from both Dame Julie and Eliza, and the complex intimacy of sharing the same role created 60 years apart.

O'Byrne sings songs from Dame Julie's repertoire, including *Wouldn't It Be Lovely* and *My Favourite Things*.

Limelight Magazine describes how "Anna O'Byrne shines in her first solo show, a "lovely" production, which beguiles with its honesty and gorgeous vocals."

Becoming Eliza is being performed in Melbourne at the Comedy Theatre, on Saturday, August 26 at 7.30pm. ●

For more information:
becomingeliza.com



Void: new gallery opens in Bourke St

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

The building was one of those picturesque heritage banks dotting the CBD. It was built for the Bank of New South Wales and was smaller than others. A button beneath the word "Void" opened a glass door. The staircase was elegant with iron fretwork and a walnut handrail.

Paul Handley was waiting. He stepped out onto his balcony and stood in front of the metal-framed glass door.

"I didn't even see the balcony when I rented the space," he said.

Void, a new gallery on Bourke St, has the only balcony in a five-storey building. It looks west towards the mall and the police station is next door, not bad for a post-lockdown office space.

"The city's not dead," Handley said, critical of statements by Liberal Party politicians. The gallery has just exhibited with 20 other galleries at Spring 1883 in The Hotel Windsor where art sales were excellent.

When artists move into an area it booms, witness the Nicholas Building where rents have doubled and, even, trebled recently.

The Bourke St address was better value than the Nicholas Building when Handley went looking online for a gallery space during the lockdown, he said. He has just extended his lease for another three years.

The next show at Void will be Louise Paramor with her small assemblages of ready-made objects.

Matchfit, Louise Paramor, Void, 108 Bourke St, opens September 1. voidmelbourne.org ●



Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's movie concert series returns

The last tickets are on sale for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's (MSO) eighth and final performance of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back this October.

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

Conductor Nicholas Buc will lead the MSO through an incredible performance of the iconic score by John Williams as the film is projected on the big screen at Hamer Hall between October 5 to 21; a night that will leave audiences breathless while others are left handless.

"As well as being a fan favourite in

the series, *The Empire Strikes Back* introduces perhaps the greatest villain's theme in cinematic history, *The Imperial March*," Mr Buc said, adding that the film's score was his personal favourite in the franchise.

"Williams' bombastic music for Darth Vader has since come to represent everything evil in the *Star Wars* universe and, combined with his new love theme for Han and Leia, this score improves on everything that Williams started in Episode IV."

The MSO is a force to be reckoned with as they prepare for *The Empire Strikes Back* concert series, having already performed two other films in the *Star Wars* franchise including *Return of the Jedi* and *A New Hope*. ●

For more information:
mso.com.au

Unity, Culture, Hope: Songs for Freedom play for change

Marking the 40th anniversary year of 16-year-old Yinjibarndi boy John Pat's death, Songs for Freedom is a moving assembly of soul, blues and country music by the Freedom Collective, advocating for change in the alarmingly disproportionate incarceration rates of Aboriginal children in Australian prisons.

WORDS BY *Edmund Coleman*

Guided by Ngarluma and Yinjibarndi Elders and presented by Australia's leading arts and social change organisation, Big hART, *Songs for Freedom* is a stirring celebration of hope, peace and freedom that has been gaining traction across the nation.

The Freedom Collective has been a continuous process of organic creation spanning more than 10 years from artists in the Ieramugadu community (Roebourne, WA) – the town where John Pat died in police custody – and beyond. The project also delivers workshops in the Ieramugadu community, school, and prison, driving positive change through music, theatre, performances, and creating digital content.

Forty years after John Pat's passing, First Nation's people account for just over two per cent of the population yet constitute nearly a third of Australia's prison population. Since the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody the number of First Nations people dying in custody has increased, according to Amnesty International.

In spite of this, *Songs for Freedom* is uplifting and unifying in its hope for a better future and is described as a "powerful example of what can be accomplished through song and community".

The first single, *Songs of Freedom*, written by Yamatji man, Fred Ryan, is a stunning country ballad that swells with anguished lyrics: "I try to walk in these two worlds;



trying to make sense of it all; the black and the white; the divided nation; the different rates of incarceration," and beautiful, rousing stringed crescendos.

Musical director and Grammy Award winner Lucky Oceans said, "[*Songs of Freedom*] has become an anthem in its own right," nodding to Ryan's lyrics: "there's a song for this land, girl by sea; but I want to hear a song for me."

Justice Has No Plan, featuring Naomi Pigram of the Yawuru and Wadjjarri people, opens with a driving country-rock guitar riff and the howl of a harmonica. Pigram's narrative lyrics are immediately arresting and charged by an urgent need for change: "when you take the kid from country; and lock him up in the city of lights; then you're bound to make a monster who's out of his mind; and out of sight; and justice wipes its hands; cause justice has no plans."

Lucky Oceans describes the performance as a "full-hearted collaboration."

"The people of Roebourne have shared their voices, music and songs so generously and really bring a sense of community to the stage. It's a unique and inspiring thing to be a part of."

The performance will be held at the Melbourne Recital Centre, in the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, on Friday, September 15, and is the last performance before The Freedom Collective return to Roebourne for a final hometown presentation on the 40th anniversary of John Pat's passing. Mobtix are available. ●

For more information:
melbournerecital.com.au

CBD Local



A family's heritage of baking comes to life on Swanston St



Cousins Trini Lee and Tia Tan are bringing their shared passion for baking and entrepreneurial dreams to life.



WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Hanna Komissarova*

The duo recently launched Milk Cake Studio, an Asian-inspired cake shop at 166 Swanston St, with recipes including childhood favourites passed down by aunts and uncles for generations.

The menu features an array of heart-warming classics such as basque cheesecake, red velvet, and a silky chocolate tart using 21 diverse flavours including pandan and purple ube yam.

But the "true stars of the show" are the Singaporean-inspired cakes not available at your average cake shop.

These include the Triple Hojicha, made with pure Japanese hojicha and infused into Milk cream and sponge, a "light-as-air cake for any event", while the Tropical Paradise is a "perfect pairing" of pandan and mango, with the sweet pops of mango jelly throughout "are sure to impress".

"We love the hustle and bustle of Melbourne city, there seems to be no better place than here to share our South-East Asian inspired goodies,"

Trini and Tia said.

"We've loved cakes from a very young age and always looked forward to birthday parties and crazy cakes - think ice cream cake, a princess castle, luscious chocolate mud cake and a life-sized Elmo."

Through Milk Cake Studio, the pair said they hoped to share their family's heritage baking, which began in 1950 when the Tan family's humble bread shop called Tong Ann Bakery was founded in the small regional village of Bukit Timah, Singapore, while Trini's mother also owned a hot bread shop in Darwin.

Trini and Tia, who also live in the CBD, started operating a franchise cake business from their teenage years, but during COVID, they fine-tuned their family recipes and launched Milk online, and "now we are so happy to be able to have Milk Cake Studio on Swanston St".

Trini has a marketing and management degree from the Australian Catholic University, and Tia has a commerce degree from Melbourne

University, which together they said, "brings baking and business to life" while celebrating precious family recipes and generations of professional cake-baking experience.

Milk uses both plant-based and dairy milk in the baking process to ensure inclusivity across dietary preferences/allergies and intolerances.

"We're almost at the one-month mark now [since opening] and it's safe to say that it has been a great start," Trini and Tia said.

"Of course, we know we have a long way to go and still want to keep gathering feedback, improving products, getting to know new and old faces, and hopefully make many more cakes for your special occasions!"

For more information:
milkcakestudio.com

SENATOR LINDA WHITE

Voice debate requires respect on all sides

The referendum later this year to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament will be a big moment for our nation.

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



Whether you vote "yes", "no" or you are still making up your mind, the Voice is an important national issue that a lot of people feel passionate about.

Australia is a democratic country, and so we should be able to put forward our opinions and try to persuade others of our point of view.

But as the referendum gets closer it is also crucial that the conversations we have are respectful and sensible and grounded in good faith.

Like most Australians, I believe that just because you might disagree with someone's point of view, it doesn't give you the right to attack or harass them.

That's why I was disturbed to hear from YES Campaign volunteers I know based in Lilydale that a recent YES Campaign meeting was hijacked by people yelling racist abuse and showing Nazi symbols.

Volunteers at the meeting were understandably shaken and horrified by the behaviour, which saw masked people shouting offensive abuse about Indigenous Australians.

There is no place for this sort of behaviour in discussions about the Voice. At a minimum,

people who want to make up their mind about the referendum should be able to attend public meetings to get the information they need without fear of being attacked or harassed by the extreme right-wing.

I have written in this newspaper before that I will be saying yes to the referendum later this year. It's clear that our current strategies to close the gap for Indigenous Australians aren't working, so we have to do something different.

After spending a lot trying to improve the lives of First Nations Australians, the Voice will help government practically improve the lives of First Nations Australians in areas like health, housing, education, and employment.

But in every conversation I have with Victorians about the Voice, I will make sure that I am being respectful, sensible and fair in putting forward my point of view.

This is the least we can do to make sure that the referendum debate stays focused on constructive discussions about respect, hope and reconciliation.

If you have any questions about the Voice to Parliament referendum, please feel free to get in touch with my office on 03 9639 2798. ●

02-23 SEPTEMBER 2023

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2 Rhys Boak - Organ Joel Brennan - Trumpet	3PM
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6 Luc Ponet (from Paris) - Organ	1PM
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9 Amy Keyang Xia - Harpsichord	3PM
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13 Rhys Arvidson - Organ	1PM
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16 Elizabeth Anderson Harpsichord <i>Bach Goldberg Variations</i>	3PM
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20 Graham Lieschke - Organ	1PM
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 Jennifer Chou - Organ Joseph Yu - Trombone	3PM

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BUSINESS

A different kind of consultant

Starting your own business is never an easy feat, particularly when your orbit in the ultra-competitive, and often cut-throat, world of consultancy.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*



No stranger to this world, is Mennan Yelkenci, founder of Melbourne start-up, Tierra Consultancy Group.

After cutting his teeth working for large multi-national firms, Mr Yelkenci knew it was time to take the leap and create something of his own.

With a particular focus on the ever-growing world of environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) development, Tierra Consultancy Group specialises in end-to-end land negotiation and acquisition, community engagement and project planning.

Mr Yelkenci told *CBD News* that while the transition into business ownership was a

“bumpy” one, the decision was liberating, helping him to excel and drive a work ethic that was stymied in his previous corporate setting.

“It just seemed like the right time and with the support from a few friends, I made the decision,” Mr Yelkenci said. “For our team, it was just about trying to hustle as hard as we could, using the skills and contacts we had built over our careers.”

“It eventually paid off and the turning point was the first contract we received. It was through a large international developer; they took a chance on us and were incredibly pleased with the outcome.”

“Now, there has been a really positive flow of work coming through.”

Mr Yelkenci and his business partner Stewart Edwards, an environmentalist and expert in land acquisition and negotiation, have more than five decades of experience in the art of negotiating access and tenure rights over private property for infrastructure projects.

With projects like the Star of the South, a 200-strong wind turbine farm off the South Gippsland coast, and large-scale solar farms in the works as part of the Victorian Government’s pledge to be 95 per cent renewable energy powered by 2035, Mr Yelkenci said it was an incredibly “exciting time to be working in this space”.

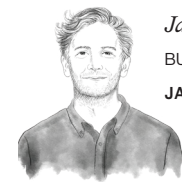
“We focus on building social, economic and environmentally sustainable projects, while working with practical and cost-effective solutions,” Mr Yelkenci said.

“We may act as consultants, but our experience and advice lend itself more to the role of mediators, we are the boots on ground service that can work with land owners or farmers to achieve great outcomes.”

“In five years’ time, I still see us in the space that we are in, but on an international scale. Our approach and expertise are transferrable to legislatively similar countries like the UK, US and Canada, or other like United Arab Emirates or Qatar who are focused on the ESG market.”

“Our point of difference is that we are new, fresh, and energised. We have an environmental sustainability mindset, that allows developers to avoid hiring in-house resources for the services that we can supply.” ●

For more information:
tierraconsulting.com.au



Jack Hayes
BUSINESS EDITOR
JACK@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

Tickets on sale for 2023 Royal Melbourne Show

“*The Melbourne Royal Show returns in 2023 with a promise to be the best value show ever with tickets now on sale.*”



comic daredevil Bello Nock will also join the entertainment line-up in addition to crowd favourite Airtime Freestyle Motocross.

The Show After Dark will also return, featuring 11 nights of show-stopping live music from an incredible line up of amazing artists, with acts to be announced soon. Showgoers will also get to experience a unique Jurassic Unearthed realistic animatronics exhibition, included within their standard ticket.

“We are very proud to present our biggest Melbourne Royal Show program and encourage everyone to get in early to purchase tickets and start their countdown to the Show. We are committed to providing incredible value for families across all facets of the Show. Never before can you do so much in one day, with just one ticket,” Brad Jenkins, Melbourne Royal CEO, said.

In 2023, Melbourne Royal (previously the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria) celebrates 175 years since the organisation’s inception, marked by the first ever ploughing match in 1848. This milestone was the foundation for agricultural shows in Victoria, and evolved to become the Melbourne Royal Show which we know and love today.

Foodies will also have a plethora of choices to whet their appetite, with an enhanced food and beverage offering with 15 unique food precincts including Graze and Gourmet Pantry + Cellar and some of Melbourne’s hottest names in food including Mr Miyagi, Tokyo Lamington and Wonderbao. ●

For more information:
royalshow.com.au

QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET TRADER PROFILE

The latest addition to QVM’s Purpose Precinct champions all things sustainability

Having already been a leading social enterprise in the sustainable economy for more than two decades, the latest addition to Queen Victoria Market’s (QVM) Purpose Precinct is changing the game when it comes to repurposed goods.

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*



Green Collect has just joined traders in the Purpose Precinct, selling a range of sustainable and recycled homewares, clothing, pantry, and gift items; all with the aim of minimising landfill and environmental impact.

“Every product has a positive story for both people and planet,” said one of Green Collect’s two founders, Sally Quinn.

“From job creation to circular design, you’ll find inspiring purpose-filled products and makers.”

Ms Quinn came up with the concept for Green Collect in 2001 alongside co-founder Darren Andrews, and the idea has since grown into a widely successful business that is all about promoting sustainable products and their makers.

Since opening, some of the stall’s most popular products have been their Beekeeper Parade bags, woven Pali baskets using recycled pallet straps, and Green Collect’s own custom notebooks that have been up-cycled from QVM fruit and vegetable cardboard box waste.

The Purpose Precinct opened at QVM last November and was developed in collaboration with STREAT and Good Cycles.

Since its launch, 25 social enterprise stalls have been introduced to the precinct with Minister for Employment Ben Carroll announcing plans on August 3 to expand into a permanent space that will house up to 100 stalls.

“We’re backing our social enterprises because

they create positive outcomes for local workers and the community – and that’s why we’re expanding this precinct at one of our most iconic markets,” Mr Carroll said.

The expansion will see the precinct move from its former home on Stringbean Alley to QVM’s F Shed Laneway and is set to be complete later this year. The initiative will also provide employment opportunities for 75 disadvantaged jobseekers throughout the precinct.

“This is like a massive front door for social enterprises that will create visibility for the sector, which is really exciting and also great for customers who want to shop ethically,” said STREAT co-founder and CEO Ben Scott.

“Green Collect is excited to be joining the Purpose Precinct – please drop in and say ‘hi,’” Ms Quinn said.

Green Collect is currently located in shed F19 in the F Laneway which can be accessed through Peel St. ●

For more information:
greencollect.org

STATE MP (LOWER HOUSE)

Our pressure on Labor to regulate short-stays and address the housing crisis is working

The CBD is a great place to live. But residents are rightfully frustrated by the lack of affordable housing and the ever-increasing amount of short-stay accommodation dominating our suburbs.



my Greens colleagues and I tried to introduce a bill to Parliament to regulate short-stay accommodation. Disappointingly, the Victorian Labor Government would not support the bill.

But I'm hopeful that with this new taskforce, we might finally be about to see some action.

The Greens plan to regulate short-stays would introduce a 90-day cap on how many nights per year a property can be rented out, along with new rules to allow owners' corporations to regulate short-stays in their building. These are sensible measures that mean you can still rent out a room or rent out your home when you go on holiday but would prevent investors from buying up multiple whole apartments just to make mega profits and never renting them out long-term.

While the taskforce is a welcome announcement, it's frustrating that when Labor had the chance to address the issue of short-stays, they refused. And after nine years of campaigning, I know that the community is sick of waiting for meaningful reforms, but I hope this is the moment where the pressure finally becomes so great that reform happens. ●



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

In recent months, the Greens have been ramping up pressure on the state government to take urgent action to address the worsening housing crisis. With so many short-stay properties sitting empty for most of the year, we need urgent action to get more homes into the long-term market so they can be rented to families who need them.

I'm proud to share that following negotiations with my Greens colleagues and I in Parliament, the Treasurer has announced a new taskforce will be established to investigate solutions to the housing crisis.

The taskforce will consider three important issues that the Greens put on the table:

Stopping unlimited rent increases, such as a cap on rent increases, like already exists in the ACT.

Regulation of short-stays, such as Airbnbs.

Strengthening Victoria's vacancy tax, to make more empty homes available for renters or first home buyers.

We've since heard that the Labor Government is considering a \$5 tax per booking for landlords who rent properties out on short-stay platforms like Airbnb, but this won't solve the problem, as owners with multiple apartments will still be able to make significantly more money on the short-stay market and have no incentive to put their properties up for longer-term rental.

Instead, we need proper caps on the number of nights a property can be leased as a short-stay per year, in order to get homes back on the long-term rental market.

I first raised the issue of short-stays in Parliament all the way back in 2014, and in May

TURNING HOPE INTO ACTION

Homelessness Week – a weak proposition that borders on poverty porn

As a homelessness advocate, it would be easy for people to think that Homelessness Week would be a favourite week of mine, after all, it's a week dedicated to something I'm deeply passionate about – homelessness.



WORDS BY *Lisa Peterson*
CEO/FOUNDER - TURNING HOPE INTO ACTION INC.

Admittedly, I used to really enjoy it and I got involved in it, but the more I learn about and understand homelessness, the more I dislike the week. Not only does it feel like a week where the converted preach to each other, it certainly looks like it does so, while excluding those of us with a lived or living experience, unless we are there, seated at the table, it can only be described as either "tokenism" or "poverty porn".

The theme of this year's Homelessness Week – "It's time to end homelessness" – informed me straight away that this year was not going to be an exception and would be just another week that was about us, without us.

What was it about the theme that told me this year was going to be no different to the ones that have made me cynical? When the homelessness sector talks about ending homelessness, they are talking about infrastructure and the need we have for it.

I'm certainly not going to suggest we don't need affordable housing. Former Social Services Minister Kevin Andrews told us in 2014 that the federal government knew we needed 250,000 affordable houses and by 2020, 500,000, so yes, we do need affordable housing.

However, even if we had a house for every person living in this country, we'd still have homelessness because home is a feeling, it's not a place.

There are plenty of people who are housed and homeless, I was one of them for around 20 years due to lacking secure tenure, not having control over living spaces, feeling like I was always walking on eggshells or living in properties where my name didn't appear on either the lease or title, no amount of affordable housing would have changed any of it; support, education and understanding might have, but that is all missing from the "end homelessness" lexicon.

It's missing in large part because those who are making decisions about what we want, and need never have been in our shoes and don't engage with us in any real way to know what we want.

Unlike other areas of social service, people with a lived or living experience of homelessness don't have the right to have a say in the decisions that impact our lives. As a result, we are left traumatised (something that keeps us trapped in the cycle of homelessness) and taxpayers' money is wasted while those who are paid to do something about homelessness bleat to each other about ending something they can't possibly end, all of which is highlighted during Homelessness Week for those who care to look.

Homelessness Week has the potential to do so much more for the people who have no choice but to endure homelessness or recover from it, but that will only happen if we are included in a meaningful way.

This requires those in power giving some of it up, something I fear won't happen while they're caught up in the delusion of ending an impossibility and making the Week about us, without us. ●

LAW

Working from your apartment in the CBD ... feeling lonely and cooped up?

Finding that working from home is not all it's cracked up to be? Feeling a little stir-crazy and finding a need for more social interaction?

WORDS BY *Peter Nevile*
NEVILE & CO LAWYERS / PETER.NEVILE@NEVILE.COM.AU

These days, apartments seem to be forever shrinking in size, so if you are one of the people who have chosen to work from home (and, personally, I don't think it's a great idea, at least for most people) then I have recently run across a possible solution which may well be very tempting.

It's hard to have social interaction in a limited space, particularly if you are sharing it with another person, an animal, a desk, a computer, and the usual paraphernalia that accompanies living.

At times, it's nice to get out and be able to have lunch or dinner or a few drinks with some

friends, have a party, play pool, sit by a fire and work with your computer in a different environment, meet some new people, and generally have a life. I have discovered this is all possible in the CBD.

There is a solution. The Kelvin Club is not your ordinary club in that it's not really all that "clubbish" as some of the more venerable, same-sex institutions, but still maintains the feeling. It is situated in Melbourne Place off Russell St right behind Embla restaurant. It was established almost 150 years ago and was named for Lord Kelvin of the absolute temperature fame. Not known to you? Try Google!

For a city dweller, it offers to solve many of the above problems. It has an inviting dining room, which can also be a ballroom, a private dining room and audio-visual facilities so you can actually do some work with colleagues. Downstairs it has a billiards or pool room with several tables. There is a very enthusiastic group of players. The club has recently re-joined the inter-club competition in Melbourne.

They also have a bar replete with leather armchairs and sofas as well as tables where you can have an informal snack or a meal. There is

another cosy area where you can sit by the fire and simply work with your computer or enjoy the conviviality with other members. If you have any friends, as a member you can invite them to join you. Finally, it comes replete with its own hairdresser, Sammy.

The Kelvin Club is a mixed club. The current president is a woman and there are an increasing number of female members. It has a long, proud tradition but like most clubs, there is always the need for the introduction of new, younger members with fresh blood to preserve the club for the future. In my view, membership of this club provides a lifestyle solution for people living in the CBD or nearby surrounds.

The committee appointed an energetic, friendly, and vibrant manager with a background in hospitality. Miss Pearls was both the general manager and part-owner of Madame Brussels, an extremely well-known rooftop bar and facility located in Bourke Street for some 18 years prior to coming to the Kelvin Club.

For those with an historical bent the original Madame Brussels was a well-known brothel in the 19th century frequented by parliamentarians among other luminaries of the time. Some

unkind person suggested that the parliamentarians have continued their practice on their constituents! It is rumoured that there was an underground passage to the Parliament for the convenience of the patrons.

With the support of the Committee she has been instrumental in an increase in membership, new renovations, and introduced a variety of new functions. The club is now working on an exciting new project to turn Melbourne Place into an entertainment and dining precinct.

You may think that this is almost a paid advertisement for the Kelvin Club. It is not, but as we act for so many inner-city apartment dwellers and they all face similar issues this seems to be a much better option than all that counselling. Probably cheaper too.

If the idea of membership appeals to you, do call the Kelvin Club, ask to speak with Miss Pearls. She will be more than happy to invite you to the club to see for yourself how you can dispel those long, lonely nights.

Alternatively, if you are cooped up in your apartment and it's causing you or your relationships stress, then it's possible you'll have some legal issues, and with those we can assist. ●

STREET ART

Who painted the lane?

Hosier Lane is a well-known and culturally significant laneway located in the heart of the CBD. If you don't know where it is, then you're probably not from around here.

Hosier and its little sister, Rutledge, have gained international recognition as a centralised location for street art and graffiti culture. I have touched on the history of Hosier before, but here we go again ...

The history of Hosier Lane is intertwined with Melbourne's evolution with its history dating back to the late 19th century when Melbourne was rapidly expanding. The lane was named after a local businessman named Robert Hosier.

Like many other laneways in Melbourne, Hosier Lane was originally a service lane, primarily used for deliveries and access to buildings for the clothes and material making factories and shops along Flinders Lane.

However, it wasn't until the late 20th century and early 21st century that Hosier Lane began to transform into the street art haven it is today. Andy Mac and Richie BB set up *Citylights* on the side of the Forum theatre with permission from the Mariners. It was a bunch of light boxes that artists would put pictures in, and it would change every few months.

This was a project that was perfectly timed to help kickstart the urban art movement in 1998. The openings were crazy; often big, awesome parties. A second site was set up in Centre Place at the end of Degraves.

Back then there really was no art on the walls. It wasn't until about 2001 that these lanes



started to be painted and it was left pretty much to the blossoming urban art movement exclusively – no tags, no slashing – beautiful youthful art transformed these lanes and then flowed out into the network of lanes that Melbourne has the privilege of owning.

Over time, it became a famous, dynamic outdoor gallery and it was considered the largest of its kind in the world, showcasing a wide array of artistic styles, messages, and techniques.

The lane became a symbol of Melbourne's vibrant and diverse arts scene. It's a testament to the city's embrace of street art as a valid form

of artistic expression.

Pre-COVID, Hosier Lane drew 9000 visitors a day from all over the world who come to admire the ever-changing murals and graffiti, and was voted the number one free tourist attraction in Australia by *Lonely Planet*. It even beat Uluru and the Great Barrier Reef! It had become a must-visit spot for tourists looking to experience Melbourne's creative spirit.

Hosier Lane's fame has spread far beyond Melbourne, becoming an iconic representation of the city's cultural landscape on an international scale.

During the past four years Hosier, like much of the city's urban art precincts, has fallen into disrepair and has lost a lot of its charm. It seems wherever there is a good street art precinct someone is always allowed to build a skyscraper; this has ruined many of the important street art areas in the city.

But the point of this story is that three weeks ago the whole of Hosier Lane was painted in a dark grey. Every artwork was covered, even the ground, and nobody seems to know who did it!

I would think it was government sanctioned but then the ground would never be covered. It was done with rollers, and it was clumsy in application. And yes, I did paint Rutledge in empty Nursery Blue but that's because I wanted to make it look like a giant empty swimming pool. But I struggle to see the motivation of painting it grey.

It's weird because it would have made the news five years ago, but because Hosier is done, no one seems to care anymore.

The truth is whoever painted Hosier in grey has really helped clean up the lane – there are now fresh, new and clean pieces; the lane has been given somewhat of a facelift and it looks heaps better.

I don't know who painted Hosier Lane, but I thank you. You have done so much to fix the lane.

You, my friend, are a hero! ●



Adrian Doyle

ARTIST

DOYLESART@HOTMAIL.COM

HISTORY

An afternoon concert in Little Bourke St in the 1880s

“

Seven bandsmen, dressed in flat caps and uniforms, perform outside a substantial bluestone building, believed to be the premises of R Goldsbrough & Co, wool and grain agents, a company that had large grain and produce stores around the city.

”

This was the firm's tallow store in Little Bourke St. Its entrance is protected by large wrought iron gates attached to substantial columns and in the heavily barred window is a sign for a company that appears to be “Binder Twine Oils & Co”, suggesting that at least one other company may have rented space in the building or was selling products from the store.

The musicians stand in the bluestone gutter and on the edge of the pavement to perform. The shadows suggest it is afternoon. The photographer is facing south towards the store which was located on the south side of the



street on the corner of Goldsbrough Lane, then known as Fulton Lane. It seems this was not a posed photograph.

Several men walk across the scene, one dressed in workman's clothes. The bandsmen are rather shabbily dressed, wearing work trousers, with shoes unpolished and it is not

hard to believe that they are performing during their lunch break and have hastily donned their band jackets and caps in order to head outside to play.

Perhaps they are on the Goldsbrough staff? We will never know and tantalisingly, the clue that is there – the writing on the badges of

their caps – is indecipherable.

There are no crowds here, unless they are standing behind the photographer, so the men may well be performing for themselves alone.

What would motivate them to perform? And what repertoire were they playing that day? We can only guess. Did they play hymns, such as those of the American religious revivalists Sankey and Moody?

The songs of Stephen Foster were popular, so maybe *Beautiful Dreamer* or *Jeanie with the light brown hair*? Waltzes, polkas and other dance music may have echoed down Little Bourke St. Or perhaps a selection of tunes from Gilbert and Sullivan's latest hit operetta *Mikado*?

This is a tantalising look at street performance in the CBD at a time when the 1880s land boom was in full swing, businesses were booming and a glamorous, swaggering “Marvellous Melbourne” was in evidence on streets such as Collins and Bourke. Yet tucked away on a one of the “Little” streets is a much more modest scene, one reminding us that Melbourne could only be “Marvellous” through the efforts of its workmen, such as those you see here.

I suppose the question we have to ask ourselves is how “Marvellous” was Melbourne for them? ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

We are humans, we don't minimise harm by creating harm to others

Communities are living organisms that are interconnected and where wellbeing must be considered holistically for successful outcomes. Nowhere is this more evident than in the heart of the city where everything has a greater intensity, vibrancy, and dynamism.

WORDS BY *Rafael Camillo* (president)
OPINION



Changes, whether positive or less so, have ripple effects on the wellbeing of those who visit, live and work in close proximity.

Decisions should be made through this lens, and we must remind ourselves that governments are public servants for the greater good – let's hold them to account.

If we ask ourselves whether the government is seeing the big picture on wellbeing and serving communities well by using taxpayers' money to create a built facility for injecting drugs, surely the answer must be, "no".

Lessons learned from other similar facilities, like the one in North Richmond, must be taken seriously and seen holistically. From the surrounding area becoming non-inclusive and a hotspot for drug trafficking, to increased public injecting and inappropriate discarding of syringes, they create more harms than they solve.

Will the police that are currently short-staffed, receive the same instruction as they did for North Richmond and be prevented from stopping drug deals in our historic Bourke St precinct or even on the steps of Parliament – perhaps in the background of a wedding photo on a weekend?

A review of the North Richmond site stated lives "may" have been saved within the facility itself, but how many have been lost right outside?

Lessons learned from the North Richmond facility are also vital, noting that goals four and five of the "Ryan Review" were not met, that is, there was increased public injecting and inappropriate discarding (from 20 per cent to 79 per cent), and the facility failed to improve neighbourhood amenity for residents and local businesses.

Victoria Police's role is to serve the Victorian community, uphold the law and promote a safe, secure, and orderly society. Yet within a certain radius of a facility of this nature, police cannot carry out all their duties, with obvious consequences.

The existential question is how our government supports and encourages the harm minimisation for those using drugs via a model of an injection room that at the same time creates harm such as street violence, distress, and trauma for residents, traders, workers, and visitors to those precincts.

So, location is paramount in this debate, and we cannot tolerate more harm to our local CBD community. The Bourke Hill Precinct is a touristic, historic, residential, and artistic area not only for Victorians but for all Australians and overseas visitors.

All government agencies, businesses and leaders have obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act EPA 2017* to prevent harm to human health. Creating a built facility for the injection of drugs anywhere within the heart of our city, with the known associated harms to nearby residents, business operators and visitors of all ages, would be a failure of government to uphold the Act.

Describing injecting as "safe" is a misnomer in any case, when the quality of the drugs is uncontrolled (unlike the Netherlands model). Other solutions also need to be explored as alternatives to illicit drugs being taken in injecting rooms.

For example, the latest data shows Victoria has significantly less people receiving opioid replacement treatments than has been achieved in other Australian states. Victoria's higher per capita consumption of heroin could be influenced by the lower state government investment in opioid substitution treatment.

Let's also ensure that all options for locating supervised injection rooms and associated facilities are considered and properly consulted on – for example, rather than within the CBD, consider placing the facilities in a medical precinct or hospital setting on the outskirts of the CBD, but perhaps still within the City of Melbourne.

The solution to where injection rooms are to be located needs to consider the entire community within the neighbourhood – both in terms of what happens within the injection room

facility where experience has demonstrated that lives can be saved, but also outside the injecting rooms within the surrounding neighbourhood where the addition of the facility does not create additional harms to those living, working and visiting the local area.



Otherwise, harm is not actually minimised, it is just displaced from one group of humans to another group of humans.



Let's keep sight of the big picture – support one another towards positive wellbeing outcomes – create safe, thriving, inclusive communities that are socially restorative ecosystems, and hold our elected leaders to account to do the same.

The Bourke Hill Precinct Association has asked the Residents 3000 group to share its petition, please feel free to have your say.

Sign the petition at change.org/NoToInjectingRoom ●



STATE MP (UPPER HOUSE)

Labor's broken harm minimisation model threatens community safety

Recent speculation that a medically supervised injecting room will be located at the Salvos at the top of Bourke St demonstrates the Andrews Government's disregard for our community.

WORDS BY *Evan Mulholland*
LIBERAL MEMBER FOR NORTHERN METRO

It also shows an utter lack of respect for the difficulties CBD traders faced during lockdowns and for the progress they have made rebuilding our city into the destination precinct it once was.

To be clear, I do not oppose the establishment of a medically supervised injection room in principle. In fact, I believe that if these facilities are located in an appropriate location like a health precinct and with proper community consultation, they can contribute successfully to drug harm reduction.

Unfortunately, the past missteps of the Andrews Government have already cast a shadow on the merit of these facilities.

The North Richmond facility is located only 50 metres from a primary school, causing great distress to parents and pushing Victoria St traders to the wall.

The proposed CBD injecting room in our historic Bourke St precinct would be located only metres from renowned Melbourne institutions, just 200 metres from Parliament House and around the corner from the Princess Theatre.

Just as our city's traders and hospitality sector are recovering from the pandemic and enduring one of the world's longest lockdowns, the government's decision threatens to set back their progress.

The Police Association, through secretary Wayne Gatt, also expressed its scepticism about the chosen location.

Mr Gatt said, "The top of Bourke St and the CBD in general is the wrong place to put an injecting room" and warned it could stretch police resources to unsustainable levels, impacting the safety of the area.

Police patrolling around the North Richmond facility have said that



they were instructed to ignore drug deals around the facility, creating a honeypot. Retired police officer Mick Wilmott has predicted the same orders will occur in the CBD.

This means that we could see drug deals on the steps of Parliament, perhaps in the background of wedding photos, with police powerless to prevent them.

Even more concerning, every year, more than 10,000 students tour Parliament House hoping to learn about parliamentary democracy.

The proposed location is also close to the Parliament Station and the tram stop where many families with children disembark, looking forward to seeing their first show at the Princess Theatre.

We don't want kids to see their first drug deal while on their way to see *Harry Potter*.

Labor's broken harm minimisation model does no more than pose a danger to the safety of children, families, traders, tourists, and the wider community.

To ensure Melbourne is the most vibrant and safe city it can be, the Andrews Government must consult with the chorus of voices expressing concern with the proposed location.

It's time that the government goes back to the drawing board and engages in genuine and meaningful consultation with residents and businesses before committing to this flawed proposition. ●

Evan Mulholland is the Liberal MP for the Northern Metropolitan, representing Melbourne's CBD in the State Parliament.

WE LIVE HERE

Short stays “out of control”

The woeful inadequacy of the state’s short-stay legislation remains in the spotlight, with heightened tension in municipalities throughout the state.

City and rural councils are being faced with mounting resident complaints of noise, parties, nudity, assault, and property damage.

The intensity is increasing as party-lovers emerge from their pandemic-induced hibernation, as if making up for lost time. And with zero consequences, the behaviour is worsening.

The short-stay industry is a huge commercial business for many operators. Data collected by insideairbnb.com shows that 50 operators control 543 listings in Port Phillip. These 50 businesses are each managing up to \$20 million in property assets. All up, there is potentially a monumental \$1 billion in short-stay assets in Port Phillip – a big business by any measure.

The fallout from the continual social disruption has led to a groundswell of support and media coverage for a local resident advocate in the city. The advocate has shocking evidence of short-stay visitors assaulting residents with threatening language, including homophobic slurs, in common areas.

The short-stay chaos in Victoria is an abject disgrace and must be stopped.

Short-stay metastasis – state-wide

Short-stay impacts are being felt the breadth of the state – Warrnambool, Bass Coast, Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula and Port Phillip. The alpine town of Bright is beleaguered by almost as many short-stay properties as the NSW tourist hotspot, Byron Bay.

These councils have taken direct action or expressed their frustration with the lack of action by the state government. As the third tier of government, councils are reluctantly stepping into the breach and enacting fundamental reforms to stem the contagion.

With an election on the horizon, now is the time for the

Victorian Labor Party to formulate its policy in response to the shocking housing crisis. If the policies continue to be ineffective, the party risks losing ground across the state.

Industry welcomes micro-tax

For multinational corporations domiciled in putative tax havens, a new tax is fine and dandy – if somebody else pays it.

The state government’s proposed \$5 micro-tax on short-stay guests has elicited fawning praise from industry leaders. Revealingly, other operators in the short-stay industry are bemoaning the token one or two per cent that this proposed tax represents.

At least we are hopeful, now that we see the first timid moves from the state government indicating that they may be aware of rising community anger.

What’s next?

The Victorian community has been suffering eight years of government inertia.

In 2015 the government promised to address only the party issue and even for that modest aspiration it has failed dismally. The so-called “Airbnb party” Act has proven ineffective. Of the 50 cases brought before VCAT, none have been successful. The problem has persisted and indeed worsened. Victoria needs:

- a state-wide registration system;
- the government to allow owners’ corporations to make rules on shorts stays;
- the government to implement an annual day cap; and
- realistic and enforceable penalties.

Stop procrastinating. All these basic requirements are needed NOW. ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton
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METRO TUNNEL

Metro Tunnel achieves major milestone with first test trains

The first test trains have started running through the Metro Tunnel, marking a major milestone for the project and the beginning of a rigorous, months-long testing phase.



Two test trains – one in each of the twin nine-kilometre tunnels – were driven through the eastern entrance of the Metro Tunnel at South Yarra in the early hours of 25 July, stopping at Anzac Station.

The journey was years in the making and marks the start of the project’s next major testing phase inside the new tunnels and stations, which will stretch into 2024.

Over the coming months, the seven-carriage trains will run back-and-forth deep under the CBD and Yarra River testing various equipment and systems to ensure they are working seamlessly and safely.

Fundamentals – such as lining the trains up with the platforms – will be tested first before the team gradually increases the complexity, from one train at low speed using minimal power through to multiple trains at greater speeds.

Everything from lifts, escalators, security systems, communications,

lighting, plumbing, power and the Victorian-first platform screen doors will all be rigorously tested to ensure all systems are working together with Melbourne’s new fleet of bigger, better trains.

“This is huge part of our work to make the Metro Tunnel passenger ready,” said Metro Tunnel Project Director Ben Ryan.

“We’re making sure all the pieces that fit together to set our stations up for Day 1 are in working order. That includes things like lifts, escalators, lighting, tunnel ventilation and power.”

This testing phase will continue into the first half of next year before the project team moves on to the next major testing phase – trial operations.

This phase will include drivers and station staff running simulated timetabled services in a dress rehearsal to ensure everything is ready for a safe, reliable, and efficient opening to passengers in 2025 – a year ahead of schedule. ●

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征求市中心“未来街道”意见

墨尔本市政于8月开始，就其“未来街道框架”于当地社区进行磋商，在未来几十年内将彻底重塑中央商务区（CBD）的街道空间。

Sean Car

市政的这一框架草案于6月首次公布，希望为市区最大用户行人创造一个更加公平的公共区域，并提出了一系列措施来缓解“空间效率低下”的私家车行驶问题。

拟议的一些变革措施包括在Flinders街、Collins街和Spring街繁忙街区“全面或部分禁止”私家车行驶，而整个中央商务区的Elizabeth街和Swanston街也可能成为无车行驶区域。

该举措是以市政（2019年发布）《2030年总体交通战略》为基础，其中一项重要数据显示，虽然CBD内十分之九的出行是步行完成的，但只有四分之一的街道总空间被指定为人行道。

该框架的咨询工作于8月初通过市议会的“参与墨尔本”门户网站启动，而在发布时已经为居民和企业举办了几场在线问答咨询会议。

咨询工作将持续到10月11日，当地人有很多机会亲自或在线发表意见，市长Sally Capp恳请社区参与并帮助制定这项重要的举措。

市长表示：“墨尔本是全国发展最快的城市。我们希望确保它成为一个繁荣的大都市，能够继续欢迎越来越多的工作者、游客和居民，同时促进本市商家和雇主的经济活动。”

“未来街道框架草案旨在为社区中的每个人创造更安全、更有活力和无障碍的街道，无论你以何种方式进入市区或在市区中行走。”

“墨尔本有98%的公共开放空间都在街道上。我们要以此作为工具，指导未来街道的规划和设计，确保能受到所有道路使用者的欢迎，以及具有多功能性。”

如需发表意见，请访问：participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/future-streets-framework

巨额投资的法式餐馆

一家耗资1000万澳元的奢华法国餐馆计划在CBD开业，将由著名餐厅企业家Chris Lucas经营。

Brendan Rees

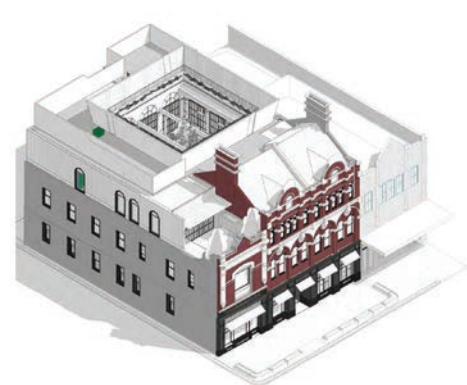
对于美食爱好者来说，这无疑是一个受欢迎的消息，这家名为“Batard”的三层餐厅将位于Bourke街19-21号和23-29号，以屋顶酒吧和庭院餐厅为特色。

墨尔本市议员在8月15日的未来墨尔本委员会会议上支持该项目提案，并通过了这项经过修改的规划许可，因为要对这个受遗产控制的场地进行拆除和重建工程。

副市长Nicholas Reece将该提案描述为对Bourke Hill区域的“巨额投资”，Bourke Hill区域以其充满活力的零售、咖啡馆和餐馆文化以及包括温莎酒店（Hotel Windsor）和公主剧院（Princess Theatre）在内的著名地标而闻名。

他说：“在另一端，你会看到Chris Lucas和Justin Hemmes这样的巨头在多个新场馆进行了大量的投资。”

他说：“你会看到新一波亚洲餐馆，如此受欢迎，人们在街上排起长队，火锅、韩国烧烤和日式汤面现在非常红火。”



市议员Reece表示，餐厅的申请是为了修改已经获得批准的许可证，最新申请的工程包括重建两个15.9米高的烟囱，这两个烟囱位于遗产建筑内，会被“重新建造”。

他说：“作为申请的一部分，我希望人们知道，其要求之一是将原来的烟囱和墙壁中的每一块砖都作好记录并加以保存，等完全修复后，用于重建这些烟囱和墙壁。”

在市议会2022年3月的遗产地清单（于2023年5月修订）中，位于Bourke街19-21号的场地被评为是一座“杰出的”遗产建筑，而Bourke街23-29号被评为是一座“重要的”遗产建筑。

Lucas先生是Chin Chin和Gogo Bar等标志性餐厅的策划人，他的新餐厅预计将于明年开业，将成为美食爱好者的必到之处。

无家可归者住房项目获批

市政计划在Little Bourke街上修建一个六层楼50套单间公寓，为露宿街头者提供住宿。

David Schout

此项计划耗资110万澳元的工程，尽管遭到近40人的反对，但还是获得了墨尔本市议会的批准，由此在CBD为露宿者提供住房的项目又向前迈进了一步。

作为“Make Room”项目的一部分，Little Bourke街602-606号的部分拆除和修建工程得到了议员们的一致支持。

该倡议是由墨尔本市政、维多利亚州政府、Unison Housing、企业和慈善机构共同发起，计划将该建筑改造成为无家可归和露宿者的安全住所。

该建筑位于CBD的西部边缘，最终将提供多达50套单间公寓和全方位的支持服务，根据市政的说法，这些居住者将在此居住长达12个月，或者直到他们取得长期住房的相关支持。

在8月1日举行的未来墨尔本委员会会议上，市议员们考虑了对该建筑进行必要的改动，以提供支持性住宅，以及从遗产和城市设计的角度来看，这些改动是否能接受。

市政的规划和建设主任Julian Edwards表示，这座建于1952年的六层砖砌建筑“需要一些急需的关爱”。

这项计划遭到来自38人的反对，他们认为该计划项目不会给城市带来积极的影响。



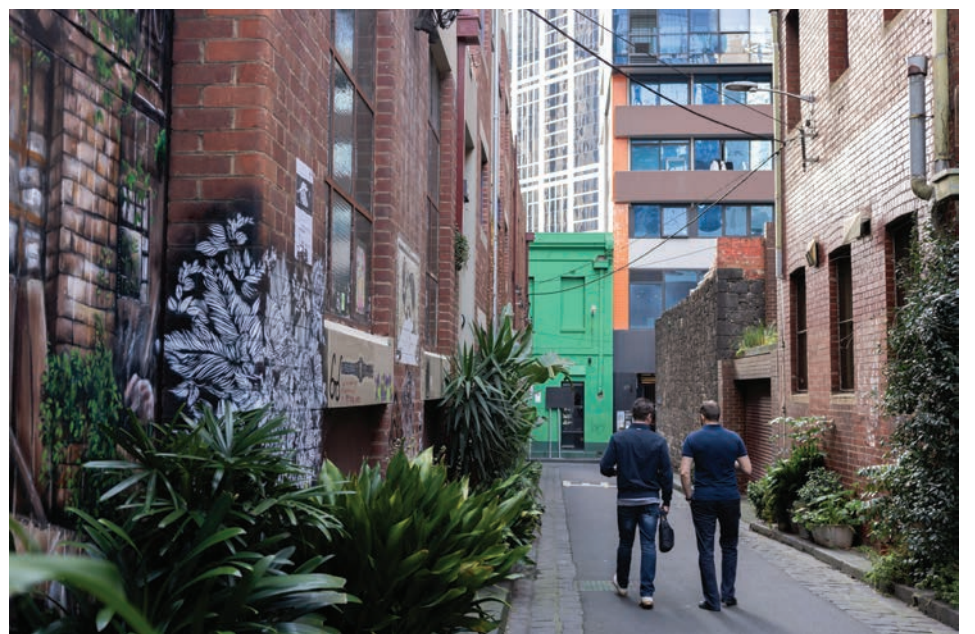
反对者表示，“Make Room”项目将降低周围居民的人身安全，同时增加犯罪率和垃圾量。

其他人表示，这将对附近的商业利益和房地产价格产生负面影响。

然而，大多数反对意见被认为是不相关的，因为它们集中在土地作为辅助住宅设施的“使用”，这不需要规划许可。

一位市政官员的报告称：“在审查收到的申请反对意见后，所提出的大多数问题与Make Room项目建筑物的预期用途有关，而不是与拟议的工程或遗产考虑有关。”

“这些问题不属于市议会在评估申请时的自由裁量权范围，因此不能通过此规划申请来解决。”



市政新建巷道绿化模式

自2017年以来，CBD的四个巷道试点绿化项目取得成功，墨尔本市政正式批准了三个巷道绿化模式，称这将有助于我们城市更多巷道实现绿色化。

Sean Car

在7月25日的市议会上，议员们一致通过了“巷道绿化”计划的评估建议，目前该计划已包括了CBD的Coromandel Place、Katherine Place、Meyers Place和Guilford Lane巷道。

市政报告指出，市区有进一步道路绿化的“巨大潜力”，“有70公顷的横向小街道空间可用，还有150公顷的垂直墙壁空间，都没得到充分利用”。

报告称：“该试点计划测试了街道绿化

并结合建造的设施，是否可以增加舒适度，吸引游客，改善墨尔本标志性巷道中生活、工作和娱乐的社区健康和福祉。”

在这次评估过程中，市政向四个试点项目中直接受影响的居民、商家和游客征求意见，现已确定了未来绿化的三种模式……

“社区驱动”：通过“绿化墨尔本”许可程序，在许可的公共空间支持私人绿化；

“商业和社区驱动”：共同资助与巷道公共区域相连接的私有空间中的私有绿化，通过市政的“城市园林基金”得到“专门拨款”；及

“市政驱动”：根据市政的“战略和环境目标”计划，在公共空间提供公共绿化。

市政的环境组合主管Rohan Leppert在谈到这个巷道绿化计划时表示，从社区的反馈来看，这个计划显然“非常受欢迎”。

欲知更多信息，请查阅：participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greenlaneways

What's on: September 2023



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7PM
THE BOITE - QUEEN OF HEARTS

All women. All original. Violins, big bass, trumpets and more. Queen of Hearts Mariachi is an all-female band drawing from the Mexican Mariachi tradition.

Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 6PM
RESIDENTS 3000 AGM WITH LORD MAYOR SALLY CAPP

Members are welcome to renew for this financial year at \$30 per person. Non-members are asked to contribute \$5 per person to cover costs for the event. Kelvin Club, 14-30 Melbourne Place (off Russell Street) Melbourne 3000



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 7:30PM
ELIZA SHEPHARD - THE WORDS THEMSELVES

A theatrical evening of music, literature and dance from the winner of ABC's Young Performer of the Year. Standard \$37 (\$30 Concession).

Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 8PM
XANI - XANI MAKES
A surround sound solo violin experience exploring space, relativity and dark matter. Standard \$37 (\$30 Concession).

Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 7.30PM
Melbourne Veena Festival: Our Journey – Iyer Brothers

Celebrating 50 years of playing the veena together.

Standard \$55 (\$45 Concession).

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au

LAST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 9AM - 4PM
CRFT*WRK CRAFT FAIR

A unique craft fair showcasing independent makers. Featuring everything from art to ceramics, jewellery, embroidery, ethical textiles, homewares, artisan perfume, dog accessories, and much more.

Queen Victoria Market, Shed C-D



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 7PM
JG THIRWELL - SILVER MANTIS

Step into uncharted sonic territory as Melbourne-born, New York-based artist JG Thirlwell's critically acclaimed, Silver Mantis, takes audiences on an electro-acoustic journey.

Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 6PM
SYZYGY ENSEMBLE - DEVINE INSPIRATION

A fearless pioneer in chamber music, Syzygy Ensemble combines virtuosic talent with a bold commitment to today's music. Standard \$37 (\$30 Concession).

Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au

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