

CBD NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P21



Matt lands his dream job
Photo by Maria Vasileva

New Queen Victoria Market CEO Matt Elliott has settled into life quickly in his new role, and caught up with *CBD News* in October to discuss the road ahead. *Full story on page 7.*

State government flags converting CBD offices into apartments, but criticised for “nonsense” claim

A long-awaited Housing Statement has vowed to explore turning unused commercial space into “around 10,000-12,000 apartments and mixed-use properties”.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HOUSING

The Victorian Government will explore converting empty CBD office space into apartments, however it has been called out on a “nonsense” claim that the City of Melbourne helped identify suitable buildings.

The government’s long-awaited Housing Statement was released in September, outlining a 10-year plan to address serious supply and affordability issues, and pledging more protections for renters.

Notably, the statement included a formal commitment to “consider opportunities” to convert underused commercial space into “around 10,000-12,000 apartments and mixed-use properties”.

Commercial vacancies have continued to rise since COVID-19, with the shift to hybrid working and an influx of new higher-grade office supply, thus creating less demand and more empty spaces around the city, particularly lower-grade stock.

Converting offices into apartments has long been flagged by the government; former Premier Daniel Andrews said in March 2022 that the work-from-home pivot was permanent, and something had to be done.

“We need to embrace that and turn that into an important opportunity,” Mr Andrews forecast.

“I would welcome a discussion about commercial real estate in the city, and about the fact that’s going to change,” he said.

“Some businesses are not going to need the floor space that they used to need. If you want to keep the CBD vibrant, then maybe we need to have more people living in the CBD.”

The Housing Statement, released on September 20, now included a vow to explore exactly that point.

“The Property Council of Australia (PCA) and the City of Melbourne have identified close to 80 commercial office buildings that are currently under-used because of changing work patterns and demand for flexible floor space increasing,” the statement read.

“We’ll work with the PCA and the City to consider opportunities to facilitate the conversion of these offices into around 10,000-12,000 apartments and mixed-use properties.”

However, it soon emerged that the City of Melbourne had, in fact, played no role in the process, confirming with *CBD News* it had not partnered with the PCA.

The council’s deputy planning portfolio chair Cr Rohan Leppert said the suggestion was “nonsense”, and that the council was yet to even be provided with a copy of the PCA report.

Continued on page 5.

Councillor: absence of CBD polling booths for voting in referendum, elections “not good enough”

Local residents were forced to travel to polling centres outside the CBD to vote in the Voice to Parliament referendum on October 14 due to a lack of available polling centres.

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*
ELECTIONS

Despite Melbourne being Australia’s most populous capital city, the CBD was the only city centre across the country where the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) was unable to establish polling centres in over the weekend.

“It is not acceptable that there were no polling booths in the CBD,” the City of Melbourne’s deputy planning portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said.

“This is the hub of the state, a lot of people come into the city to vote from lots of different electorates, and they need a place to vote.”

A spokesperson from the AEC explained that voting in the central city was “always difficult” and that it “can’t always get premises for an operation of this size and on short notice.”

“We wanted venues in Melbourne’s CBD, liaising with more than 30 different premises – none were available that were suitable,” the spokesperson said.

“Last election we used the Exhibition Centre in Melbourne’s CBD, but it wasn’t available to use this time as October is the peak period for events.”

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A CBD venues celebrated among the world’s best



TRANSPORT, PAGE 05

B Metro Tunnel builder reveals 2024 opening



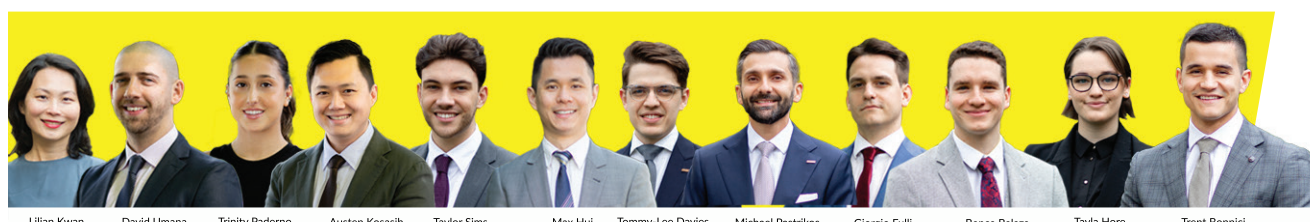
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Council frozen out by government on liquor changes

Calls for clarification on new late-night venue rules, and what it could mean for CBD residents, are being ignored by the state government.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A City of Melbourne request for the Victorian Government to tweak and clarify new liquor licence laws since it lifted a 1am “freeze” has fallen on deaf ears.

Despite one councillor saying swift clarification was what CBD residents and businesses “deserved”, the government has to date ignored council concerns.

Since July, a 13-year freeze on new late-night venues in the CBD has been lifted, with venues no longer requiring a special exemption to trade beyond 1am.

The prior ban, first introduced by the former Brumby government to tackle alcohol-related harm and crime in inner-Melbourne, was removed by former Premier Daniel Andrews as a way to “supercharge the creation of new venues” in the city.

However, since Mr Andrews first promised to remove the “freeze” a week out from the November 2022 state election, which his Labor government would go on to comfortably win, councillors have expressed concerns about what the move could mean for CBD residents.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said shortly after the election that complaints about late-night venues was in her “top three” items of correspondence, in what she called “a natural tension between residents and businesses”.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said at the time he was wary of the government’s impending move.



“I do want to assert, in the clearest possible terms, that there are risks associated with lifting liquor licences to 3am in the city,” he said.

“The difference between 1am and 3am may only be two hours on the clock, but it can be a lifetime of difference when you’re having a night out on the town.”

In March, councillors urged management to write to the Planning Minister for clarity on why the freeze was lifted in the first place.

They also requested the government introduce a concrete definition of “noise sensitive areas” before it followed through with its pre-election promise, something that the current policy did not feature, and which had “given rise to frequent disputes”.

The council recommended a definition reflecting EPA regulations, which defined noise sensitive areas as “within 10 metres of a wall of an accommodation use”.

However, seven months on, the council has now confirmed that to date all requests have been ignored.

Greens councillor Rohan Leppert, who first proposed a council review into the matter shortly after the November 2022 state election, detailed the events to *CBD News* and said it was “a little frustrating” that “modest” requests had been ignored.

“The state government is the agent of change here. They promised on the eve of the election that the late-night freeze would cease on June 30, 2023 and that’s what happened,” he said.

“Council anticipated this, and, in good faith, we reviewed all of the planning controls and policies that apply to licenced premises in the city, and put forward a series of modest amendments before the freeze ended.”

“All those proposed amendments do update some obsolete terms and remove ambiguity on how government balances the intensification of licenced premises with local amenity. Applicants and city residents deserve to have that clarity.”

“It’s a little frustrating that the state government has not acted on this, leaving the planning framework out of date for more than three months now. I would politely encourage the Minister and Department to get their skates on.”

The Planning Minister’s office did not respond to requests for comment from *CBD News*.

The government has previously said lifting the freeze, which would also apply to fellow inner-city municipalities Port Phillip, Yarra and Stonnington, was to “support Melbourne’s night-time economy and helping create new live music venues”.

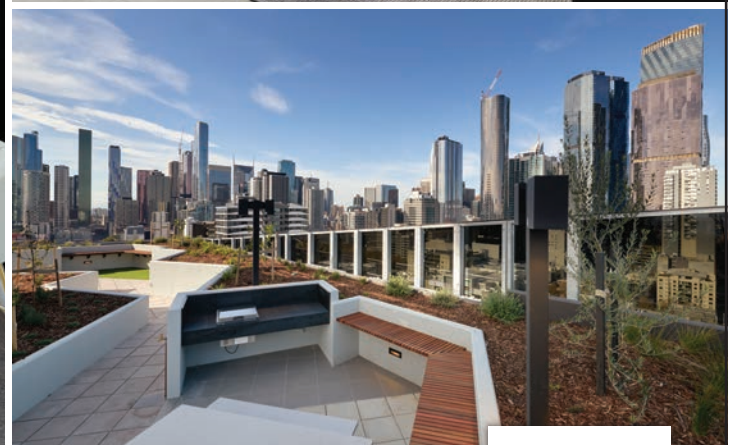
It is expected that the number of applications for late-night venues – those operating beyond 1am – will increase now that the freeze has lifted. ●

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Two CBD venues celebrated as among the world's best



Despite their recent recognition on the World's 100 Best Bars list, Caretaker's Cottage (ranked 23) and Byrdi (ranked 61) both transcend the label of "hidden gem", with their unique venue spaces that will have you cursing at Google Maps until you find them.



WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

When co-owners Matt Stirling, Rob Libecans and Ryan Noreiks, came across what is now the Caretaker's Cottage building just under two years ago, Mr Stirling said, "it immediately spoke to the three of us."

"The place is in the name; it's the Caretaker's Cottage, it was the dwelling of the family initially living here to look after the grounds," Mr Stirling told *CBD News*.

"It's really right in the middle of everything – we often describe it like the house from the animated movie *Up*, where there's this tiny cottage and all the steel and skyscrapers of Melbourne have sort of grown around it."

While known for their modern and meticulous cocktail list that rotates with "seven fresh

drinks every month", if you were to ask the team what they would recommend, "it's always going to be Guinness."

"It is a pub, it's the concept that we looked to flesh out just because it embodied all the things that we wanted to convey, which was that we're welcoming to everyone, and we've got options for everyone."

Byrdi co-owners Luke Whearty and Aki Nishikura describe their venue as an "amalgamation" of their hospitality journey together over the past 12 years, which led them to focusing on "local produce and the changing seasons".

The venue is situated within the Ella precinct of Melbourne Central, paying homage to their

time spent in Asia where it's not uncommon for high-level food and drink venues to exist within public spaces such as shopping centres and train stations.

"Although the offering is quite complex and diverse, it can be broken down fairly simply – local and seasonal," Mr Whearty said.

"We really wanted to create a cocktail bar that tells the story of where we are in the world so that when guests come to visit us, we can deliver an experience that is completely unique and inimitable."

New seasons bring on a fresh theme for Byrdi's menu, with spring 2023 focusing on drinks and snacks inspired by iconic dishes throughout history, such as the Pavlova.

A community-focused approach is apparent within both venues, creating "impressionable and authentic" connections with guests in the "business of humans".

Caretaker's Cottage, located at 139-141 Little Lonsdale St, is open Tuesday to Saturday, 4pm to 1am. Byrdi, located at 211 La Trobe St, GDO75, is open Tuesday to Thursday, 5pm to 11pm, and Friday to Saturday, 5pm to 12am. ●

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From waste to soil food: residents welcome recycling trial

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SUSTAINABILITY

Residents at the Spring Street Towers have embraced a new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service trial that is aimed at curbing landfill.

Seventy-five out of 220 apartments at the residential buildings at 283 and 299 Spring St are participating in the 12-month pilot program after it was launched by the City of Melbourne in February.

The free trial works by residents collecting their garden and food scraps in a kitchen caddy that is lined with a compostable bag, which, once full, is dropped into an easy-to-use dehydrator machine provided by Ecoguardians.

The machine reduces the moisture content, with any remaining food waste taken to another facility where it is converted into a nutrient-rich organic soil enhancer called SoilFood, which is scientifically proven to improve soil condition and plant health.

“We’re proud; we feel like we’re making a change,” Spring Street Towers resident and owners’ corporation committee member Gwenda Leheny said.

“We see the amount of rubbish that gets thrown into our big bins and we think, gosh, and like a lot of people we watch the ABC’s *War on Waste*, and that’s a huge indicator of what’s going on.”

The dehydrator has so far processed more than 4.52 tonnes of food waste, saving the equivalent of 9.5 tonnes of greenhouse gases.

The system has produced more than 1.1 tonnes of SoilFood, which has been used by the residents and is available for the council to use.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said more than 2000 households across six inner-city high-rise buildings had embraced the FOGO trial.



▲ The dehydrator machine at Spring Street Towers

“This innovative pilot – the first of its kind in Australia – has taken our FOGO service to new heights, diverting more than 11 tonnes of food waste from landfill between December and August,” she said.

“We hope to expand our FOGO services to more Melbourne residents to create a cleaner, greener future for all.”

The initial pilot programs finish in May next year, with further pilots set to begin in early 2024 for another 12-month period.

Meanwhile, as part of their waste reduction efforts, the Spring Street Towers are hosting their own second-hand market (for residents only) on November 18 as part of the Garage Sale Trail festival. ●

Councillor: absence of CBD polling booths for voting in referendum, elections “not good enough”

Continued from page 1.

Residents of the CBD were directed by the AEC to plan to vote at one of the 30 polling locations available across the federal electorate of Melbourne, as well as encouraging pre-polling and postal vote options.

Despite these alternatives, voting locations close to the city centre, such as Library at the Dock in Docklands, experienced wait-times of up to two hours for citizens to cast their vote.

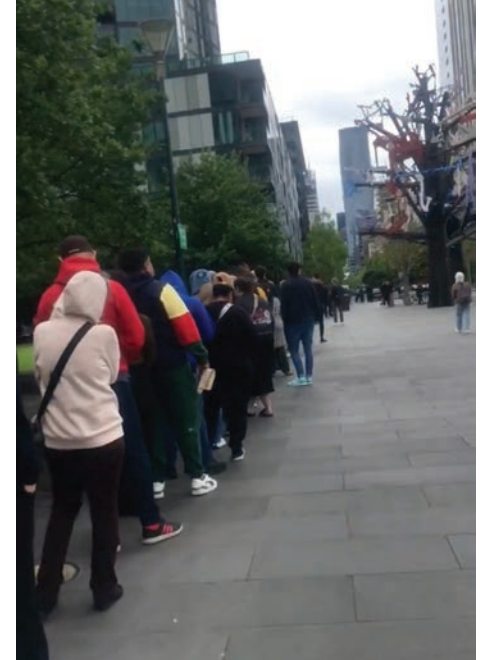
“It’s incumbent on the AEC to find a venue – I know it’s hard, but they have to do it,” Cr Leppert said.

Reports of the 2022 federal election show a similar trend, with polling booths at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre facing excessively long lines of CBD residents, while also contending with voters from the neighbouring electorate of Macnamara.

“If this is a problem that’s going to keep coming back, then the AEC and the council needs to address it,” Cr Leppert said. “I do think that we can review our policies to make sure that every effort is made to provide council venues for polling booths, but ultimately, council only controls a fraction of the potential venues in the central city.”

The AEC acknowledged the “inconvenience that people experienced” throughout the referendum period, while also noting that “there were 15 alternative venues available within a four-kilometre radius of the Docklands polling place.”

“Australia has some of the best access of all electoral processes around the globe, citizen expectations in the digital age don’t always accord with a manual process like elections or referendums – it does require some planning to see where and when you’ll vote,” the AEC’s spokesperson said.



▲ Voters queued up for hours to cast their vote in the referendum in neighbouring Docklands on October 14.

“We accept that people had to wait longer than what is desirable at a couple of polling places, we’re sorry that was the case.”

Cr Leppert hopes that a review into the referendum nationally will involve a submissions process, which “the City of Melbourne would definitely participate in” to mitigate the problem from council’s end.

“I’m keen to ensure that if this situation arises again in future that it can be addressed, because it must not happen again.” ●

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Metro Tunnel to take first passengers in September 2024, ahead of schedule

“*The Metro Tunnel’s builder has revealed “day one operations” would be in September next year, ahead of the state government’s 2025 schedule.*”



WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

Melbourne’s long-awaited Metro Tunnel is set to open in September 2024, after construction giant John Holland revealed a more optimistic timeline than that offered by the state government.

The government had earlier this year indicated the mega project, designed to run the busy Cranbourne, Pakenham and Sunbury lines through a new tunnel to free up space on the city network, would open in 2025, already a year ahead of schedule.

However, speaking at a Victorian Chamber of Commerce (VCC) event in October, John Holland chief executive Joe Barr revealed things were on track to begin in less than a year’s time.

“It’s exciting, we’ve been working on this thing with our partners and the government for 10 years, and next year will be the year where it is revealed,” Mr Barr said. “It certainly is on track, we’re delighted to say that.”

“If you go underground in Melbourne at the moment, the trains are being tested at full speed.”

“We’re certainly looking forward to day one operations in September next year.”

In response, the government did not shift its position and said the tunnel was on track to open in 2025.

Two of five new stations forming part of the huge project will be in the CBD; at Town Hall, which will serve as a new gateway to some of the city’s most popular destinations, while the State Library station will improve access to key locations like RMIT University and the Queen Victoria Market.



▲ John Holland chief executive Joe Barr, speaking at the event (Picture: Victorian Chamber of Commerce).

The entire twin nine-kilometre rail tunnels will run between Kensington and South Yarra, and will free up space in the City Loop to run more trains across the city and suburbs.

Barr said Melbourne had looked at other global cities as examples of delivering transport that made a material difference to people’s lives.

“Singapore has almost achieved their aspiration of a train station within 300 metres of anybody in Singapore, which is incredible,” he said.

“That ability to be able to connect and get around locally in Melbourne is there because you haven’t got the same challenges as you have in Sydney, for example with geography and geology.”

Precincts Minister Colin Brooks also spoke at the VCC event and said the project could deliver a rail network reflecting those around the world Australians often marvelled at.

“It will deliver Melbourne’s first-ever turn-up-and-go network, allowing more trains to run more often, similar to cities like London, Singapore and New York,” he said.

Test trains started running through the Metro Tunnel in late July, beginning a month-long testing phase inside the new tunnels and stations that will stretch into 2024.

Seven-carriage trains are currently running back-and-forth deep under the CBD and Yarra River testing equipment and systems to ensure they are working safely.

This testing phase will continue into next year before the project team moves on to the next major testing phase – trial operations – which will include drivers and station staff running simulated timetabled services in a dress rehearsal for the real thing. ●

State government flags converting CBD offices into apartments, but criticised for “nonsense” claim

Continued from page 1.

“Council stands ready to support any planning applications to convert suitable commercial buildings to residential uses quickly and efficiently,” he said.

“We also encourage the retrofitting of commercial buildings through our ‘Retrofit Melbourne’ plan so that central city building stock is as energy-efficient as it can be.”

“The City of Melbourne is an arm of government; the Property Council is not. It helps nobody to blur that line as the Housing Statement has done.”

The state government did not offer clarification to *CBD News* about how the error occurred.

The PCA audit was, in fact, conducted by design studio Hassell and planning consultancy Ethos Urban, included a total of 86 properties, and has not been publicly released.

PCA Victorian executive director Cath Evans said the buildings that had been identified for potential “adaptive reuse” met a set of criteria that made them potentially suitable as residential buildings.

“The criteria considers building age, structure, width and the potential for further uplift. Other older buildings may be suitable for other commercial uses including health, education and hotel accommodation based on their characteristics,” she said.

“The Government has identified this as a focus area as part of the recent housing statement. The Property Council’s focus is on continued collaboration with policy makers and building owners on addressing remaining barriers in planning, building and design to make adaptive reuse projects more feasible in the future.”

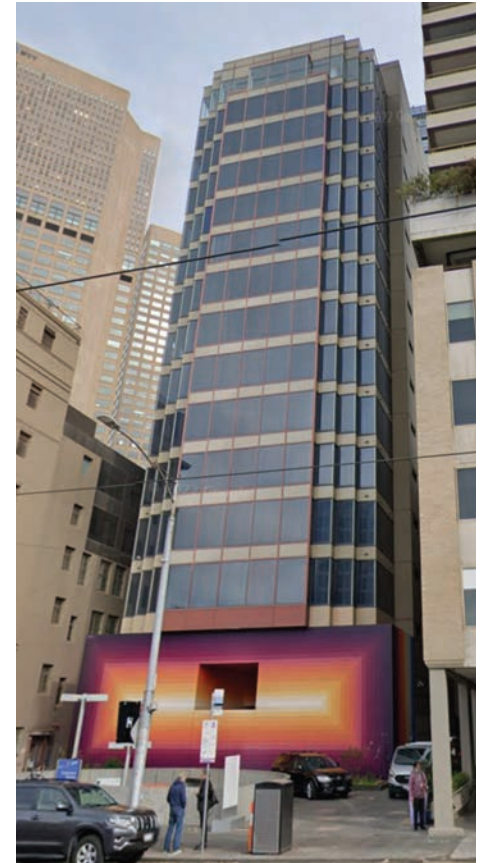
Underlining the housing crisis in the inner-city is that there are currently almost 20,000 approved apartments in the City of Melbourne that are yet to begin construction.

Over the past three years, only 3000 fully approved apartments have been built in the city.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said while meaningful change would be made at the upper level of government, the council was trying to enact change in the space.

“Housing is primarily a responsibility for the state and federal governments, but as a local government we’re already doing everything we can to increase the number of homes available for residents, students and key workers,” she said.

“We welcome initiatives that boost the supply of housing in our city while not compromising on liveability.”



▲ 85 Spring St - one commercial building understood to have been identified by the Property Council of Australia as being suitable for retrofitting to residential.

“In the City of Melbourne, we have 20,000 homes approved that are yet to be built – this shows planning is just one part of the puzzle.”

“We will continue to work through the detail of the Housing Statement to ensure these policies meet our high ambitions for delivering truly affordable homes where people want to live.” ●



David Schout
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Christopher Alory moved to Melbourne five years ago.

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Ahead of International Students Day on 17 November, hear from two international students about their first impressions of Melbourne and what they love about the CBD.

For French-born Christopher Alory, Melbourne is the happiest, most diverse and vibrant place, with the most opportunity of the cities he's visited.

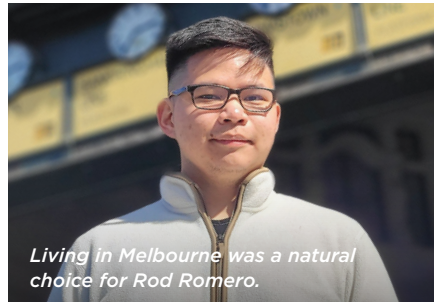
"I've travelled a lot and experienced many cities and I believe Melbourne is the best. You can travel all round the world without leaving the city as each suburb has its own community," Christopher said.

Filipino-born Rod Romero agrees.

"I see that Melbourne is more convenient in comparison to the Philippines, in terms of transportation

and essentials. I like the culture here, definitely, and the multicultural aspect," Rod said.

Both Christopher and Rod live in the CBD and say it was a natural choice of location.



Living in Melbourne was a natural choice for Rod Romero.

"Melbourne has amazing people and cultural activities, which is important to me when I go out with friends. There's always activities and new things to do. The CBD is a great central point and hub. The lifestyle is so convenient for studying and getting around without a car," Christopher said.

For Rod who is in his third year of a Bachelor of Arts majoring in politics and international studies at University of Melbourne, choosing a global university relatively close to the Philippines was important.

"My parents wanted to give me a higher quality of education compared to Philippines," Rod said.

"I moved here straight from high school when I was 19 years old.

"If someone asked me where in the world they should go to study I would say, come to Melbourne. It's so near the Philippines and because of how our vacations work, you can go back home at the best time. In the Philippines, Christmas is all about big family celebrations."

Christopher moved to Melbourne five years ago, after travelling around Australia. He started studying at Collarts two years ago and hopes his degree will help him further his experience in the communications field, an area where he worked in France.

"I completed my studies in Australia in April and am looking for work in my field but it's difficult. I think because of the requirements of my visa it's not that easy," Christopher said.

Christopher has spent the last few months supervising cleaning teams at CBD offices and was recently offered a job as a digital communications advisor.

Both students agree: making the most out of living in Melbourne is about connecting with other students. Rod and Christopher recently volunteered as ambassadors for City of Melbourne's My Melbourne program, which supports international students to live in the city, through social events and support networks such as The Couch - International Student Centre.

Find out more about My Melbourne and The Couch at melbourne.vic.gov.au/internationalstudents

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With an abundance of laneways and precincts making up our CBD there's always so much to see and do.

- Check out the unique street art in the area in Hosier Lane, Duckboard Place, ACDC Lane, and Flinders Way.
- Did you know that Café Issus in Centre Place has a 'pay it forward' system where people are encouraged to buy free coffee or meals for people who are experiencing homelessness?
- Flinders Lane is home to Roule Galette, which international student Christopher Alory said is "a 100 per cent French street food experience and good value".
- To become more involved in your CBD, join residents' associations Residents 3000 or EastEnders.

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Matt Elliott settles into life quickly as new Queen Victoria Market CEO

It would appear that destiny has drawn Matt Elliott and Queen Victoria Market (QVM) together.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Maria Vasileva*
FEATURE

After relocating his family to Mansfield in 2019 to pursue a role with Alpine Resorts Victoria for Mt Buller and Mt Stirling, it was only in October last year that he and his wife were discussing what their next move might be for 2023.

While the move to Mansfield, the area where he grew up, had been a dream come true in itself while his children were at the right age to relocate to the High Country, Mr Elliott said he and his wife would periodically discuss “what we should do next year”.

And, it was shortly after their most recent chat about what might come next, that the forces of the universe responded to his wish: to become the next CEO of QVM.

“Every 12 months or so, my wife would say what she thought we should do next year. Should we stay in Mansfield, or go back to Melbourne? And to be honest, the first couple years it was pretty much a flip-of-the-coin type thing,” Mr Elliott said.

“We found the conversation being less and less frequent, but last October my wife said, ‘we haven’t had the conversation for over a year. What are we going to do next year? Should we go back [to Melbourne]?’”

“And, I said, ‘the only way I’d go back is for a cracking job, and the only job I can think of would be CEO of Queen Victoria Market’. That was on a Sunday. And then on the [following] Tuesday the phone rang, and it said, ‘we’re calling about the position of CEO of Queen Victoria Market’.”

And, just like that, a bewildered Mr Elliott’s wish had come true!

Officially taking over the role from former CEO Stan Liacos in February, he caught up for a chat with *CBD News* in October to discuss how he’d settled in, as well as the journey ahead.

On meeting Mr Elliott, it doesn’t take long to establish why the role as QVM’s CEO was his dream job, with his passion for the market, its traders, and its history self-evident in the energy and deep sense of understanding underpinning his words.

When announcing his appointment in January, QVM board chair Jane Fenton said Mr Elliott brought a mix of skills that would be invaluable to guiding the market through its next complex period of renewal.

In addition to his experience in placemaking, major projects, property, retail, wholesale markets and tourism, Ms Fenton made particular reference to his “exceptionally strong stakeholder engagement skills”.

Those comments come largely off the back of Mr Elliott’s major role with the Melbourne Market Authority (MMA) between 2014 and



2019 during its biggest period of transformation when it relocated from West Melbourne to Epping.

As part of his job as commercial and business development manager, he was responsible for not only enhancing the wholesale market experience and expanding its customer base, but he was also tasked with supporting traders during the big move.

Leading the stakeholder engagement process, Mr Elliott said that just like at QVM, there were many “multi-generational” traders, who required a great deal of time and care during what was an incredibly challenging period for their businesses.

He put his success in his previous role down to taking “a genuine interest” in those businesses, “seeing how they do things, and what their challenges are” – experience he described as “priceless” for working through QVM’s ongoing renewal.

“That site [MMA] has about 3000 people using it per day, 700 forklifts, dealing with about \$2 billion worth of produce per annum. And, similar to here [QVM], they were multi-generational businesses, people doing things the same way for decades, generations,” he said.

“Once you really got to engage with traders once they developed some trust and rapport, you can actually start to unpick that.”

“How do we help overcome their [traders’] challenges? Because unless we understand it, we can’t help to do anything about it.”

Like many Melburnians, his relationship with the market began as a shopper when he was a student living in Parkville. But his understanding of its culture, and global market culture generally, also stems from his time working at MMA when he partnered with QVM to stage the World Union of Markets International Congress in Melbourne in 2017.

Through this experience, as well as day-to-day dealings with many of QVM’s traders who were customers of MMA, he said he held a deep admiration and respect for the market and the challenges it faced.

“I’m fortunate because I knew some of the [QVM] traders already as they were some of our customers at the wholesale market with fruit and veg in particular. If I didn’t already have a personal connection, there was at least a reputation that preceded me from those connections which was really good,” Mr Elliott said.

“The wholesale market relied on a healthy

greengrocer sector giving people an alternative to Coles and Woolies, so I really had to understand their businesses and what their challenges were and how they could respond.”

“It’s very comparable, but here’s the next level because they trade under a shed as opposed to a suburban strip shopping centre. But I think it’s about getting that insight and building that rapport based on that level of understanding, and then trying to work with them on how do we do things better and different.”

“I find it really fascinating, and I really respect and admire what they [QVM traders] do – it’s not an easy gig out there trading under the sheds.”

As one would expect from a new CEO, he’s incredibly optimistic about QVM’s future and said it was very fortunate to have the support of its one and only shareholder, the City of Melbourne, putting \$268 million towards the heritage-listed market’s renewal.

Acknowledging there would be more “bumps in the road” to its day-to-day operations while this vision was realised, he said the overall program of works were “incredibly exciting” and would be “a magnificent legacy for everybody involved”.

“A lot of what is being invested is facilities for the traders and that’s really important because we want the traders to have the ability to then deliver great experiences to their customers,” he said.

“That’s the journey we’re on here is trying to help the traders realise the opportunities they might now have based on the infrastructure that they’re being provided, and there will be some great things for customers as well.”

“I think what I’m trying to bring to the business is to say okay, we really need to reenergise ourselves and open ourselves up from a QVM Pty Ltd perspective to the rest of the world and try to think about how we utilise and leverage QVM to build partnerships.”

“Some great things have been done last year in terms of getting the Melbourne Fashion Festival and Food and Wine Festival reengaged with the site and they’re the big-ticket items, but then below that we’ve done the same with the events program and we’ve just got to keep building that.”

“We want all of Melbourne and Victoria to recognise that this is Melbourne’s market and Victoria’s market. We want to be the entry point if you want to see the best of Melbourne in terms of food, the best of Victoria from a food perspective, here’s where it’s at.”

“So that’s a big part of our focus now with the future market strategy in the context of renewal – we get the facilities that enable us to deliver those great experiences. That’s a great opportunity for us.” ●



Sean Car
EDITOR

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Council executive steps down amid conflict-of-interest concerns

A high-ranking City of Melbourne staff member has announced they will step down from their role after declaring they were “ready to move on” less than three years into their term.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS



▲ Roger Teale with Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

Roger Teale, the council’s general manager of the property, infrastructure, and design portfolio, announced in early October that he was quitting his role.

This is despite Mr Teale having an influential role in projects such as the \$268 million Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal, the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre upgrade, Southbank Boulevard’s greening transformation, and the first stage of Greenline.

The City of Melbourne’s CEO Alison Leighton confirmed Mr Teale had notified the council “that he is ready to move on from his role as general manager [of] property Infrastructure and design” and “a transition plan will take place over the coming weeks to ensure we continue delivering what matters most to our community”.

CBD News understands that Mr Teale had intended to leave the role to take up a yet to be

determined position with the council.

However, Mr Teale will step aside from his role after public concerns had been raised that he continued to be managing director of Lautaret, a CBD-based commercial property consultancy group while holding his senior executive position with the council.

Before joining the City of Melbourne in 2021, Mr Teale was also employed by property developer Lendlease for 12 years as a senior executive.

In June, the City of Melbourne announced Lendlease as the preferred tenderer for its \$1.7 billion transformation of the southern end of Queen Victoria Market.

This concern has prompted Council Watch, a group that aims to hold local governments to account, to lodge a report with the state’s anti-corruption watchdog IBAC. However, neither Council Watch nor *CBD News* are

suggesting any wrongdoing, just that concerns have been raised about staff having personal and professional interests outside of the council that may have the potential to act as a conflict of interest.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said, “a number of commercial partners expressed strong interest in developing the Southern Precinct” and “council has ensured there has been no conflict of interest, and independent probity experts were involved in every stage of the tender”.

“Once the shortlist was formed, which consisted of four companies, Mr Teale withdrew from the process,” the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added, “Mr Teale has disclosed his personal interests and listed these as required under the *Local Government Act 2020*.”

The council said it had led a competitive three-stage open divestment process to sell the Southern Precinct to the private sector, starting with an expressions of interest process in June 2021.

In a statement, IBAC said it “does not comment on whether it has a complaint or investigation before it”.

Council Watch spokesman Dean Hurlston said there were concerns about local governments having staff and councillors engaging in “financial interests or outside interests that may not be consistent with their role or their duties”.

“Councillors obviously have businesses and work interests outside of council so that’s quite regular that they declare conflicts, whereas a full-time staff member certainly has a higher level of expectation that they are focused on the council they’re working for and no other

outside interests,” he said.

In relation to Mr Teale, Mr Hurlston said, “We don’t assert that he’s done or is doing anything wrong. What we are concerned about is how any executive employed full time by a publicly funded role in the council can manage competing interests in the public domain.”

Mr Hurlston also referred to IBAC’s Operation Sandon, which investigated allegations of serious corrupt conduct in relation to planning and property development decisions at the City of Casey, saying “IBAC has said in Operation Sandon that councillors who had any conflict should not be involved in any part of any decision or the processes to get there”.

“What that means for us is that it sets a standard that the same should apply for officers,” he said.

Friends of Queen Victoria Market president Mary-Lou Howie said “transparency, accountability and inclusivity are vital to good council governance”.

“Councils are elected to represent the needs of their community, not developers and their vested interests.”

Meanwhile, Mr Teale, a former president of the Property Council of Victoria, was among three people to be guest speakers at a Property Council event on October 25 to talk about “Melbourne’s high-profile projects” and “the opportunities for complementary investment and the policy settings underpinning them”.

Mr Teale was listed as the City of Melbourne’s general manager of the property, infrastructure, and design portfolio for the event, which will focus on the Metro Tunnel, Queen Victoria Market and Marvel Stadium projects. ●

E-scooter trial extended over summer

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
TRANSPORT

Inner-city Melbourne’s electric scooter trial will be extended over summer as the state government holds off on any decision in whether to make it a permanent rollout in the transportation network.

E-scooters have become increasingly popular, with almost five million short trips being undertaken since the Neuron and Lime trials introduced the hire vehicles across the Melbourne, Port Phillip, and Yarra council areas in February 2022.

The trial was originally scheduled to last 12 months, but was extended for six months over in March, which included lifting a ban on private e-scooter use, as well as the age restriction of riders being dropped from 18 to 16.

In October, the government announced the trial would be extended for another six over the warmer months to help “collect the most



comprehensive dataset to inform the future of the program in Victoria”.

“The safety of all Victorian road users is our highest priority – we’re taking a considered and evidence-based approach to e-scooters in Victoria to make sure we get this right,” Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams said.

Current rules will remain unchanged including riders being required to wear helmets, not ride on footpaths, and not carry passengers on their scooters. They must also not travel more than 20km/h, and abide by the same alcohol, drug, and mobile device restrictions as when they are driving a car.

Community safety concerns have been raised over e-scooters and their impact on pedestrian spaces. In response, Lime said it would equip 25 e-scooters with advanced camera capabilities, with real-time footpath detection and audio alerts to crack down on illegal footpath and tandem riding.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp welcomed the latest extension to the trial, saying

e-scooter use in Melbourne was the fastest take-up out of any Australian city.

“The extension of the e-scooter trial will allow extra time for providers to ensure e-scooters are incorporated into our transport network as safely as possible,” she said.

“Thirty per cent of e-scooter trips replace a car trip, reducing traffic congestion while giving visitors and residents a fun and sustainable way to enjoy our wonderful city.”

“Council recently reviewed the success of the trial to date and made a series of findings and recommendations about how a permanent scheme might be successful to minimise safety risks and keep city footpaths uncluttered. We will continue to work closely with the state government, Victoria Police and our neighbouring councils to manage the addition of private and shared e-scooters across our community.”

Walks Victoria chief executive Ben Rossiter said with improvements to the trial including off-footpath parking, insurance for injured walkers

and effective enforcement of rules for riders, “hired scooters and walking could co-exist happily and more safely in Melbourne” – a sentiment shared by the president of CBD residents’ group EastEnders Stan Capp.

“About 90 per cent of trips in the CBD are on foot but this trial makes the most sustainable and healthy mode of city transport less accessible and safe,” Mr Rossiter said.

“We’d encourage the city to ask everyone living here whether e-scooters have improved life or made it worse, like Paris did.”

In September, Paris banned its rented e-scooter scheme after a five-year trial with operator Tier, following safety concerns.

According to the state government, there had been no significant safety incidents during the trial period.

It also noted the Department of Transport and Planning was developing a guide for councils with advice on how to manage e-scooter share schemes, including parking management and operator insurance requirements. ●

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CBD block flagged for “zero carbon” pilot as council endorses retrofit plan

Older commercial buildings are the focus of a new City of Melbourne plan to reduce the city’s carbon emissions by more than 60 per cent.

WORDS BY *David Schout & Sean Car*
PLANNING

A small pocket of the CBD would prove the perfect testing ground to decarbonise older buildings according to the City of Melbourne, which has stepped up its bid to upgrade heavy-emitting commercial spaces.

In September the council endorsed a “Retrofit Melbourne” plan, which seeks to accelerate the upgrading of existing commercial buildings to reduce local emissions and reach its “net zero by 2040” goal.

While the council is required to reach a target of around 80 buildings each year to undergo a “deep energy retrofit” – for example electrifying buildings, phasing out fossil fuel heating and cooking and improving energy efficiency – the current per-annum rate sits at just seven buildings.

The initiative sought to target commercial buildings, which are responsible for the majority (60 per cent) of the city’s greenhouse gas emissions, particularly heavy-emitting pre-2000-built towers.

Notably, it includes a plan to create “zero carbon precincts”, and flagged the “Turning Circle precinct” (a block bound by Collins, Queen and William streets and the Yarra River) as an ideal testing ground for the push.

The area already has an existing action group called “Neighbourhood Circle”, formed in 2019 by the Immigration Museum and Turning Circle Collective.

The council said areas like this could be crucial in reaching its environmental goals.

“Precinct retrofits will help overcome the lack of a positive vision for what can be achieved,” the Retrofit Melbourne document detailed.

“Owners can be inspired by greening, place making, sharing a local battery and seeing more people walking around.”

“Economies of scale, precinct activation and peer support will incentivise smaller, older, resource constrained buildings to act.”

“Establishing a critical mass of action in one area will also help to overcome some building owners’ lack of access to expertise, capital, information and knowledge.”

Key players have already volunteered to partner with City of Melbourne to pilot the concept, expressing support for geographical aggregation.

“It makes sense to work on a precinct level,” a representative from architecture firm Wardle Studio said during stakeholder consultation.

“If an area is at risk like Elizabeth St is with a flood, then it makes sense for people working together to address the risk while activating their areas and upgrading their buildings.”

Master Builders Victoria added: “This initiative could help reduce the duplication of assessments and retrofit strategies, reducing costs and providing building owners with a pathway for improved energy efficiency.”

The wider Retrofit Melbourne will largely focus on more than 1500 “mid-tier” commercial buildings, those generally defined as being built pre-2000 with lower levels of energy efficiency than premium or A-grade buildings, and are the biggest contributors to the city’s emissions.

The City of Melbourne has a greater share of mid-tier buildings than any other capital city.

The plan recognises the “significant barriers” of retrofitting mid-tier buildings, such as difficulty in accessing capital and information, limited networking among mid-tier owners and tenants, and a limited capacity of industry professionals.

Past research has indicated that the absence of effective incentives was a key barrier for owners to retrofit their buildings, and the council has committed to exploring options like rate relief.

While commercial buildings are responsible for 60 per cent of the city’s greenhouse gas emissions, residential towers account for just six per cent.



Lord Mayor Sally Capp said Retrofit Melbourne was “a necessary plan to lower emissions, drive down energy bills and make our buildings more sustainable.”

“It’s crucial we act now – working alongside industry, government and academic partners to future-proof our city for generations to come,” Cr Capp said.

“We need to get the balance right – protecting our older buildings, which give Melbourne its character, while accelerating our collective journey towards zero net emissions.”

“Buildings that are decarbonised are more attractive to tenants and also increase capital value over time – unlocking enormous potential to revitalise underutilised commercial buildings in the city, supporting a thriving city experience and economy.”

The council’s sustainable building portfolio lead Cr Elizabeth Doidge said it was a “radical” plan needed to “tackle our emissions and transform our city”.

“The City of Melbourne is the first city in Australia tackling this issue with real action,” Cr Doidge said.

“Retrofit Melbourne will deliver an innovative framework – driving collaboration between industry and government partners to fast-track the city’s zero carbon transition.”

The plan was endorsed by councillors eight votes to one at a September 19 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

The one councillor to vote against it – Roshena Campbell – argued that the introduction of an emissions cap would create “an uneven playing field” for smaller property owners.

“There’s no doubt that we do need to do work to support the retrofitting of these buildings, but I can’t support one of the regulatory measures,” Cr Campbell said.

“One of the advantages the report identifies is the fact that this measure [emissions cap] will raise revenue and I think we should be very, very cautious about imposing that financial burden on our building owners right now.”

“Although the big players might welcome it as they’re looking to retrofit anyway, the reality is there are property owners who will not be able to afford this. They will either be forced to sell or be forced to bear a burden that, particularly now in these economic conditions, will be a very heavy one indeed.”

But Cr Doidge responded to Cr Campbell’s concerns by saying the council hadn’t yet determined what an emissions cap would look like.

“We’re not actually voting to implement an emissions cap tonight. We’re basically voting to investigate what an emissions cap would look like if it would work, and how it would work,” Cr Doidge said.

“The result of that might be that an emissions cap doesn’t necessarily have a financial penalty, it may actually mean that those buildings producing over a certain cap, receive financial incentives and supports to retrofit.”

Cr Dr Olivia Ball said the council had an obligation to move swiftly in decarbonising the city amid a rapidly changing climate.

“My fellow Cr Campbell spoke of the disadvantage to Melbourne property owners and imposing financial burdens on them and her hesitations in doing so,” Cr Dr Ball said.

“But how would these financial burdens compare, or disadvantages compare with extreme weather events that are definitely going to occur and are occurring already?”

“Today is a total fire ban in NSW and we have high bushfire risk in September. It is extremely alarming.”

“We have to consider investments in retrofitting as investments in our future investments in a safe climate, in attempting to reclaim a liveable climate for us and our children and their children. This is happening now. We must move as swiftly as possible.” ●

Queen’s Food Hall set for grand opening

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Melbourne foodies are in for a treat as the much-awaited Queen Victoria Market’s revitalised Queen’s Food Hall gets ready to open its doors in November.

Located at the corner of Victoria and Queen streets, the new \$5.5 million space replaces the outdated 1980s food court with a new social destination featuring more seating, and a diverse array of restaurants, cafés, and eateries to open during the day and into the evenings.

There will be a mix of eight new and returning food and beverage operators, with Bellboy Coffee Bar, the team behind the Brunswick East café, and The Happy Mexican in Abbotsford among the new offerings.

Traders coming back include Saltwater, a sushi and oyster bar; El Rincon, a Spanish tapas bar; Le Consulat, a Parisian-inspired patisserie and café; Rubens Grill, a relaxed American themed café serving smoky grilled ribs, brisket burgers and porchetta; and Canton Malay, the beloved eatery known for its delicious curry laksa and lightning-speed wok hokkien noodles.

The fan-favourite Drums cafe, which has been at the market for 27 years, is also making a return with its owner chef Vijay Sivaraj expressing his delight, saying the new food hall



would allow them to offer the “best Sri Lankan” food experience.

“It’s really been worth sacrificing the last two years shutting down completely. The food hall

has come along beautifully, and we’re really excited to be a part of it again,” he said.

Drums will have a fresh new look and menu with traditional curries, hoppers, lamprais and

chips with curry sauce, with its popular hot butter cuttlefish dish to remain a feature.

Queen Victoria Market CEO Matt Elliott said, “As an icon of Melbourne’s unrivalled culinary culture, we are thrilled to welcome this diverse group of food and beverage traders to the Queen Victoria Market family.”

“Queen’s Food Hall is set to be Melbourne’s new foodie hotspot, right in the heart of the city. This new dining destination will be a contemporary place to eat and dwell, meet friends, or stop in before or after shopping, with affordable, delicious, quick food and beverage options.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the City of Melbourne was excited to add to the vibrancy of the market with vendors set to further enhance its world-class reputation.

“Our new Food Hall will be a modern and inviting indoor dining destination in the Queen Victoria Market precinct, attracting more visitors and boosting business for traders,” she said.

“Queen’s Food Hall is part of our \$268 million Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal program to ensure this Melbourne institution can continue to serve traders and customers for decades to come.”

The revamped food hall has been long-awaited after its opening was delayed by more than 12 months due to labour shortages, supply chain issues, bad weather, and other issues. ●



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CBD blood donation centre inspiring hope and “enhancing lives”

While at times it can feel as though there’s nothing we can do to make a profound difference in the world, the simple act of donating blood could mean that someone has the chance to get their life back.

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*
HEALTH

With one in three people needing blood or blood products during their lifetime, Lifeblood Melbourne Donor Centre has been facilitating donations for seven years at its CBD location on Collins St.

Following an eligibility check, a variety of donations can be made at the centre including blood, plasma and platelet, with the CBD space being one of the few permanent Lifeblood centres that accepts plasma and platelets.

“It’s quite an easy sort of process, they make it really comfortable and easy for you when you come into a donor centre,” Lifeblood media manager, Emily Granland said.

While blood donations can only be made once every 12 weeks, plasma donors can return every two weeks as the red blood cells are returned to your body once the plasma is taken, requiring less time in between donations for the cells to replenish.

“A lot of people that donate plasma are regulars in here and sort of feel like the staff are



a second family which is really nice, and the feeling you get from donating is pretty cool as well,” Ms Granland said.

One of those regulars is Elizabeth, who celebrated her 75th donation at the Melbourne centre in October.

Initially inspired by her mother who regularly donated throughout her life, Elizabeth hopes to carry on her family’s tradition.

“There’s plenty of things I can’t do at my age, but what I can do is give blood and do something to help,” Elizabeth told *CBD News*.

CBD worker, Kenny, is also a regular donor, hoping to “help people in need” with his donation.

“I don’t know anyone who needs blood, but I donate because I might need blood in the future – it’s just a good thing to do.”

The centre itself is lively and comforting, unlike what many people may associate a medical practice with.

Selflessness and gratitude flows in all directions throughout the centre; from the donors to the staff, and most importantly, to the patients receiving the donations.

“The need for blood just doesn’t stop; it goes to people that are having surgery or in trauma, to pregnant mothers, to people with cancer or people with blood disorders,” Ms Granland said. “It can’t be made synthetically, so we’re



relying on the goodwill of people to donate and we’re always encouraging and welcoming people into the centre.”

Thirty-three-thousand blood and plasma donations are required across Australia every week, yet only 3.7 per cent of the population are active donors.

“We’re so grateful for all the amazing donors that we do have because it really does make a difference to lives, and not only the lives of individuals, but their families as well.”

O negative and O positive blood is currently in demand, with Lifeblood urging people to check for available time slots online and book an appointment to donate. ●

For more information:
lifeblood.com.au

STATE MP

It wasn’t a YES, but the fight for First Nations justice continues



The referendum result wasn’t what we wanted.



When the result came in, I was feeling devastated. Especially when data showed that Indigenous communities overwhelmingly voted yes to the Voice to Parliament.

But I was heartened to see our community here in Melbourne had the highest YES vote in the country, with 77.1 per cent of the Melbourne electorate voting yes.

I want to send my love and solidarity to First Nations people, who have fought for justice and



▲ National Greens leader Adam Bandt and Ellen Sandell.

self-determination for generations.

I also want to thank everyone in our community who joined this campaign. I was so proud to volunteer on polling day alongside so many engaged and compassionate locals in our community.

If (like me) you’re feeling a sense of loss, remember that there are many pathways forward in this fight.

The Greens and I will continue to work with First Nations people to urgently advance Truth and Treaty across the country.

The referendum clearly showed the need for truth-telling across this country. Misinformation and violent rhetoric spread fast and wide during the campaign, led by high profile conservative figures.

Our country needs to come together and learn about its past so we can heal and move forward together through Treaty or Treaties.

The Treaty process has already begun here in Victoria, but it also needs to happen at a

national level. My Greens colleagues, including your federal MP Adam Bandt, will be continuing to push for that in Federal Parliament. At a state level, we’ll be making sure the Treaty process lives up to what it needs to do.

A Treaty must be built on the acknowledgement of First Nations’ sovereignty. It also needs to include First Nations people and governments committing to responsibilities, promises and principles for how we work together going forward.

If you’d like to be involved in the push for Truth and Treaty, sign up at greens.org.au/truth-treaty. ●



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STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
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SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

A doughnut sweetens the day for generations of Melburnians

Those queues you often see at the Queen Victoria Market lead to one of Melbourne’s best-loved treats – a sugar-coated, jam-filled delight of a doughnut produced by the same families for more than 70 years.

The American Doughnut Kitchen was recently recognised in the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards, in the 40+ years category. Julie Boening is the daughter of one of its founders and brings its history to life with her warm memories of time spent bagging up doughnuts.

.....
“My father would be absolutely amazed to think the business has thrived for so long. To be recognised by the award means a lot to me,” she says.

History is important to Julie, having lost her father some years ago. “My father Arnold Bridges and Dave Christie went to school together, lived a street apart and originally in the 1940s they started a wood yard. Then they had the opportunity to buy the business which they renamed American Doughnut Kitchen.”

From 1950, the partners began producing the first of many millions of kilograms of dough. They customised two mobile kitchen vans – one uses the chassis of an REO Speed Wagon, the other a Dodge Fargo bus. The eye-catching vintage logo remains one of the market’s best-known features.

Julie started working at 12 years old, helping on the busy Saturdays. “We’d start early, 5 or 6 o’clock, and help dad here in the market. The market closed at precisely 1pm in those days, and in football season we’d drive to the MCG and would work there.

“We’d prepare before half time when the crowd came out. We’d cook the doughnuts, bag them, then stack them up so they’d be ready for people at half time. Dad also travelled around to

the agricultural shows and we worked Warrnambool races, did the Sunbury music festival. We worked at Moomba and at the Royal Exhibition Building, going to all the garden shows, the motor shows. When we stopped doing the football, the time came to stay put at the market.”

She estimates the most doughnuts sold in a single day would amount to a whopping 500 kilograms of dough. Now it’s almost impossible to imagine the market without the doughnut kitchen handing out bags of sweetness to locals, tourists, even medical staff who nip down from the hospitals precinct to stock up.

Asked about their enduring appeal, Julie says: “It’s the smell that gets everybody in. The doughnuts are made fresh every day, they’re made from dough so they have to prove overnight. I think the vintage van is the attraction too.

“Lots of people come for the theatrics. Early in the morning people stand outside and watch the staff rolling the dough and cutting it out by hand. Once cooked, the doughnuts get turned into a tray. Jam is put in using a hand-pumped machine, then they’re put in the sugar bowl to coat them nicely.”

The doughnuts’ fame has spread far and wide. Tourists come from all over the world and film the experience on their phones and take photos, says Julie. Many well-known people have been spotted in the queue too. Julie recalls seeing Jack Klugman, Dame Maggie Smith and Jacki Weaver stopping by for a world-beating doughnut.

“It used to be just word of mouth. Now we extend beyond that. It’s social media and the website. Then we have all the generations of customers and more, those who came here with their parents and keep the tradition going with their own families. Children who didn’t want to come to the market to do the shopping with their parents might have whinged and moaned about it, but they would get told ‘you can have a doughnut at the very end of it’ and that was their excitement.”

The team still has those very early starts on weekends and special holidays.



Christmas Eve is “chaotic”, Julie says. “It’s a 4am start. It doesn’t matter what the weather is like. Usually summer is our quiet period but at Christmas, people come in for their meat, poultry and fish shopping and the last thing they do at the market is come to us.”

Find Julie serving up the sugary fried delights at the American Doughnut Kitchen in F Shed at Queen Victoria Market from Tuesday to Sunday. Visit before 2pm to ensure you don’t miss out.

ABOUT THE LORD MAYOR’S SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

Melbourne is full of fantastic small business success stories.

The business owners showcased on these pages are recipients of this year’s Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards. The awards celebrate the people behind inner-city businesses that have stood the test of time.

Among the recipients are legends who have been in business in the city for 10+, 20+ and 40+ years. We also name a Small Business of the Year and Small Business Innovation Award.

To read our full profiles on these businesses and more, visit news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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LE TAJ RESTAURANT

Curry. Some like it hot, some like it not. But one thing we can all agree on is that curry connoisseurs are spoilt for choice in Melbourne.

But if it's heat you seek, Le Taj Restaurant and Lounge in West Melbourne is home to the hottest curry in Melbourne.

It's a hefty claim but restaurateur Prabjeet (Pat) Oberoi said Le Taj's recipe for the bhoot jolokia packs a heat level to test even the most seasoned spice lover.

Made using Naga Viper peppers or ghost chilies as they're also known, the bhoot jolokia is "five times hotter than a vindaloo", Pat said.

"The idea for the dish came about when I thought of cooking

something super spicy which not many Indian restaurants were doing."

From breads to biryanis, crispy samosas to savoury pakoras, and vindaloos, tindaloos and every curry in between, Pat and his team combine authentic Indian spices and techniques to create a menu of traditional and contemporary North Indian meals.

Migrating from India to Melbourne in 2001, Pat knew he was destined for a long career in the hospitality industry, and it wasn't before long he opened Le Taj in 2006.

We've recognised Pat and Le Taj Restaurant with a Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Award.



PETAL BACK CLOTHING

Dignity, comfort and ease are at the center of Linda Dugan's mission at Petal Back Clothing in Docklands, one of the most innovative adaptive clothing brands in the world.

Linda, a former swim and resort wear designer, first encountered the need for garments that could accommodate the elderly, disabled and those with limited mobility when her grandmother suffered a stroke and could no longer dress herself.

Using her design skills, Linda created a nightie that could be easily slipped on and off, without her grandmother having to hoist her arms in the air.

Linda has since expanded to an impressive range of pieces catering to a wide clientele including blouses,

pants, singlets, polos and options for men as well.

Linda's designs, with their distinctive 'petal back', are reverse engineered from the swimskirt. Each garment is meticulously designed to minimise the need for movement and manual handling when those in care are being dressed by someone else.

Linda has thought of everything from patterns designed to cover up food and tea spills, to how stronger, high-quality fabrics made to last are needed as garments must go through medical grade industrial laundering.

Petal Back Clothing was a Lord Mayor's Small Business Innovation Award finalist.



CARLTON YACHT CLUB

It's for very good reason Melbourne was named in the world's top five travel-worthy drinking destinations this year.

The key to this acclaim is Melbourne's cultural diversity and the waves of migration over the years from Italy and Greece to more recently from Asia which have influenced our city's bar scene.

Take Carlton Yacht Club Bar for example. It's behind a blink-and-you'll-miss-it door, in a sea of espresso bars and cucinas in the heart of Little Italy.

But it's owner Andrew Leonedas' Greek heritage that has perhaps unwittingly influenced the nautical theme.

"I came up with the name as it represents the relaxed environment I wanted to create and constructed cocktails and added decor to suit. Customers love the name and the irony that Carlton has no water," Andrew said.

Carlton Yacht Club Bar is now one of Lygon Street's longest-standing cocktail institutions, evoking a sense of carefreeness and fun one would associate with sailing the Aegean Sea.

We've recognised Andrew and Carlton Yacht Club Bar with a Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Award for more than 20 years in business.



MARY MARTIN BOOKSHOP

As a UNESCO City of Literature, books and reading are embedded in Melbourne's culture.

And independent bookshop Mary Martin has proved popular over the years with literary lovers, which is why it's been recognised as a Small Business of the Year finalist in this year's Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards.

Owner Jaye Chin-Dusting left behind a career in medical research to bring new life to Mary Martin, first opened in 1945. Today, Mary Martin has three branches - in Southgate, Port Melbourne and a newly-opened branch at Queen Victoria Market.

True to the spirit of the original Mary Martin bookshop, all are welcome to take their time perusing the shop's extensive collection.

"Mary Martin is a very personal space. It's not just about the books - it's about people coming in and feeling at home to browse to their heart's content. Particularly in our Southgate shop, we get lots of office workers coming in during their lunch break who just need a breather," Jaye said.

About 70 per cent of the books stocked are standardised across the three branches - but the rest are targeted towards that area's demographic.

"As one of the world's strongest reading communities and a City of Literature, Melbourne is a great place for a bookshop to do business."



Prescient 20th century tragedy wraps up at Her Majesty's

A seven-week season of Arthur Miller classic play, directed by Neil Armfield, has concluded in Melbourne.

WORDS BY David Schout

In the 74 years since Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* premiered on Broadway in 1949, there has never been a time that the play, which some consider the 20th century's greatest, is not being performed somewhere in the world.

And in recent months, it was Melbourne's pleasure to witness the two-act tragedy at Her Majesty's Theatre.

For those exposed to the play for the first time, like this correspondent, its wider relevance and thought-provoking appeal became wholly apparent.

Not just via the nuanced themes explored by Miller, but through powerful performances from the play's central figures in the Loman

family; the eponymous salesman Willy (Anthony LaPaglia) and especially loyal wife Linda (Alison Whyte), and their sons Biff (Josh Helman) and Happy (Sean Keenan).

Willy's already deteriorating professional standing and mental state spiral from the play's outset, lapsing in and out of hallucinations cleverly depicted by subtle changes of light as central figures watch on from the stage's ever-present bleachers.

The once halcyon days of his work as a salesman, or at least his recollections of such, are now over as he struggles to pay the bills and is degradingly moved to commission-only pay.

Compounding his professional struggles is his one-time high school football star eldest son, Biff, who now moves between low-paying jobs and has failed to live out his promise, according to his father, in order to "spite" him.

Reunited when Biff unexpectedly returns home, prompting Happy to also visit, the complex family dynamics – underlined on either side by betrayal and abandonment – become increasingly apparent.

A legacy-obsessed Willy knows his chance at

leaving a mark are dwindling, and lives for the day Biff lives out his inevitable promise.

Delusion abounds from all sides that career trajectories can be swiftly changed for the better and happier days await, before we see an acceleration of Willy's last tragic downfall and the inevitable outcome we're informed of in the title.

Tangled familial relationships play out in a wider setting of hyper-capitalist expectations that neither Willy nor Biff are cut out for.

Or, more presciently, should feel they *have* been cut out for.

The play's laser critique of the American dream is obvious, revealing the tragic consequences of those for whose strict adherence to notions of hard work still fall short.

A father and son's juxtaposed understanding of individual worth climaxes with a rock-bottom Biff pleading for acceptance, unconditional on his career.

"I'm nothing, Pop. Can't you understand that?" he implores of his father, but the existential awakening his son reaches is a ship long sailed for Willy.

There's little doubt the appearance of Emmy, Golden Globe, and Tony Award-winning LaPaglia (making his Australia stage debut), whose face featured prominently on huge Exhibition Street billboards for the show, would have provided an added incentive for theatregoers.

But it's arguably the performance of Whyte who left the most lasting of imprints, best highlighted by her sharp and impassioned monologues about her imperfect, unremarkable husband's place in society and by extension, how all should be treated irrespective of their fate in dog-eat-dog workforces.

"He's not the finest character that ever lived. But he's a human being, and a terrible thing is happening to him. So attention must be paid," she warns her sons, a stirring speech with enduring relevance. "He's not to be allowed to fall into his grave like an old dog. Attention, attention must be finally paid to such a person."

Death of a Salesman ran exclusively at Her Majesty's Theatre for a strictly limited seven-week season, from September 1 to October 15. ●



Curtain raises for stage musical *Miss Saigon*

The acclaimed musical *Miss Saigon*, a tragic love story set during the Vietnam War, has landed at Her Majesty's Theatre for a seven-week season.

The award-winning production will play from October 29 to December 16 after a successful season at Sydney Opera House.

It will be the first time in 16 years that the musical will be performed on stage in Melbourne, with its powerful performances and breathtaking visuals set to captivate audiences once again.

Directed by Laurence Connor, the musical tells the story of a young Vietnamese woman named Kim, who is orphaned by war and forced to work in a bar run by a notorious character known as the Engineer.

There she meets and falls in love with an American G.I. named Chris, but they are torn apart by the fall of Saigon.

For three years, Kim goes on an epic journey of survival to find her way back to Chris, who has no idea he's fathered a son.

Speaking ahead of the Melbourne season, principal cast member Abigail Adriano said audiences were in for a spectacular theatrical experience.

"I think Melbourne audiences are going to love *Miss Saigon*, not just because it's one of the biggest shows in musical theatre history, but it's also a deeply moving story of survival and love," she said.

"The response in Sydney has been incredible, I can't wait to continue to share the character of Kim and her story and to go to work every day at the beautiful Her Majesty's Theatre."

Showcasing an immense talent and music by Claude-Michel Schönberg with lyrics by Richard Maltby Jr. and Alain Boublil, the production has won 70 major theatre awards, including three Tonys and two Oliviers, with performances in 15 different languages in more than 32 countries and 350 cities.

It features a full 24-piece orchestra and a sensational local cast of 42, "representing all corners of the Asia-Pacific and including some of the next big stars of the Australian stage". ●

For more information:
miss-saigon.com.au

Artists brings ideas to life thanks to council grants totalling almost \$1m

WORDS BY Brendan Rees

The City of Melbourne has awarded more than \$950,000 to a diverse range of artists, as part of the latest round of its annual arts grants program.

Supporting 102 projects and 1000 creative jobs, the 2024 program will allow artists to test new ideas and promote their talents through grants of up to \$20,000.

The council's Creative Melbourne portfolio lead Cr Jamal Hakim said the grants would bolster the city's creativity with 70 per cent of projects involving artists from migrant and multicultural communities.

"There's something for everyone to enjoy among the list of fantastic projects and we expect they will draw more than 360,000 people into the city – supporting our artists and local traders," he said.

Among the 2023 funding recipients is the Blak & Bright First Nations Literary Festival, which will celebrate the diverse expressions and talents of First Nations writers.

Blak and Bright director Jane Harrison thanked the council's generous support, saying the festival from March 14 to 17 would showcase the "power of First Nation voices".

"Programming mostly free events open to all audiences, Blak & Bright aims to activate the city and diversify the literary landscape," she said.

Other recipients include *Dayma* by Bukjeh – a series of interactive and artistic engagements during Ramadan to connect generations, honour traditions and promote awareness about food waste.

Also awarded grants are *Multiple Bad Things* by Back to Back Theatre; *Queerstories: QueerClassic* by Coady Green; *Myth* by Jo Lloyd in collaboration with Lee Serle; *Allara*



Briggs-Patterson x MCO by Melbourne Chamber Orchestra; and *The Pink Bans* by Sam Wallman, a comic book and exhibition about the strikes and work stoppages that occurred in Melbourne during the 1970s.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp it was exciting to see an incredible array of creative visions come to life, building on Melbourne's renowned arts scene.

"Creativity has sculpted our city and cements our status as Australia's cultural capital," she said, noting last year's creative sector injected \$7.54 billion into the local economy.

"We especially welcome a raft of new talent – almost 40 per cent of our recipients being first-time applicants." ●

Community devastated by Israel-Palestine conflict

Melbourne's Israeli and Palestinian communities have shared stories of despair and heartbreak as they grapple with the escalating violence.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
POLITICS

Maiaan Galant was among of dozens of people to gather in solidarity with the Jewish community on the steps of Parliament House in Spring St on October 17 where she expressed her anguish of innocent lives being lost and the fear experienced by friends and family.

"People are not functioning; I am not functioning. I cannot go to my workplace, I am hurting, we are all hurting," she said.

"All my family are in Israel except my parents who are here, but I have two grandparents, one is a Holocaust survivor and he's 94."

"I'm getting messages from my friends saying they are scared; this has never happened. They are terrified, they can't sleep. There's chaos. People are afraid to leave their homes."

"I have friends in the army, I don't know what's happening with them. I have friends that have friends that have been murdered, slaughtered."

Israeli-born Kedem Levy, who came to Australia 10 years ago, was also present at the peaceful rally where Premier Jacinta Allan told crowd members, "We'll continue to stand with you".

Mr Levy joined many draped with Israel's flag as they held posters depicting innocent civilians marked with the word "kidnapped", and chanted "bring them home".

"You realise you can't make sense of it," the 45-year-old father, said, who was filled with mixed emotions as he expected the arrival of his and his wife's second child in Melbourne at



▲ (Left) Kedem Levy holds a poster depicting an innocent Israeli kidnapped in the conflict and (right) crowds gather for the Melbourne Free Palestine Rally on October 15.

the time of publishing.

"My way of dealing with it is being active like today but also organising support groups ... where the aim is to get together and talk about it and work through this together."

Another in the crowd was Dekel, who echoed the sentiments of many in calling for an end to the violence.

"This is the world that needs to actually rise up and say that no more, we're not going to do this anymore. It needs to be silenced," she said.

"All my family and friends are there. We communicate all the time, all [are] affected. They're running to seek shelter."

Marik, who held up a poster seeking donations for the Israeli ambulance service while carrying a wooden Shofar, a traditional Jewish instrument made from a ram's horn that

represents a hopeful future, said, "We've got to do something to help them".

"It's trying to remove the evil that is doing this and support the people that are being hurt and need help. This is not just a war against Jewish people, it's a war against civilisation."

Islamic Council of Victoria president Adel Salmon said the conflict in Israel had been devastating and one that had touched every Australian Muslim.

He said the killing of innocent civilians could not be condoned, but implored Australian politicians to recognise that Palestinians had a right to defend themselves, too, as messages were "not showing any understanding, empathy and solidarity with the Palestinian people as if Palestinian lives don't matter as much".

"Our politicians say Israel has a right to

defend itself but that does not mean carpet bombing a whole population. It does not mean blockading a whole population and it does not mean collective punishment for a whole population," he said.

"It's incumbent upon all of us and politicians as our leaders/representatives to actually express deep empathy for the plight of the Palestinians and those who are suffering as a result of the bombings and being basically forced to leave their homes under threat of being killed."

On October 19, the federal government announced its commitment to support communities, including \$25 million to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc. and \$25 million to Australian Palestinian, Muslim and other communities affected by the conflict. ●

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CBD NEWS



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CBD Local

Brave Ukrainian mother finds safety in Melbourne after fleeing war



Even after war broke out in Ukraine 18 months ago, Hanna Komissarova, a mother of two and professional photographer from Ukraine, never imagined leaving her beloved homeland.



WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

“Many acquaintances left in the first hours of the war. It seemed unreal to me, and I thought that it would be resolved peacefully soon. But unfortunately, it became clear after a few days that no-one would end it,” she said.

Today, Hanna, together with her husband and their two sons aged 13 and five, have found solace and hope in their newfound home on the edge of the CBD since arriving in Australia in July last year where they have slowly rebuilt their lives.

“Considering what is happening in the world, we are happy to be in Melbourne. Although there are still many steps ahead in achieving our dreams, we will manage,” she said after securing a three-year humanitarian visa allowing her to have full working rights.



“My goal is to open my own photography studio here, just as I had in Ukraine, to bring joy to new parents with beautiful photographs of their newborns and to create family portraits.”

Hanna has quickly adapted to her surroundings, securing work in real estate and Airbnb photography, and as a freelance photojournalist for Hyperlocal News, the publisher of *CBD News* and its four sibling newspapers in the inner-city.

She is grateful to be able to continue her passion and the “incredible opportunity to explore new places, meet wonderful people, learn about city events, and hear the stories of others”.

Since calling Melbourne home, Hanna said the family had been welcomed with open arms with many lending a helping hand.

“When the war started, I had no plans to leave Ukraine since I had my own business and a job that couldn’t be done remotely. I worked

in the largest studio in my area and had my own studio for newborn shoots. I never could have imagined that war would come to my country in the 21st century and bring such horrors.”

But with each passing day, the fear of violence and chaos pushed her to making the most difficult decision of her life without knowing what lay ahead.

“Initially, I travelled to Slovakia, where my husband had been working as a long-haul truck driver. However, circumstances led us to Prague, Czech Republic, where we were taken by volunteers.”

They eventually flew to Doha, the capital of Qatar, but due to delays they missed a connecting flight to Australia and were told to pay more. Left with no options, Hanna said, “God heard my prayers,” after an “incredible person from Australia agreed to lend us money for new tickets,” totalling €11,000 (\$18,437 Australian dollars).

Having finally arrived in Melbourne, they were greeted by an AMES employee who arranged accommodation and “provided everything we needed including bedding, kitchenware, mobile communication, grocery card, etc.”

While she hopes to extend their visas, the family now rent their own apartment, and the children attend school and day care. But Hanna conceded she was missing her dog, which she had to leave with a couple in Prague.

“We are grateful to Australia for its warm welcome and support, both financially and emotionally. The safety of my family is incredibly important to us.” ●



EasyPark wins top award for smart parking services

EasyPark, the company behind the city’s on-street mobile parking app, has taken out a top Australian parking industry award.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Since being rolled out 18 months ago within the City of Melbourne, customers can find a car park, extend the time limit, and pay from their phone via the EasyPark app.

More than 70 councils and parking operators across Australia have introduced the app in the past eight years as an alternative to parking meters, with ticketless digital permits also being introduced.

In recognition of the Collins St-based global tech company’s rapid growth – with more than 3.1 million Australians downloading the app – EasyPark was awarded the 2023 Organisation of the Year at the prestigious Parking Industry Awards event held in Sydney on October 11.

EasyPark’s CEO Eli Grossinger Binshtok said the accolade was a reflection of their team’s determination to

make the parking experience easier for everyone.

“The best compliment that we get is that EasyPark is ... easy,” he said. “People say it is easy to use and we are easy to do business with. But, as we all know, it’s not that easy to make it easy.”

“We worked very hard behind the scenes to achieve this outcome for our clients and customers and for this I thank our wonderful team who show great effort and commitment every day to build this amazing organisation to make it easy for everyone else.” “We strive to go above and beyond and deliver wow in everything we do, both internally and externally. Now for us this is a wow moment in the history of our company.”

The app offers two pricing plans: one takes a 10 per cent commission of a parking fee, the second charges customers \$1.99 per month plus 2.25 per cent per transaction.

Unlike some apps which are pre-loaded with money, EasyPark users only pay for the exact time they use and on the day that they use the service.

At the award ceremony, EasyPark was also a finalist for Outstanding Customer Service and technology manager Arjun Nambiar was named as a finalist for the Young Achiever Award.

The EasyPark Group is also growing its operations in Europe and the US with more than 80 million EasyPark App customers in over 25 countries and nearing 4000 cities. ●



Christmas Spectacular returns to Melbourne

EVENTS

Master magician and illusionist Michael Boyd will return to Melbourne in December with the most magical holiday event of the season.

Christmas Spectacular – a Magical Wonderland, starring Michael Boyd and special guest Prinnie Stevens is an extravaganza of music, circus, dance and magic that celebrates the joy and excitement of Christmas.

Let your senses ignite with a kaleidoscope of Christmas Songs, dances, and world-class variety performers as they light up the stage at The Palms at Crown on December 15 and 16 in a show that pays tribute to the *Radio City Rockettes*, *The Nutcracker* and much more.

Join *The Voice* finalist and musical theatre sensation Prinnie Stevens, as she takes you on a musical journey of Christmas classics from traditional songs to Mariah Carey favourites all performed with Prinnie’s unique style and voice of an angel.

Acclaimed illusionist and *Australia’s Got Talent* finalist Michael Boyd will perform some of his

greatest illusions, mind-boggling disappearances, and incredible magic (with a Christmas twist) that will keep the audience entranced.

Joining Prinnie and Michael will be the absolute crème de la crème of Australia’s leading showgirls, who have graced the stages of Moulin Rouge, the Lido and other famous cabaret revues in this spectacular 90-minute production.

Come and celebrate the fun and magic of the festive season with Santa and all his friends. This spectacular show will ignite your holiday spirit and remind you that Christmas truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

For the ultimate Christmas experience the VIP package includes a meet and greet photo opportunity with Santa and a magical gift for the children.

Christmas Spectacular is also visiting Adelaide and Sydney as part of its tour from December 10 to 23, and will perform in Melbourne on Friday, December 15 at 7.30pm, and Saturday, December 16 at 2pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets are now available via Ticketmaster. ●

Digital noticeboards: revolutionising communication in Melbourne's Paragon Apartments

Melbourne's CBD is renowned for its iconic landmarks and bustling cityscape, but one development stands out as a symbol of modern luxury living and community engagement.

Paragon Apartments, a mixed-use, 48-level residential tower, has not only redefined urban living but has also embraced innovative technology to foster a more connected and informed community.

Built on a prominent corner of Melbourne's CBD, the Paragon Apartments project was a remarkable undertaking that combined modern luxury with a commitment to preserving the city's heritage. The redevelopment and preservation of the iconic façade of the former Melbourne Celtic Club have given this skyscraper a unique character, blending the old with the new.

The tower, with its striking architectural design, accommodates 227 residences, each offering a piece of the cityscape as a private sky garden. It's a breathtaking concept known as the "urban forest," where residents can escape the urban hustle and immerse themselves in a serene, green oasis in the sky.

Digital noticeboards: connecting communities

What truly sets Paragon Apartments apart is its dedication to keeping residents informed, engaged, and connected.

This commitment led to the owners' corporation (OC) engaging CommVision, a trailblazer in digital signage solutions. Its digital noticeboards and screens have become the cornerstone of communication within the Paragon community.

CEO and founder of CommVision Alex L. Smith emphasised the importance of technology in fostering a sense of belonging.

"Our mission is to enhance communication within communities. Paragon Apartments is a shining example of how technology can make modern living more vibrant," Mr Smith said.

Melbourne's leading OC management company, Engine Property Group, manages Paragon Tower and its business development manager Mr Merit Arpac attests to the system's benefits.

"Our residents appreciate the convenience of instantly receiving essential updates. It makes our job easier and reflects positively on our approach in fostering transparency and enhancing engagement within communities," he said. "CommVision's solutions align seamlessly with our goals."



Building the future of modern living

The Paragon Apartments collaboration between residents, CommVision, and the OC manager exemplifies the role technology plays in creating informed and connected communities.

In an era where technology is shaping the way we live, Paragon Apartments leads the charge, embracing the power of digital communication to foster a more connected, informed community. The collaboration between Paragon Apartments, CommVision, and Engine is a testament to the positive impact technology can have on building management and the resident experience.

Free digital notice board and revenue sharing options are available. Terms and conditions apply.

About the author

Alex L. Smith is the CEO and founder of CommVision, a leading digital signage provider that specialises in enhancing communication in residential and mixed-use developments. With a strong commitment to community-focused solutions, Alex has played a pivotal role in bringing innovative technology to modern living spaces. Under his leadership, CommVision continues to make waves in the industry by prioritising residents' needs and fostering vibrant, connected communities. ●

For more information:
commvision.com.au



Parkhill Apartments: brand-new, just completed – inspections now available

Residents are now moving into Central Equity's newest apartment project, Parkhill Apartments in West Melbourne.

The newly-completed 20-level tower is located on the corner of Spencer and Batman streets in thriving West Melbourne, one block from the Flagstaff Gardens and the CBD.

There are a limited number of one- and two-bedroom apartments for sale and open for inspection. Tours are also available of a range of fully furnished display apartments and the stunning resident rooftop facilities.

Parkhill has been designed with liveability and convenience in mind – the project boasts beautiful rooftop resident-only facilities and spacious, light-filled apartments with stunning city, garden, and bay views.

Parkhill has been designed to meet the needs of young professionals, students, empty nesters, and the growing tide of young parents looking to raise their families in the inner city.

The apartments have an abundance of floor to ceiling glazing that provides extensive natural light and breathtaking views of Melbourne's inner city, east towards Flagstaff Gardens and south towards the CBD. All apartments come with a large balcony or terrace for outdoor dining or relaxation.

At street level, Parkhill will improve amenity on both Spencer and Batman streets with a range of retail tenancies and a striking podium.

Residents are greeted by an elegant architect-designed foyer with an onsite seven-day concierge. The building has extensive security

features including floor-to-floor secure access and is serviced by state-of-the-art lifts.

Residents will have exclusive access to the roof top terrace which boasts views of the inner city as well as an extensive landscaped garden terrace, barbecue and dining areas, a gym and exercise areas.

The project encourages sustainable transport alternatives, with a generous amount of bike storage on site. Its city fringe location puts it walking distance to the Free Tram Zone, Flagstaff and Southern Cross Stations and bus routes. Car parking is also available with selected apartments.

The development is also within walking distance of Melbourne's major universities including RMIT and Melbourne University, Haileybury College (City Campus), University High School, the city's employment and retail precincts, Flagstaff Gardens and Queen Victoria Market.

Parkhill is Central Equity's 86th major residential project to be completed over its 37-year history and is another example of the company delivering on what it promises.

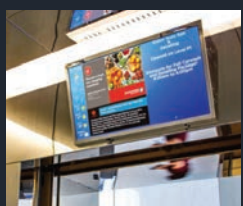
To book your tour and be one of the first to inspect the fully furnished display apartments at Parkhill head online or visit the onsite sales display at 408 Spencer St – open seven days. There are a limited number of one- and two-bedroom apartments for sale from \$529,000. ●

For more information:
parkhill.com.au

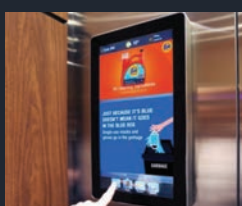
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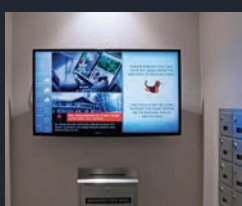
CommVision offers a state-of-the-art solution for strata/building managers to increase communication with residents in lifts and Lobbies.



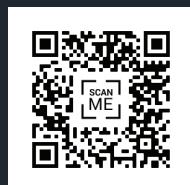
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Community News



Saving Time and Resources



Take the first step in transforming your building communication. Reach out to our team at info@commvision.com.au or call 03 9863 7552.

QVM Trader Profile

New Moonfishh store making a splash at QVM

Moonfishh is the latest addition to the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) community, serving up fresh and inventive seafood dishes with a focus on quality and responsibly sourced Australian and New Zealand seafood.

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

Owner and chef Haru Sonobe opened the QVM store to market-goers on September 15, describing Moonfishh as a “full-sensory sushi experience.”

“Our food is Japanese-based Asian-fusion, most of our menu is original and something different to other Japanese food,” Chef Sonobe told *CBD News*.

Chef Sonobe’s speciality in seafood, sushi and sashimi stems from his time working in some of the world’s best sushi restaurants, such as Nobu in London.

After opening the flagship store in Albert Park in 2019, Moonfishh has since expanded to two other locations across Melbourne, including the University of Melbourne Parkville campus outlet, as well as the latest QVM store.

The menu at QVM offers some of the best takeaway and dine-in sushi on the market, which is hand-selected daily. There are also a range of poke bowls and hot dishes to enjoy after working up an appetite from wandering through the market sheds.

“Our sushi is Japanese-style, and we serve the best quality and freshness – especially our special platter which you can only get from Moonfishh.”

Moonfishh serves a variety of special platters at the QVM store, including a maki platter, nigiri platter, sashimi platter, and a mix platter of sushi and sashimi.

One of its most unique offerings is their



function catering, with different menus available to accommodate all kinds of events, budgets, and interests.

“Originally, I didn’t think to open another shop, but my team is growing and getting stronger, so I decided to open at different locations to make our staff more independent,” Chef Sonobe said.

“For me, business is people – when people are grown, business is grown; I’m very lucky to have great staff in my company.”

Moonfishh at QVM is operating opposite the market in the Munro precinct, which has allowed more space for new vendors to join the QVM community – such as Moonfishh and their neighbours, the Only Mine chocolate shop.

While the space is still being established, Chef

Sonobe hopes that more customers will make their way to the new store to build a stronger sense of community within the precinct.

“I really want people to know where we are,” Chef Sonobe said.

“There’s lots of people on the market side, so I want people to know we are there.”

Moonfishh is located at 15 Dhanga Djeembana Walk in QVM’s Munro precinct and is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm. ●

For more information:
moonfishh.com.au

METRO TUNNEL

New City Square artwork goes above and beyond

An eye-catching new artwork on the Metro Tunnel’s City Square site fence is giving Melburnians something to think about as they travel down Swanston St.

The work is a collaboration between the Metro Tunnel Creative Program and the Wheeler Centre, to celebrate the Wheeler Centre’s Spring Fling 2023 series.

Six well-known Victorian writers – Alice Pung, Nevo Zisin, Claire Coleman, Bruce Pascoe, Jennifer Down and Carly Findlay – were commissioned to write original reflections on the theme *Above and Beyond*.

First Nations visual artist ENOKi then created a series of vibrant illustrations, to complement each of the written pieces.

An intriguing extract from each written piece accompanies each illustration in the thought-provoking display at City Square.

According to creative program engagement manager Sarah Robins, the collaboration celebrates some of Victoria’s most esteemed literary talent as well as the city-shaping Metro Tunnel Project.

“The Wheeler Centre’s Spring Fling theme of above and beyond made perfect sense for us, as we have tunnelled under the city and Yarra River, and built underground stations,” Ms Robins said, adding that imbuing a sense of place wasn’t part of the brief but came through in most of the written pieces.

“For example, Carly Findlay reflects on how the liveability of our city can be improved with better accessibility, while Alice Pung raises a spectre many of us would prefer remain out of sight – the local rat population!”

Ms Robins said the work created a unique experience for Melburnians and includes the chance to listen to audio of the writers reading their own work.

“It’s amazing to be able to see the artwork



from a tram window and then read the written piece, or better yet, hear the author read their piece as you continue on your commute.”

You can read or listen to each piece via the Wheeler Centre’s website: wheelercentre.com/above-beyond-metro-tunnel/

Work at Town Hall Station is continuing at pace, with architectural fit-out under way and construction of a new pedestrian underpass linking the new station and Flinders Street Station well advanced.

A small section of footpath on Flinders St that had been closed for construction reopened in late September.

Town Hall Station will be a new gateway to some of Melbourne’s most popular destinations, including Federation Square and Southbank when it opens in 2025 – a year ahead of schedule.

It will feature extraordinary cathedral-like arched ceilings and some of the widest platforms in the world. ●

HISTORY



The Lamb Inn, a “roustering place for shepherds with cheques”, c. 1840

Tucked away in the bottom right-hand corner of this watercolour by W F E Liardet are two small windblown figures battling Melbourne’s notorious north-westerly winds.

WORDS BY *Dr Cheryl Griffin*
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

One is buying something at the coffee and tea building, an early follower of our coffee culture, perhaps? The other is valiantly hanging on to what could be a newspaper or a map.

In front of them, along Flinders St and the Yarra River, is a busy port scene. This was known as the Landing Place. Several boats are pulled up off the river. A sailing ship, masts down, is docked in the foreground.

Moving into the scene from the west is a large rowing boat, the crew dressed in naval uniforms. Top-hatted passengers sit at the front, their portly figures suggesting they are men of substance in more ways than one.

Along the street, barrels of sherry and port are moved from a wattle-and-daub warehouse onto a cart and further down the street a cart heads east loaded with sacks – of feed, perhaps.

Centre stage in the background is the Lamb Inn with billiards hall on its right. It has an

uninterrupted view down the hill, past the cleared market reserve, to a busy port scene in the fledgling Port Phillip settlement.

Within a year, the Western Market (think Market St) was built, the view had gone and the Lamb was struggling. It survived, eventually becoming Scott’s Hotel (444 Collins St), and re-established itself as a Melbourne institution.

At the time depicted here, the Lamb Inn was only a few years old and had already become an important hub of activity, a “roustering place for shepherds with cheques”, according to the *Encyclopedia of Melbourne*.

It was here that the Melbourne Club and the Melbourne Cricket Club held their first meetings and the first of Melbourne’s race meetings was organised. It was here, too, that a public meeting was held to ask the government to establish civil and criminal courts in the province.

And it was here on New Year’s Day 1838 that the first mail service between Melbourne and Sydney set off. Considered a dangerous mission with every likelihood of failure, it attracted a large crowd who cheered as the mail carrier, a young Irishman named John Bourke, set off with two leather bags of mail, dressed in a leather suit, a wide sombrero on his head and a pair of duelling pistols in his belt.

He took with him provisions for the long journey – food, camping equipment and other essentials.

And yes, he made it to Yass where his NSW counterpart took over and was back in Melbourne within a fortnight. ●

Circular thinking for the built environment

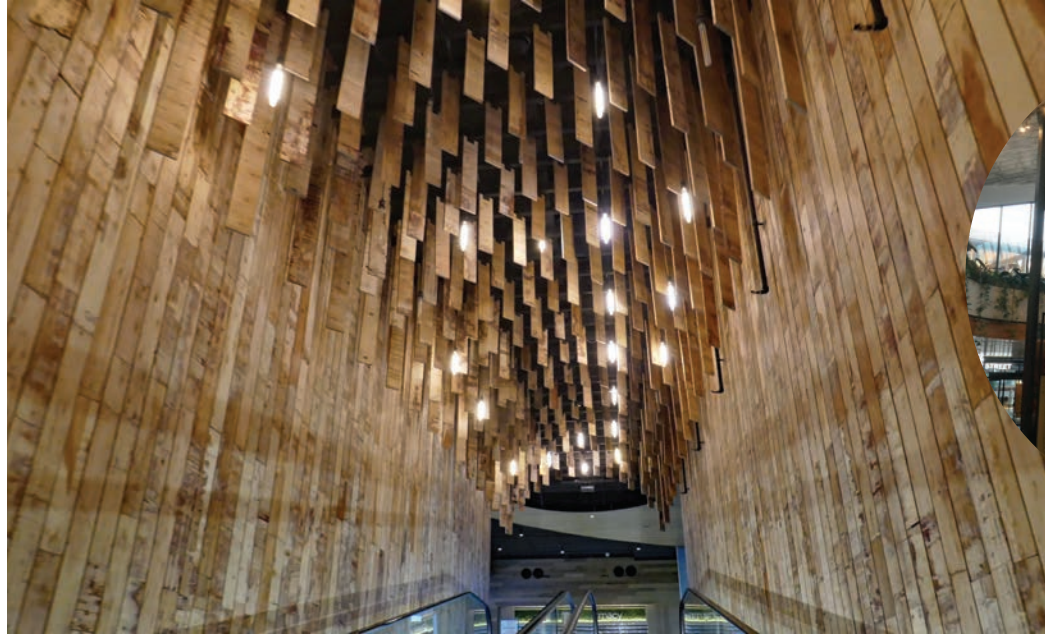
“Circularity” is defined as the shift from the wasteful “take-make-consume-discard” common practice to a “cradle-to-cradle” mindset.

WORDS BY *Nicola Smith*
RESIDENTS 3000

Such thinking can transform our environment by recognising the intrinsic value of materials throughout their life-cycle, and consciously reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling the existing.

What practical steps can a community take to encourage the “circularity” mindset? A few initiatives follow:

- **Source from the local economy:** There are many wonderful local architects, artists, craftspeople and markets from which to choose. Commissioning/buying from local sources supports communities and minimises transportation impacts.
- **Use less:** Adapt and reuse existing structures where possible. Combine structural and aesthetic functions to minimise cladding. For example, use raw brass/metal taps and fixtures, which age better. Avoid toxic substances prevalent in chrome plating. Install shelving without cupboard doors, use exposed concrete and cabling to minimise wall/ floor/ ceiling finishes and shared amenities like rooftop gardens with herbs/composting and access to sunlight for everyone.
- **Longevity:** Beauty, cultural richness and quality are vital to good design in our city. Things being awe-inspiring in one way or another, cultivates emotional attachment which encourages care and preservation. This in turn tends to extend lifespan, truly valuing the energy and carbon invested in making them.
- **Recycling and recyclability:** Using quality, durable, responsibly sourced materials with recycled content that can easily be taken apart for reuse, are good strategies. Examples include using salvaged floorboards/timber, concrete containing recycled aggregate, natural paint/oil finishes so that plasterboard and timber remain compostable/biodegradable.



▲ A chandelier made from salvaged formwork that was used for forming the concrete in the building – one of many reused materials incorporated into the building, and (right) Burwood Brickworks – the most sustainable shopping centre globally, which we are fortunate to have here in Melbourne

Using bolts/nails and rebated detailing to create driplines, rather than adhesives/silicone sealant which often contain toxic substances, helps minimise volatile-organic-compound (VOC) emissions, creating healthy air-quality for occupants.

- **Salvaged products and materials:** Finding ways to integrate as many salvaged materials as possible into building and fit outs creates a positive ripple effect. It should be mandatory, or at least incentivised, to repurpose existing buildings rather than building new. Also, to salvage quality materials from demolished buildings for future reuse. Residents should advocate for the recycling of building materials to be incentivised by the City of Melbourne and maybe even incorporated in the National Construction Code. Organisations such as Close-The-Loop and Repurpose-It are making a difference.
- **Materials transparency:** It is vital to understand the origins of products, such as what is inside them, and what can be done with them at their end-of-life (whether compostable/biodegradable, recyclable, take-back program or potential waste stream for recycling). Many building

materials contain toxic chemicals (as listed in the free “LBC Red List”). Knowing their composition in detail is the first step in ensuring harmful, toxic chemicals are phased out of building products and finishes. Diligence is needed to demand transparency, compare products, and choose the healthiest. After all, we come into contact with them every day and eventually dispose of materials, where those chemicals could harm soil, air quality, waterways, habitats, creatures and food chains.

- **Emerging technologies:** Sequestering carbon removed from the atmosphere in building products and natural materials such as hemp, mycelium (the root-like structure of fungi), graphene, timber and algae that capture atmospheric carbon and can be used for construction.
- There is increasing availability in Australia of products with recycled content. The following lists some product examples that follow the “circularity” concept:

- SeaTex ClimateReady roller blinds contain at least 50 per cent post-consumer ocean plastic.
- ECORR utilises recycled waste materials

for bases, sands, and aggregates for infrastructure projects.

- EcoPact low-carbon concrete contains reused byproducts.
- Reconophalt EPD asphalt has high recycled content.
- Low-carbon geopolymers concrete (GPC) with recycled crushed glass (replacing virgin sand) or slag and fly-ash waste-products with alkali-binders (replacing Portland-cement).
- NuTech Graphenstone lime-based paints contain graphene, absorbing carbon-dioxide when installed.
- Fungi Solutions biotechnology company “mycocycle” waste materials by naturally breaking down hydrocarbon bonds of individual pollutants/waste material, fusing them with cultivated mycelium, grown into moulded forms for construction or packaging.

Let’s ensure the products we choose to build with are healthy for all species throughout time and are kept in circulation as long as possible. ●

Nicola Smith is a UK-registered-architect, longstanding CBD resident and Residents 3000 member.

CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

The CBD community Hub is a free online space to connect with fellow CBD locals, stay in the know, post requests for help, share skills and local knowledge, ask for recommendations, discover local services, classes, retailers, events and more

CBD NEWS



If you're a local resident or business you can join up here

WE LIVE HERE

Greens pressure on short-stay levy

The Victorian Greens have written to the Treasurer Tim Pallas saying they will oppose Victoria's proposed short-stay levy unless they get substantial changes to the state government's new housing policy.

We Live Here regards the proposed levy, which could be as little as \$10 on some properties, as a negligible nano measure that is openly revenue-focused rather than regulatory.

The Greens are seeking rent controls, regulation of the short-stay industry including 90-day caps, and other social housing policy changes. The party has given the government three months to "negotiate in good faith" to avoid the housing Bill failing.

The government's Housing Statement says 29,000 entire homes are listed on short-stay platforms. The government's statement explains why they want a levy:

"These are places that cannot be used for longer-term accommodation or rented out on fixed term agreements – so it makes sense that they should provide some benefit toward the places that can."

Yes, there it is, documented in the government's own words – the short-stay levy is a cash cow.

The government needs those 29,000 houses to remain on Airbnb or Stayz.

Imagine for a moment that a small short-stay levy could influence a significant number of landlords to convert back to long-term rentals, which is risibly unlikely – the whole funding model for Homes Victoria would collapse.

Financially, one must admit the idea behind the levy is brilliant – a cash bonanza from a tiny little levy that everyone will forget about eventually. Simultaneously, without any other action to solve the short-stay chaos, it is politically inexcusable.

We Live Here hopes the Greens' pressure on the government will get results.

New leadership must mend the legacy

After eight years of inaction under Mr Andrews, Victorians have a new leader. Can we expect any legislative change?

The never-reviewed, never-amended "short-stay Bill" was embedded in the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006* despite enormous community opposition. Residents' complaints have been assiduously ignored for nearly a decade.

The short-stay party Bill was either a case of "drafted to fail" or "failed in the drafting" – in other words, insidious or incompetent.

Under Jacinta Allan's leadership the government has an opportunity to make some real change. Now is the time for the state government to redress the harm caused by political inertia of the past few years.

For example, a St Kilda resident recently lost their VCAT case against continual drunken abusive incidents at short stays. With the disgraceful behaviour alternating between apartments, it is virtually impossible to take successful action against a single lot.

Premier, let's learn from other places like New York – Victoria can do better.

Just for a start, we need day caps and self-determination for owners' corporations. And whatever is enacted, regulations must be fair, realistic and enforceable.

We Live Here looks forward to meeting with the new Premier and having meaningful dialogue – and outcomes.

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register or to donate, visit welfare.net



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton
CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET



LAW

Ecstasy with your espressos, marbled wagyu with your methamphetamines

Pellegrini's, Florentino's, Le Meridien, Chris Lucas's new restaurant and the other businesses located at the top end of Bourke St welcome the proposed "safe" drug injecting rooms ... do you really think?

WORDS BY Peter Neville
NEVILLE.COM.AU

Seriously, Sally, while I am generally a great supporter of yours for many of your proposed activities for the City of Melbourne and no one would doubt your passion this is not a good plan. Even Fiona Patten sees reason on this one.

This is not just a NIMBY approach. The proposed location at The Salvos, does not make any sense.

Okay ... if not here, then where? If there's one thing that we seem to learn from history; it is that we seem to learn nothing from history because we keep repeating the same mistakes. The lessons of Richmond appear to be lost.

Perhaps a small corner in the rambling gardens of Parliament House might finally put that institution to some use, creating a built-for-purpose injecting room. It appears to have had very little use in the last few

years, other than to leave us with an extraordinary mountain of debt.

Perhaps another suitable location might be the spacious, unused rooms of the railway building in Flinders Street Station. It would also be much closer to the scene of related activities. Like Fiona Patten, I support the idea of a safe injecting room, however, as the real estate people keep telling us, "location, location, location", and Bourke St is not it.

Drug addiction does raise a host of other issues which need to be addressed. Perhaps we might look more closely at the lessons from Portugal, where the decriminalisation of drugs brought about a decrease in criminal activity and, I understand, usage.

Decriminalisation does not mean unfettered use, but instead what it does is to transfer the focus onto the criminal activities associated with drug usage, manufacture, and distribution, and instead treat the addiction as a health issue.

There are many arguments both for and against any location of a "safe" injecting room, but if the precincts of Queen Victoria Market were not appropriate, it seems hardly appropriate to consider the top end of Bourke St, other than the suggestion for Parliament House.

There is some logic in the view that if drugs are both free and freely available at a designated location, then it may well have an impact on the street market of drugs, which would also assist in the reduction of crime, much of which is drug related. ●

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PUZZLES & TRIVIA

Quiz



- 1. What region of France is the Chablis wine district in?
2. Lupita Nyong'o (pictured) won a Screen Actors Guild award for her role in which 2013 film?
3. What new Japanese restaurant has just opened in the CBD?
4. A cygnet is a baby what?
5. Former British prime minister Winston Churchill won a Nobel prize in what?
6. Which street in the CBD used to be known as Stephen Street?
7. Xi Jinping is the president of which country?
8. Which planet was named after the Roman god of financial gain and commerce?
9. How many tram routes are there in Melbourne?
10. What zodiac sign is between Aries and Gemini?
11. Which music icon was just celebrated in a bio-musical at the Athenaeum Theatre?
12. Where is Melbourne's newest shimmering walk-through disco experience located?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

- 1. Bunglebury
2. Grease
3. Waza Japanese Restaurant
4. Swan
5. Literature
6. Exhibition Street
7. China
8. Mercury
9. 24
10. Taurus
11. Elvis Presley
12. Meyers Place

5x5

No. 030

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words - five reading across the grid and five reading down.

Grid for 5x5 puzzle with missing letters: S _ U D, _ U _ N, A S E, _ T E, M E S

SOLUTIONS

SQUID, PUNNY, AISLE, STEER, MEETS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION ©PAGEMASTERS PTY LTD PAGEMASTERS.COM November, 2023

Sudoku

No. 029

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

EASY

3x3 grid for Easy Sudoku with numbers in some cells.

HARD

3x3 grid for Hard Sudoku with numbers in some cells.

SOLUTIONS

Grid solution for Easy Sudoku

Grid solution for Hard Sudoku

Crossword

No. 029

ACROSS

- 1 Predictions (9)
6 Greek letter (5)
9 Quicker routes (9)
10 Mission (5)
11 Jot (4)
12 'Idiot box' (10)
14 Runway hub (7)
16 Facet (6)
18 Dark blue (6)
20 Manipulate (7)
23 Plant shelter (10)
24 Male elephant (4)
26 Jobs (5)
27 Contamination (9)
28 Finished (5)
29 Finds (9)

DOWN

- 1 Intriguing (11)
2 Cockerel (7)
3 Domestic animals (4)
4 Scholars (8)
5 Method (6)
6 Accept reluctantly (9)
7 Exact (7)
8 Fitting (3)
13 Holland, The - (11)
15 Arranged (9)
17 Comforts (8)
19 Attired (7)
21 Insulting (7)
22 Jumped on one foot (6)
25 European currency (4)
26 Dead heat (3)

Crossword grid with black squares indicating non-letter positions.

SOLUTION

Solved crossword grid with numbers.

Codeword

No. 029

Codeword grid with letters and numbers for clues.

SOLUTIONS

Word solutions for the codeword puzzle: XOWD, NHCT, IPYKOB, ZG, EUS, JVF, MARL, IARL.

Wordfind

Theme: Under the Sea

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

Wordfind grid with letters and black squares.

- BARRAMUNDI, MURRAY COD, CARP, SALMON, CRAB, SNAPPER, EEL, STURGEON, FLATHEAD, SWORDFISH, GOLDEN PERCH, TUNA, LOBSTER, WHITEBAIT, MACKEREL, WHITING, MARLIN

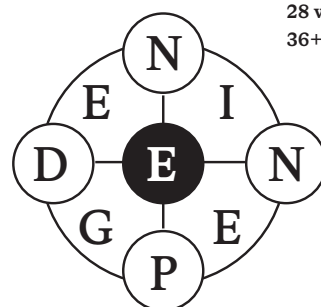
Secret message: Gone Fishing

9-Letter

No. 029

- Today's Focus: 20 words: Good, 28 words: Very good, 36+ words: Excellent

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



SOLUTIONS

- deep, deepen, DEEPENING, deign, dense, dine, edge, ending, engine, epee, epiene, geed, gene, genie, genned, ginned, idee, indui, nede, need, needng, neep, nide, nire, gend, gene, genne, penn, penna, pined, pined, pined, pined, pined, pined

Reference: Collins Concise English Dictionary

地铁隧道明年9月提前竣工

建筑商透露，新地铁隧道将于明年9月的“第一天运营”，早于政府计划的2025年运营。

David Schout

墨尔本市民期待已久的地铁隧道将于2024年9月开通，建筑巨头John Holland公司公布了这个比州政府更乐观的时间表。

政府今年早些时候表示，这个比原计划提前一年，于2025年完成的大型隧道项目，旨在缓解繁忙的Cranbourne线、Pakenham线和Sunbury线，以释放市区交通网络的空间。

然而，建筑商John Holland的首席执行官Joe Barr在10月份的维多利亚商会活动上发表讲话时透露，该工程将在不到一年的时间内完成。

Barr先生表示：“这确实令人兴奋，我们已经与我们的合作伙伴和政府在这方面努力了10年，明年将是揭晓结果的一年。”

“我们很高兴地说，一切都在正常运行。”

“我们的火车正在墨尔本市区的地下作全速测试。”

“我们期待明年9月的第一天运营。”



作为回应，维州政府并没有作出改变，表示隧道将于2025年开通。

作为这个庞大项目的一部分，五个新车站中的两个将位于中央商务区；其中市政厅出口将成为通往市中心一些最受欢迎目的地，而州立图书馆出口将改善前往皇家墨尔本理工大学和维多利亚女王市场等关键地点的交通。

整个九公里长的双向铁路隧道将在Kensington和South Yarra之间运行，并将释放城市地下环线隧道的空间，以便提供更多的火车穿越市区及外围区域。

Barr先生表示，墨尔本将全球其他城市视为交通运输的典范，为人们的生活带来实质性的变化。



女王市场美食厅即将开业

备受期待的维多利亚女王市场新美食厅将于11月开业，墨尔本的美食家可以大饱口福了。

Brendan Rees

这个耗资550万澳元的新美食厅位于维多利亚(Victoria)街和皇后(Queen)街的拐角处，取代了过去20世纪80年代的餐饮区，更新的美食厅成为一个新的社交场地，拥有更多座位，以及各种风味的美食和咖啡饮料，将从白天营业至晚上。

新美食厅拥有八家新的和回归的食品和饮料运营商，其中包括Bellboy Coffee Bar (Brunswick East 咖啡馆的团队) 和 Abbotsford 的The Happy Mexican等。

返回的商家包括Saltwater、一家寿司店和生蚝吧；西班牙小吃吧El Rincon；一家巴黎风格的糕点店和咖啡馆Le Consulat；一家美式主题咖啡馆Rubens Grill，供应烟熏烤排骨、牛胸肉汉堡和烤乳猪；还有广受欢迎的餐馆Canton Male，以其美味的咖喱叻沙和闪电式福建炒面而闻名。

具有27年历史的热门咖啡馆Drums也即将返回，其主厨Vijay Sivaraj表达了他的



喜悦之情，称新的美食大厅将使人们能够提供“最好的斯里兰卡美食体验”。

他说：“我们牺牲了两年时间的完全关闭还是值得的。美食大厅发展得很好，我们真的很高兴能再次成为其中的一部分。”

这家咖啡馆将有一个全新的外观和菜单，有传统的咖喱、炸土豆条和咖喱薯条，其受欢迎的热黄油墨鱼菜肴依然是一大特色。

维多利亚女王市场首席执行官Matt Elliott表示：“作为墨尔本无与伦比的烹饪文化的象征，我们很高兴欢迎这些多元化的食品和饮料商家团体加入维多利亚女王市场的大家庭。”

空置办公室改成公寓遭异议

一份期待已久的住房声明探索将闲置的商业空间转化为“大约1万至1.2万套公寓和混合用途的物业”。

David Schout

维多利亚州政府研究将空置的中央商务区办公空间改造成公寓，但受到了墨尔本市政的批评，称之为“无稽之谈”，声称市政已经帮助确定了合适的商业建筑。

这份期待已久的政府住房声明于9月份发布，概述了一项意在解决严重住房供应和负担能力问题的10年计划，并承诺为租房者提供更多保护。

值得注意的是，该声明包括一项正式承诺，即“考虑机会”，将未充分利用的商业空间改造成“约1万至1.2万套公寓和混合用途物业”。

自新冠疫情以来，随着向混合办公模式的转变以及新的高档写字楼供应的涌入，商业楼空置率持续上升，在市区周围形成了更少的需求和更多的空置空间，尤其是较低档的商业楼。

9月20日发布的住房声明包括了一项誓言，即探索将未充分利用的商业建筑改造成住宅建筑。

声明中写道：“澳大利亚房地产委员会(PCA)和墨尔本市政已经确定了近80座商业办公楼，由于工作模式的变化和对灵活楼层空间的需求增加，这些办公楼目前没有得到充分利用。”



“我们将与PCA和市政合作，考虑将这些办公楼改造成约1万至1.2万套公寓和混合用途物业的机会。”

然而，墨尔本市政事实上没有在这一过程中发挥任何作用，市政并向本报证实了没有与PCA合作。

市政规划副主管Rohan Leppert议员说，该建议是“无稽之谈”，市政甚至还没有收到任何PCA的报告。

中央商务区未设公投站不可接受

由于中央商务区(CBD)未设投票站，当地居民被迫前往CBD外围的投票站参加10月14日的Voice公投。

Georgie Atkins

尽管墨尔本市是全澳人口最多的首府城市，但是澳大利亚选举委员会(AEC)还是无法在CBD设立投票站。

墨尔本市政规划副主管Rohan Lepert议员表示：“CBD没有投票站是不可接受的。”“这儿是维州的中心，很多人从许多不同的选区来到市中心投票，他们需要一个投票的地方。”

澳大利亚选举委员会(AEC)的一名发言人解释说，在市中心投票“总是很困难”，而且“不可能在短时间内为这种规模的投票提供场所。”

发言人指出：“我们想在墨尔本中央商务区寻找场地，联系了30多个不同的场所，但没有一个合适的。”

“上次选举我们使用了墨尔本CBD的展览中心，但这次无法使用，因为10月份是活动高峰期。”

AEC指示CBD的居民计划在墨尔本联邦选区30个投票点之一进行投票，并鼓励提前投票和邮寄投票的选项。

尽管有这些选择，但靠近市中心的投票地点，如Docklands港区的图书馆，市民投票的等待时间长达两个小时。

Leppert议员说：“寻找场地是AEC的责



任，我知道这很难，但他们必须这么做。”

2022年联邦选举的报道也显示了类似的问题，CBD居民在墨尔本会展中心的投票站排很长的队伍，同时还与邻近的Macnamara选区选民竞相排队。

What's on: November 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

UNTIL OCTOBER 29
MELBOURNE FASHION WEEK
 Enjoy a full program of pop-up moments, industry talks, exhibitions and more as we pull at the threads of curiosity, collaboration and creativity.
mfw.melbourne.vic.gov.au



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 7PM
ENSEMBLE LIAISON & THE AUSTRALIAN WIND QUINTET
 A program of fabulously inventive, exuberant perfection.
 Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au



WEDNESDAYS, 12-3PM
CLASSIC FILM CLUB
 Gold Coin donation (optional) all our films on the big Screen in CINEMASCOPE. This club is ran by volunteers welcome.
 Contact: 0456 960 321 or 0482 511 698
 The Hub, 506 Elizabeth St



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 6PM
Alex Raineri - The Firebird
 A solo recital of blistering pianism and vivid colour. Award-winning artist Alex Raineri returns with a solo recital of blistering pianism and vivid colour.
 Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 11.30AM - 3.30PM
FESTIVE SUNDAY SESSIONS
 It's time to get festive at Victoria by Farmer's Daughters! We are once again teaming up with local gin icons Four Pillars to bring you a special season of Sunday Sessions on our Terrace: victoriarestaurant.com.au/whats-on/-fourpillarsxmasgin



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 6PM
TRISTAN LEE - BETWEEN HEART & HEAD
 Conflicts of human nature unleashed through captivating Romantic piano masterpieces.
 Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 7PM
CLAIRE PATTI TRIO WITH TONY GOULD - DREAMS & IMAGININGS
 A special musical collaboration that channels joy, optimism, dreams and imagination.
 Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au

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