



New library and family services facility opens at Queen Vic Market precinct

“
A new \$15.7 million three-storey library and family services centre has officially opened its doors at the Queen Victoria Market precinct.”

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Called the *narrm ngarrgu* Library and Family Services, the state-of-the-art facility boasts an outdoor terrace, a dedicated children's library, sound studios, a collection of 30,000 new books and more.

The facility, which is the council's first library to open in nearly a decade, is complete with a series of culturally significant immersive works by Aboriginal artist Maree Clarke.

The name *narrm ngarrgu* means "Melbourne knowledge" in Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung language, which will build on the vibrant hospitality, retail and recreational offerings of the market.

Located within the \$500 Munro development at the corner of Queen and Therry streets, the new building will also host maternal and child health support services, parenting services, including a parent room (for feeding babies), playgroup area and outdoor play space, immunisations for children and adults, and family support and counselling.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the opening was an important milestone and would "add to the vibe of the Queen Victoria Market precinct – attracting more visitors and boosting business for traders."

"*narrm ngarrgu* is a remarkable new facility which will make it easier than ever for Melburnians to access essential family and health services, books and information," she said following the launch of the library on November 24.

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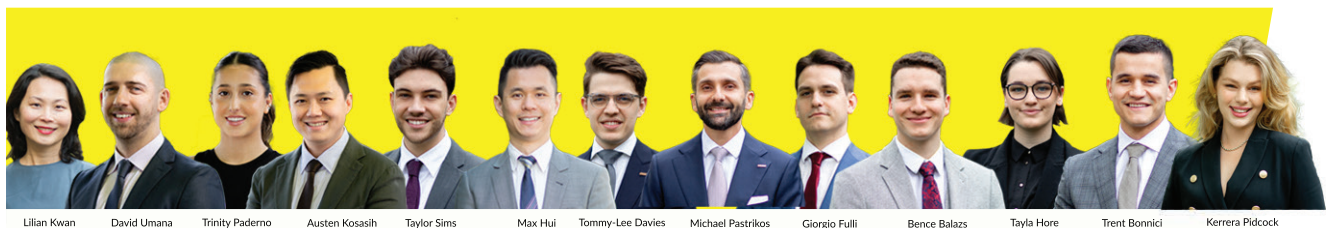
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Heritage-priced coffee from a heritage Melbourne tram

A newly launched tram café at William Angliss Institute's Melbourne city campus is not only a unique addition to the CBD's culinary landscape, but also a hands-on training ground for aspiring hospitality students.



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▲ Photography by Hanna Komissarova.

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Among the library’s new features is a 960-square-metre outdoor terrace with native plantings, an outdoor play area and an interactive six-metre-long eel trap tunnel. There’s also reading rooms, study areas and computer spaces; a makerspace area, featuring paint and photograph stations and the latest creative technology such as sewing and embroidery machines, 3D printers and laser cutters; as well as sound studios for podcasting and recording; and bookable meeting rooms and events space. The council said it was proud to collaborate with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung elders, artists and community members – which included artist Hillary Jackman and designers

and artisans from Artery Cooperative – to create a strong connection between the site and its traditional owners while “providing opportunities for reflection, ceremony, celebration and play”. Ms Clarke said she was incredibly proud of her commissioned artworks at narm ngarrgu, which included a series of coloured lenticular prints representing the Kulin seasons, and a carpet design themed around “Walking on Country” and featuring contour maps of the five Kulin nations. “I wanted to create and integrate pieces that reflect the Kulin Nation culture and knowledge that have always been here – giving anyone who walks into the building a chance to connect in a playful and thoughtful way,” she said. Minister for Local Government Melissa

Horne said the state government was proud to support the new library through the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, helping to build libraries for communities across Victoria. “Libraries are about so much more than books. They are at the centre of our community life, which is why it is so important the newly developed Queen Victoria Market site in Melbourne has a library at its heart,” she said. ●

Brendan Rees
JOURNALIST

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Council convenes key groups to help fix southern end of Elizabeth St



The Lord Mayor has said that a “targeted approach” was required to make a problematic area near Flinders Street Station “safer and more welcoming”.

WORDS BY
DAVID SCHOUT



The City of Melbourne has brought together Victorian Government, Police and other key representatives to find solutions to growing safety issues at the southern end of Elizabeth St.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp acknowledged a new approach was needed to make the area, one of Melbourne’s busiest pedestrian spots given its proximity to Flinders Street Station, “safer and more welcoming”.

On January 25, the council hosted a roundtable discussion with stakeholders including Victoria Police, the State

Government, Yarra Trams and Metro Trains to find solutions to the growing issues on the block between Flinders St and Flinders Lane.

Town Hall also sought feedback from local resident and trader groups via an online questionnaire.

The locale has long been an area of concern due to drug activity and overall safety and amenity issues.

Cr Capp said in 2021 that the “hotspot” at the intersection of Flinders and Elizabeth streets had caused “trauma” to residents and traders. However, in recent times issues had compounded at what is a gateway to the CBD.

Salvation Army Major Brendan Nottle said the area was now a “confluence of two groups”; those who have always gathered there, and those who once gathered at the corner of Flinders and Swanston streets, but who have moved on since Metro Tunnel works forced the closure of several outlets.

“It’s almost like a funnel, where people from all parts of the city funnel into location for a couple of reasons,” he told ABC radio late last year.

“One, it’s a transport hub. Two, that’s where all the fast food outlets are. So, if you want to get something to eat at two o’clock in the morning, that’s the place to go.”

Major Nottle said a number of these outlets were “horrendously understaffed”, which created further issues.

“You’ve got kids working in those places who are doing a tremendous job, but there’s not enough of them. So, you get this build-up of rubbish inside and outside these cafes and restaurants, and there’s this sense that ‘well, anything goes’. And that’s where you end up with not just

graffiti and rubbish gathering, but you also end up with violence and all sorts of things happening.”

The block between Flinders St and Flinders Lane features many 24-hour fast food and convenience stores, which has contributed to making it an area of congregation.

Some have argued this was another aspect required to drive change.

“A good outcome would be to have an area that is inviting, safe with a diversity of businesses and activity that add to the experience,” Stan Capp, president of residents group EastEnders told CBD News.

Once described by former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle as “grotty” and the “ugly duckling of Melbourne”, upgrades to the street’s southern end have been slow.

The council promised to upgrade the streetscape in 2017, however these works, which saw new trees, bluestone paving and street furniture installed, did not take place until 2021.

New pedestrian space roughly the size of a basketball court was created as part of the works by permanently closing the southbound traffic lane, in a move that was hoped to improve pedestrian safety, however this has created more gathering space for what Major Nottle said were “a really difficult, hard to reach group”.

The council’s decision to convene key decision-makers in the vicinity underlined the growing issue it had become.

“We know having a safe, accessible and vibrant city is vital to our residents, businesses, students and visitors,” the Lord Mayor said. “The City of Melbourne continues to invest in Elizabeth St south through cleaning, greening and additional safety measures.”

“We are now bringing together a range

of key stakeholders to work on a targeted approach to make the southern end of Elizabeth Street a safer and more welcoming space.”

Elizabeth St’s future plans imminent

The start of 2024 looms as important for the future of Elizabeth St, and not just due to the late-January roundtable.

Forgotten plans to pedestrianise large parts of the prominent CBD street, as part of the Elizabeth St Strategic Opportunities Plan, will be back on the agenda.

Endorsed in May 2019, the plan features wholesale changes to redistribute space away from vehicles.

Research has indicated that on average nine in 10 people on Elizabeth St are pedestrians or tram users, however the street is largely arranged for people travelling in cars, which account for just six per cent of users.

Since then, however, the plan has been beset by delays, combined with silence from Town Hall about when it might, if ever, be enacted.

Only stage one works (between Flinders St and Flinders Lane) have been completed.

Stage two, which proposed to pedestrianise almost all of Elizabeth St between Little Collins and Little Bourke streets, was forecast to start in 2020-21 but has not had a significant update in several years.

In June 2022 councillors requested that management present Elizabeth St plans by March 2023 at the latest, however this was yet to be presented.

Late last year the council said a feasibility study for future phases of the plan were imminent, and likely to be presented in March 2024.

The City of Melbourne did not respond to questions about the delays. ●





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Heritage-priced coffee from a heritage Melbourne tram

A newly launched tram café at William Angliss Institute’s Melbourne city campus is not only a unique addition to the CBD’s culinary landscape, but also a hands-on training ground for aspiring hospitality students.

Unveiled in December by the Minister for Skills and TAFE and Regional Development, Gayle Tierney, the tram café, nestled at 555 La Trobe St (between Spencer and King streets), is set to resume operations for 2024 on January 8, welcoming Melburnians from 8am to 3pm every weekday.

What sets this café apart for local workers, residents, and students is not just its historical charm but also its great coffee, starting at just \$3.50.

In an era where prices seem to be skyrocketing, this nod to the retired tram’s bygone days makes it a must-visit spot for tourists, transportation enthusiasts, coffee aficionados, and locals alike.

Transformed from a meticulously restored heritage SW5 class carriage, the tram café boasts dining seating for 16 and a versatile dining zone, providing space for various student and partner events.

Beyond the allure of its charming exterior, this training facility is designed to offer practical experience to cookery and hospitality students, complementing the institute’s existing culinary spaces like Angliss Restaurant and Angliss Bistro.

Tourism and event management students will also benefit from hands-on exposure to business operations, marketing, and event delivery.

As the café reopens for the new year, patrons can enjoy both dine-in and take-away services for coffee and beverages, with a selection of student-made patisserie and bakery products hitting the counters once the semester kicks off in February.

Throughout the year, visitors will actively support the institute’s students in foods, tourism, hospitality, and events, as they manage the café as part of their learning journey. The distinctive space will also be made available for community hire, paving the way for imaginative pop-up events.

“As tourism experts, we’re delighted to have such an iconic piece of Melbourne on campus and to bring it to new life as a hospitality venue benefiting students and visitors. With this unique training space, students will be exposed to new challenges

and opportunities, preparing them for their future careers,” William Angliss Institute CEO Nicholas Hunt said.

Situated in the courtyard of the foods, tourism, hospitality, and events training school, the tram café, formerly known as number 764 tram, will be visible from the City Circle tram, facing La Trobe St and recalling the nostalgia of its days traveling the number 30 route. ●

For more information: angliss.edu.au



“As tourism experts, we’re delighted to have such an iconic piece of Melbourne on campus and to bring it to new life as a hospitality venue benefiting students and visitors. With this unique training space, students will be exposed to new challenges and opporxtunities, preparing them for their future careers.”



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A combining of culinary minds

When Waselin Nerul was approached with the opportunity to lead his own restaurant, he only had one prerequisite: it had to be in the city.

WORDS BY
JACK HAYES



Melbourne's iconic Hardware Lane eventually become his home to showcase a new era of the famous three-decade old Claypots brand that has grown from humble beginnings on Barkly St, St Kilda.

Claypots Barbarossa combines the experience and essence from Claypots St Kilda and Claypots Evening Star (South Melbourne), to bring a new Mediterranean flavour and energy to one of Melbourne's legendary dining strips.

"We wanted to bring a different Mediterranean style of cooking to the city," Mr Nerul said. "We still focus heavily on seafood, and there are still the Asian and middle eastern influences from our other venues, but we wanted to combine everything that we have learnt and turn it into something new."

"Claypots Barbarossa was built under the concept of simple, home-style hospitality that treats you as a friend and is a place where people feel warm and welcomed."

On its menu you can expect classic Claypots dishes stir fry sambal mussels, grilled sardines, braised barramundi wings, and of course, their famous Moroccan Claypot, with couscous and mixed seafood baked in an eggplant sauce.

True to his form in welcoming both friends and ideas, Mr Nerul joined culinary forces with Bjørn Helge in December to

host the inaugural Heimelaga x Claypots Degustation, a celebration of traditional Norwegian cuisine with Mediterranean technique.

Heimelaga, which translates to home-made in Norwegian, is a private dining supper club run by Mr Helge and his partner every eight weeks which sees a "cultural fusion that marries traditional Nordic flavours with the cosmopolitan charm of Melbourne."

"We don't do new Nordic, we don't believe in new Nordic, it's just unadulterated cooking that Bjørn's grandparents and ancestors would make, with just a few tweaks," Mr Helge's partner said.

"We thought it was a great opportunity to join forces to support this great CBD restaurant. It's about Wasim, he is a genius in the kitchen, the dishes are phenomenal, and we want to see a great business succeed."

The degustation featured dishes like Flatbrød Bete; a home-made flatbread with fresh deep-sea cod poached in a salted roasted peppercorn lemon, served on a buttery roasted potatoes; Brennsnut, a vegetable broth, garnished with Norwegian crisp ham and home-made flatbread, and Sosakjøtt; slow cooked beef with mashed peas Brennevins Grova Caraway Akevitt flambéed leek and lingonberry jam.

Claypots Barbarossa is located at 79 Hardware Ln, Melbourne. ●

For more information:
claypotsbarbarossa.com.au



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Heritage Victoria gives green light to \$1.7bn QVM redevelopment

A controversial plan to build three high-rise towers and a public square at the southern site of Queen Victoria Market (QVM) has won the backing of Heritage Victoria, drawing the ire of opponents.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The heritage permit, which will be assessed separately by the state's planning department, would allow for an ambitious \$1.7 million redevelopment including three towers up to 49 levels high for student accommodation, residential apartments, and offices.

The iconic landmark's existing open-air carpark would be also converted into a public green square.

While the City of Melbourne, which has partnered with developer Lendlease to deliver the project, applaud the potential benefits in revamping the area, heritage advocates and community groups say it could "sound the death knell for many traders".

They also argue it would also add to existing traffic woes as the market underwent a multi-million-dollar renewal, as well as threaten the viability of the market and its heritage value.

Under the plans, a 1.8-hectare public park would be built at the existing open-air car park, to be known as "Market Square," as well as a 220-space underground car park to be built within the development area bordered by Franklin, Queen, and Peel streets.

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

The heritage Franklin St stores, which will be kept by the council, would also be restored, and turned into a "vibrant retail hub that complements the market's unique offerings".

Construction of the precinct, to be named Gurrowa Place, is expected to begin in early 2024 and be completed in 2028, subject to planning and heritage approvals.

A Heritage Victoria spokesperson confirmed with CBD News that a heritage permit for works at the market had been approved on December 20, "however the planning permit is yet to be determined and is a separate process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*".

Established in 1878, Queen Victoria Market is included in the Victorian Heritage Register and National Heritage List and is significant as one of the great 19th century markets of Victoria. It also the site of Melbourne's first cemetery.

Heritage Victoria said the approved heritage permit application was made "on the grounds that the towers are the most

impactful part of the proposed development, but they are largely outside the extent of registration and cannot be considered under the *Heritage Act 2017*".

"The cantilever of towers one and two over the Franklin St Stores canopy will have a limited impact on the cultural heritage significance of the Queen Victoria Market," it said in a statement.

The towers proposed include a 49-level tower for student accommodation, a 46-level residential apartment block and a 28-level office building.

Heritage Victoria noted the proposed conservation works to the Franklin St Stores "will reconstruct removed elements and return the stores to an earlier and more appropriate appearance".

The replacement of the existing carpark also "represents the former use of the place as a cemetery, is more respectful of the burials still remaining at the place and will be carried out in a way which will not substantially disturb the subsurface area".

But opponents to the proposal, including former Heritage Victoria executive director Ray Tonkin, said among his concerns was that the development would "effectively divorce the southern market sheds from the rest of the market site".

In his submission to Heritage Victoria, Mr Tonkin stated a new park at the existing ground level car park would also have "no relationship to its original uses and the market in general" while the operation of the market would experience an "overall economic impact".

"Proceeding with this proposal at this stage could sound the death knell for many traders and reduce the attractiveness of the market for its traditional client base," he said. "The market should be looking to retain its full operational area, attract new traders by making their tenancies economic and physically possible and promote the use of the place by more shoppers. Its role as a tourist destination is important but not as important as its commercial functions."

Melbourne architect John McNabb and staunch supporter of QVM, in his submission, asserted the proposal, as it stood, failed in the city's planning and design overlay objective to enhance the heritage significance of the market.

"The site to them [City of Melbourne] and the developer, with flagrant disregard for overlay controls can only be viewed as a piece of real estate and the yield is of such priority, which to be achieved and in doing so by the pathway proposed, tragically negates an architectural quality and intimates QVM presence."

Friends of QVM president Mary-Lou Howie vehemently opposed the plans, saying changing the landscape would erode the market's identity.

"The entire concept ignores, turns its back on, makes no mention of and physically separates QVM from the sheds while rapaciously stealing the market car park as a forecourt for the private mega high-rise development, Gurrowa Place, despite there being 17 hectares of open space, the Flagstaff Gardens, opposite," she said. ●

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Student tower proposed for King St

The City of Melbourne is considering a planning application that seeks to build a new 12-storey student tower complete with a rooftop walking track in the CBD.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The proposal, located at 225 King St, would see the current 12-storey building, a former Victoria University city campus, demolished, to make way for the 80-metre tower.

The plans, which were recently lodged with the City of Melbourne, would accommodate 431 students in 409 studio and 11 two-bedroom apartments.

It would feature a ground floor study, lounge, meeting room and retail shops, various break out spaces across various levels, and a games room, study, lounge, study, and gym on level 12.

Under the proposal by Plus Architecture, an outdoor deck and walking track would be on the rooftop.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the council welcomed new developments which “deliver quality housing for students” and would “carefully consider this

application to ensure it meets these high standards”.

“Melbourne is consistently ranked as Australia’s best student city, and we want to go one better and make it the world’s best student city,” he said.

“That means we need to keep working hard to build on Melbourne’s enviable reputation as a place for students to study and learn – with a CBD boasting everything from parks and cafes to libraries and entertainment.”

The average room size would be 19 square metres, with 1359 square metres of communal space, and 377 square metres of tenancy space. A basement would house a laundry and 64 bicycles.

Last November, the council endorsed a plan to allow a 12-storey student housing complex to be built at North Melbourne’s RMIT Village at 5-17 Flemington Rd that would house 644 rooms.

Victoria University’s new 32-level city tower campus opened in 2022 to thousands of students at 370 Little Lonsdale St after five years of construction. ●

City of Melbourne considers new year “back to work” campaign

The City of Melbourne is looking at launching a “back to work” campaign in a bid to reinvigorate the CBD’s daytime economy, which continues to struggle post-pandemic.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Occupancy data from CBRE has revealed in the last quarter to September, Melbourne’s office buildings were at 56 per cent capacity, which was lagging behind every city in Australia.

Sydney and Brisbane had an occupancy rate of 75 per cent, while Adelaide had 85 per cent and Perth enjoyed 91 per cent of office

workers being at their desks.

Melbourne’s office slump has prompted Cr Roshena Campbell to make a renewed push to get more workers back to their offices in the CBD, particularly for public servants who accounted for 13 per cent of all city workers.

“Melbourne’s nighttime and weekend economy post COVID are thriving ... but our daytime economy has not kept up. It hasn’t bounced back and that’s not good enough,” Cr Campbell said.

“We know that other capital cities have bounced back in a way we haven’t. There are small businesses that are paying the price for that.”

Pedestrian activity showed at the Lonsdale-Spring St intersection, foot traffic was down 23.5 per cent compared to the pre-COVID benchmark period and 37.6 per cent down at Collins Place North.

In successfully moving a motion at the council’s December 5 Future Melbourne Committee meeting,

Cr Campbell council management will consider options for a “back to work” campaign that would be launched in the first week of February.

It would include promoting events, dining, music, and other activities, while using existing programs and seeking partnerships with key stakeholders to entice workers back to the city.

“We want to remind people what is so great about spending your working day in the city, and so this motion calls on management to put together that back to work campaign to incentivise workers to return after the summer holidays,” Cr Campbell said.

The council’s small business portfolio lead Cr Jason Chang, whose CBD-based retail business Calia recently went into liquidation, backed the motion, saying he and other small business owners “were on our knees” calling for more office workers to return.

“We really need to encourage

workers to come back because that gives businesses the confidence to really invest back into the city,” he said, noting many were struggling to maintain mortgage repayments and other expenses amid rising costs of living and following years of COVID lockdowns.

“The mental health issues that they are going through is huge.”

Small Business Australia executive director Bill Lang said all data indicated “that we still need to see leadership to bring the CBD back to life” during weekdays.

“Each time Melbourne attempted to rebound from the seven lockdowns the small business families of the City of Melbourne looked for leadership from the state government to lead the way back for their servants of the public to return quickly and with confidence to the city,” he said.

“Some corporate employers have stepped up as they know the professional and personal wellbeing benefits for their employees

of being together making things happen for their customers and shareholders.”

Cr Campbell said while the return of public servants was part of the solution to increase office occupancy, “without them, the state government isn’t sending the strongest possible signals that it is invested in this city’s economic recovery and long-term growth”.

According to the City of Melbourne, the state government announced in March 2021 that public servants would be expected to return to the office at least three days per week but had not released public data indicating the levels of actual office attendance.

The motion also requested the council’s CEO Alison Leighton to convene a “roundtable with major employers” by March 2024 about how to lure people back to the office.

The state government and the Property Council have been contacted for comment. ●

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New Indigenous Gallery honours William Barak

“

State Library Victoria has introduced a new Indigenous Gallery, with its first exhibition *beruk* opening on December 13 last year celebrating the return to Country of two rare artworks by William Barak.

”

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



While known in the colonial world as William Barak, the exhibition is titled after the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and last Ngurungaeta artist in the language of his people.

beruk will see two of his artworks welcomed home after being bought back for \$600,000 in a New York auction in 2022, including a painting titled Corroboree (Women in possum skin cloaks), and a parrying shield.

“We have a responsibility as the caretakers of much of Victoria’s recorded history to tell the story of Victoria through the ages, and one of the most important aspects of that story is the place of Indigenous communities in our history,” president of the Library Board of Victoria, Christine Christian AO said.

“Being able to support the sharing of the Indigenous collection with a wider

audience and acknowledge that history is a privilege – it’s also fitting that the gallery’s first exhibition is of the William Barak works, which are now in their rightful home on Wurundjeri land.”

As well as a culturally significant painter, William Barak was also an activist and leader in Coranderrk, a reserve for the Aboriginal people of south-central Victoria.

A trailblazer in his community, Barak was influential in fighting for the rights and freedom of his people, land, and the survival of Coranderrk in the post-colonial era. In addition to the repatriated works, the exhibition will honour the life and legacy of William Barak through painted and photographic portraits of the Wurundjeri Ancestor and other residents of the Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve.

The formation of the gallery has been made possible by a \$1.25 million donation

from the Hansen Little Foundation, which is its second major donation to the library.

“The vision for the gallery is for it to be a place of contemplation, reflection, listening and understanding – a tangible step in reconciliation and inclusion of our Indigenous peoples and their voices,” Hansen Little Foundation chair Jane Hansen AO said.

“Understanding and appreciating our Indigenous history is important for all of us, and we believe deserves a special and dedicated space in State Library Victoria.”

In partnership with the Victorian Indigenous Research Centre (VIRC), the new gallery is set to host a dynamic program of exhibitions and events in celebration of Indigenous Victorians.

The Indigenous Gallery forms part of the Cowen Gallery and Rotunda suite, with *beruk* running until April 26. ●

Councillor vows to increase business support after his restaurant closes

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES

City of Melbourne councillor Jason Chang has pledged to support business owners and give them a voice during difficult times, after his own Japanese restaurant business went into liquidation.

Cr Chang, co-founder of Calia Australia, said he was devastated to close his business venues at the CBD’s Emporium and Chadstone in early January after facing financial difficulties.

In a statement, he said he dedicated “every effort to keep Calia alive, investing not just money but my soul into it”.

“My gratitude knows no bounds for those who stood with us through thick and thin ... your support over the years has been my solace in these trying times,” he said.

But Cr Chang said as a councillor he wouldn’t allow his setback to dampen his passion for helping other business owners.

“The feelings and sentiments of business owners is something I would push even more this year because I’ve been through it in very public way,” he said.

“I have not heard a single hospitality owner so far that I know, except for the big groups, who said they are doing well.”

He said many, including himself, faced pressures of rising borrowing costs and rents, COVID-related debts, inflation leading to higher wages, operating costs and more.

Cr Chang said he would advocate for much needed support and relief from the state government as well as increase the efforts from the council to help struggling business owners. ●

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LEADING WITH LOVE: KON KARAPANAGIOTIDIS OAM NAMED MELBURNIAN OF THE YEAR



Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM, founder and CEO of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and Melburnian of the Year for 2023

Melburnian of the Year Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM, inspires us all to build a more compassionate Australia, where everyone has a seat at the table.

From a Greek-Australian child experiencing racism in a country town to CEO and founder of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Kon has turned trauma into action that positively impacts countless lives.

As a human rights lawyer, social worker, Children’s Ground board member, philanthropist, masseur, and cooking enthusiast, Kon is both a passionate advocate for people in need and a voracious learner.

“Education is power – the power to do good, and the power to influence and change things for the better. Thanks to my parents’ legacy, I get to live this dream. I can’t waste that opportunity,” Kon said.

FAMILY VALUES

Kon’s grandparents came to Australia as refugees, and his parents made great sacrifices for their children.

His dad spent humiliating and gruelling years working on a tobacco farm to support the family, and his mum never fulfilled her dream of being a maths teacher. Kon was the first in his family to complete high school.

Kon and his sister, Her Honour Nola Karapanagiotidis, who was the first Greek-Australian woman to be appointed a judge in the County Court of Victoria – remain ever grateful for these sacrifices, and their family’s strong Greek values.

“The Greek term ‘philoxenia’ means to welcome the stranger, or to love the stranger. ‘Philotimo’, too, means being a servant to love. These values are like breathing for Greeks,” Kon said.

“Society so often forgets it, but everyone deserves to be seen and valued. After all, with a change of the wind we could be the ones in search of safety and welcome.”

A Seat At My Table: Philoxenia

Kon’s strong family values have made their way into the title of his Greek cookbook. Created with his mother Sia, *A Seat At My Table: Philoxenia* includes 100 vegan and vegetarian recipes. Proceeds have raised more than \$200,000 for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

THE POWER OF COMPASSION

Motivated by generational tenacity and a conscious decision to “lead with love”, Kon’s journey has seen him support the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Among Kon’s many roles, he has worked the midnight shift on a crisis line, run support groups for male survivors of incest, promoted safety for sex workers on the streets of St Kilda, and provided massage clinics for men experiencing homelessness.

“I was working with men sleeping rough – tough guys who’d been in prison – and they’d be like little lambs. They told me it was the first time they’d been touched without being harmed. We don’t often think about that, with men,” Kon said.

“People we turn our backs on have trauma at the heart of their journey. That’s the common thread. Whether it be displacement, abuse, serious health issues, bereavement or family breakdown, trauma is the universal story. Intergenerational trauma, in particular, places people at the margins.

“Everyone is worthy – there’s no such thing as a broken person. Most

Australians are just a step away from being on the streets, so we need to show each other compassion.”

A CHARITY BEGINS

At 28, Kon founded the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre with TAFE students he was teaching to become welfare workers. Their first task was to provide meals for refugees who couldn’t find food in Melbourne.

“The TAFE students were migrants, refugees and lots of Australian mums in their 40s and 50s returning to studies – they were people about whom the world had low expectations,” Kon said.

“This project taught them that they could make a difference and change the world for the better – all you need is the intention, passion and ideals to do so. There’s not much more to it than that.”

The eight-week TAFE project became a charity, and thousands of people began to volunteer and donate in the wake of the Tampa affair.

ASTONISHING IMPACT

Twenty-two years later, the non-profit has made a huge impact – supporting 30,000 people in need, raising a quarter of a billion dollars and saving thousands of lives. This success was based on three core principles:

“I decided that the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre would never take money from the Australian government, that we would be outspoken and fearless, and that we would never turn anyone away in need,” Kon said.

Today, 200 staff members and 1000 volunteers deliver English classes, a full-scale legal service, an incubator for refugee-led businesses, two social-enterprise cafes, numerous programs



in health, education, housing, meals, financial aid and women’s empowerment, and much more.

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre has also worked tirelessly to support and evacuate refugees from Nauru and Papua New Guinea. The organisation is training the next generation of advocates as Australia’s largest investor in refugee leadership.

“We are Australia’s most influential and effective refugee organisation when it comes to creating change,” Kon said.

HOW TO MAKE AN IMPACT IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

For people seeking to follow in Kon’s change-making footsteps, he has some encouraging advice:

“Be proud of where you come from, work hard, remain humble and make a difference. Everything you build, you build through your own hard work,” Kon said.

“There is a long way to go, and the work is ahead of us, but we cannot despair. Despair is not a strategy. We’ve got to come back and be prepared, and more compassionate.”

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre website offers a wealth of information about how to support refugees, from volunteering to booking catering with social impact. To learn more, visit asrc.org.au

ABOUT THE MELBOURNE AWARDS

The Melbourne Awards are the City of Melbourne’s highest accolade, recognising the people and organisations who make a significant impact on community life.

“I’m surprised, humbled and very grateful to be recognised in the Melbourne Awards,” Kon said.

For more information visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards



Browse 30,000 books, use high-tech creative gadgets or bliss out on the rooftop terrace while your children play at narm ngarrgu, the City of Melbourne's new flagship library and family services centre.

narm ngarrgu is on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country, and we have worked closely with Elders, artists and community members to bring this warm, welcoming space to life by drawing on deep knowledge systems.

The name, materials, artworks – even the design of the carpet – honour and celebrate the First Nations community. narm ngarrgu means 'Melbourne Knowledge' in Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung language.

Spanning three levels and 3000 sqm, narm ngarrgu is an urban oasis for families designed so everyone in our diverse community can explore their interests, learn something new and access integrated family support.

It's also our first new library in almost a decade.

The project is part of the broader Queen Victoria Market precinct transformation and the \$1.7 billion Gurroa Place development, with support from the Victorian Government, the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program and Changing Places.

Welcoming, accessible spaces

The entryways to narm ngarrgu set the scene for a very special library experience.

The front counter is staffed with caring workers who ensure everyone visiting the library feels welcome. Community outreach, social work, digital literacy and Aboriginal liaison staff members support this commitment to inclusivity across the library.

Venture further inside to discover lofty spaces for reading and study that transform into grand event spaces with retractable tiered seating.

Around the corner there's a computer lab where training and digital literacy workshops will be held, and lockers with laptops you can borrow to use throughout the library.

The library also offers many different spaces you can use for events and meetings. These spaces are low-cost to book, and free for First Nations people.

For library users who need mobility support, narm ngarrgu offers a state-of-the-art bathroom fitted with a hoist and full-size change table.

Last but not least, help yourself to water or a cuppa from the stations dotted throughout narm ngarrgu. We want you to feel at home.

Aboriginal artwork

Maree Clarke, a Mutti Mutti / Yorta Yorta and Wemba Wemba / Boon Wurrung artist from north-western Victoria, collaborated with other creatives and designers to shape immersive spaces that tell the stories of the site and its context.

Designed to invite reflection, learning, ceremony and play – the artworks at narm ngarrgu celebrate the rich contribution First Nations people make to the life of the city, share stories of Country and speak to the impact of colonisation.

Maree described the expansive library space as a super-giant blank canvas.

"In the Children's Library, I've designed the carpet to represent the seven seasons of the Kulin nation through plants and animals," Maree said.

"And I've also designed the forest on the mirrored glass that's down the passageway, so children again will be able to see themselves reflected in the forest on the way to the beautiful library.

"Through the main library carpet – with the beautiful watercolour and the maps over the top – people will get to learn about the five clans of the Kulin nation. And what better place to learn about it than in a library."

Books and collections

The library has more than 30,000 books – 22,000 for adults and 8000 for children. There are books in a variety of languages including Chinese, Japanese and Korean. narm ngarrgu also offers an English as an Additional Language collection.

When you return books inside the new library, pause at the window above the slot and watch – like a child at a chocolate factory – as a state-of-the-art machine automatically sorts the titles into their correct categories.

Children's library



On the way to the dedicated bubup wilam Children's Library, follow a trail of blue ants that weave among images of native animals and plants, including sugar gliders, koalas and golden billy-buttons.

Grab a colourful cushion from the stack and make yourself comfortable with books from local and international authors, in multiple languages.

The bubup wilam Children's Library features stories galore, access to a play area on the secure terrace and a large space that will host storytime, craft sessions, book clubs and more.

The library also hosts a social work outreach program, which provides support and referrals to families in need.

Family services centre

Our family services centre offers a generous playroom, outdoor play area and accessible parent room.

The dynamic space is also home to a holistic range of services, including maternal and child health services, parenting services, immunisation, family support and counselling.

Creative makerspace and sound studios

Explore your passions or start a new creative side-hustle in our decked-out makerspace. Think 3D printers, laser cutters, sewing and embroidery machines, airbrushing, electronics, sound studios and much more.

Expert support is on hand to help you learn how to use all of the equipment.

Rooftop terrace

When you reach the spectacular rooftop terrace, crawl through the giant eel trap, breathe in the native plants and pause to reflect by a coolamon cast from a giant eucalyptus burl by Wurundjeri Elders, which will be used for smoking ceremonies.

The rooftop terrace also features an outdoor play area and a water-play space for the warmer months.



More library locations

The opening of narm ngarrgu Library and Family Services adds to our five neighbourhood libraries, City Library, plus the Mel-Van mobile library service.

You can find narm ngarrgu at 141 Therry Street, Melbourne, just across the road from Queen Victoria Market.

To learn more, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

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Curtain rises for Groundhog Day The Musical

“
Ok campers. Rise and shine!
Groundhog Day The Musical is
coming to Melbourne’s Princess
Theatre for a strictly limited
season from January 24, direct
from a record-breaking run at
London’s Old Vic theatre.”
”

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Adapted from the hit 1993 film, *Groundhog Day The Musical* will see Australian composer Tim Minchin collaborate with the brilliant minds of the film’s original writer Danny Rubin and director Matthew Warchus, promising a night of pure joy and entertainment.

Step into the charming, small town of Punxsutawney in Pennsylvania, where the “cynical” local weatherman finds himself trapped in a time loop during a weather cross, reliving the same day repeatedly.

“It’s about second chances, about looking beneath the surface, navigating the joys and challenges of life and death, and finding the love in both,” Tim Wright said, who plays Ned Ryerson in the production and is also part of the ensemble.

“This show is hilarious; it is laced with the wit and humour and heart that you expect from Tim Minchin and director Matthew Warchus – I hope the audience leave the theatre thinking about the good things they have and what they can do better.”

Taking on the lead role of Phil Connors is the talented Andy Karl, reprising his role for Australian audiences after winning over crowds overseas.

“He’s the real deal, not to mention Elise McCann who audiences already know and love,” Mr Wright said.

“The creative team is brilliant, and it has been a real joy to see just how invested everyone is, in telling the best version of this story – I feel very fortunate to be involved.”

Having just played Bill Austin in *Mamma Mia! The Musical* at the Princess Theatre, Mr Wright is “thrilled” to be returning to the same stage.

“I hope and I believe Australian audiences will embrace this show,” he said.

“I want them to leave with a smile on their face and buzzing from the brilliant time they’ve just shared with a theatre full of other people.”

The star-studded cast not only features renowned musical theatre performers, but also introduces rising stars such as Jacob Steen, the youngest member of the ensemble at just 20 years old.

“The rehearsal process for this show has been intense, the nature and complexity of it in terms of having repeating days and maintaining continuity requires refined attention to detail,” Mr Steen told *CBD News*.

While having been a part of other Melbourne productions including *Mary Poppins* and *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*, Mr Steen said that rehearsals so far had allowed him more “freedom in moments”, which was something he had yet to experience in his career.

“There’s often not a lot of lenience in choreography or direction, but in this production, there is an air of freedom that I think helps to facilitate the story.”

Groundhog Day The Musical will play at the Princess Theatre until April 7. ●



An insight into the value of *Belongings*

We live in a material world. We’re surrounded by objects, but have you thought about how important these things are in your life? Do you have a few favourite things you absolutely can’t live without?

Are objects important for what they do, or what they represent?

A new exhibition at the Old Treasury Building looks at the stories behind some of the objects that have actively shaped the family in Australia over the decades. Perhaps the greatest difference between belongings in the past and the present is the sheer volume of things most of us now own.

When Joseph Elliott sat down to write to his mother in 1860, he was able to describe every single object in “Our home in Australia” in a single letter – admittedly, a long one.

Even allowing for the (significant) gap between rich and poor households, we simply own more stuff now than in any previous generation.

This vibrant and colourful exhibition space is divided into various rooms in the home. Examine objects from the mid-19th century to the present day, a period that has seen many changes in the idea, size,



▲ Photos from the *Belongings: Objects and Family Life* exhibition.

and shape of the family.

Thousands of objects have come and gone at the same time, and this exhibition can feature only a few.

Discover the stories behind the phone, television, the indoor toilet, and the home itself, long considered a key part of the Australian Dream. Enter the kitchen and the whitegoods revolution brought to us by refrigeration or consider a cuppa over the teapot.

Ponder the freedom of the open road and the family car! Or the expectations of children based on the toys they play with.



In addition to discussing the objects themselves, the exhibition examines how families make and preserve cultural traditions, through craft, food, and belief.

Share your own ideas about your own favourite objects in *Belongings: Objects and Family Life* at the Old Treasury Building.

Belongings: Objects and Family Life was researched and curated by the Old Treasury Building in partnership with Public Record Office Victoria.

This free exhibition is on display at the Old Treasury Building, 20 Spring St, Melbourne, until 2025. ●

Ten years of passionate advocacy for her beloved market

For Mary-Lou Howie, the iconic Queen Victoria Market (QVM) is a place where people can come together to experience a true sense of community.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES

She has worked tirelessly to preserve its spirit and heritage through lobby group Friends of Queen Victoria Market, and she is celebrating a decade as the group's president.

"My love of the market is this: it's the way to shop, it's about relationships, it's about people, it's about wellbeing, it's about freshness, it's about food – it's so many things, and about knowing your traders," she said.

Having been born and bred in the market, with her family being traders from the mid-40s and 70s, including her father who sold women's lingerie of the time, Ms Howie said the landmark site was significant in celebrating Melbourne's diverse and vibrant local produce, artisans, and small businesses.

As a child, she remembers every aisle being "chock-a-block with a kaleidoscope of colour, movement, and sounds".

"We were introduced to all sorts of exotic fresh food that the Italians grew and came to understand the whole multicultural ethos that was so much a part of the market."

It's those early memories and her overall passion for the market that has led Ms Howie to having "more than a few" sleepless nights to ensure the market's heritage and character are protected for generations to come.

"We are the voice of the community who come here and shop, as well as the traders who are the market."

Ms Howie, a former teacher, retail owner, and publicity manager for Multicultural Arts Victoria and the Jewish Museum of Australia, said she decided to step into the leadership role after becoming acutely aware of the changes that threatened her beloved market.

"I'm devoted, it's just about a full-time job," Ms Howie told CBD News over a coffee at the Market Espresso café in String Bean Alley.

"Market CEOs have come and gone, Lord Mayors come and go, but my dedicated team has stayed ... and we don't earn a penny from advocacy – we do it because we care."



Among the Friends of QVM's supporters are actress Sigrid Thornton, who played the lead role in the Australian TV series SeaChange, as well as the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Speaking of the City of Melbourne's \$268 million renewal of the market, with major works including heritage shed restorations, a new Food Hall, and a new underground Munro carpark, Ms Howie said "a lot of people care about the market and are against what's happening".

"Residents are also onboard because what is happening to their amenity is shocking."

Established in 1878, QVM is the largest open-air market in Australia and the oldest continuously operating market in Melbourne. The site received a national heritage listing in 2018 which recognises its importance to Australia. It is the Friends of QVM's advocacy that is trying to protect it.

The group, which has a Facebook following of 4500 people, is now hoping to garner enough public pressure to ensure that any plan to proceed with a \$1.7 billion development at the market's southern site (including three towers and the market open air car park being converted into a park) would be reconsidered, which they believed would compromise the market's integrity and viability.

While many markets around the world have evolved and gentrified, Ms Howie said, "they have become bland, homogenised, soulless versions of themselves," and contended QVM should "dare to be different".

“It should go against this trend to retain what we’ve got, because it works, and it is needed as a fresh food and general market.”

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CBD NEWS



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QUESTION:
What’s your New Year’s Resolution?

Faces of the CBD



ANNA

Because I’m retired, I want to live a full year trying new things and doing some more volunteer work.



FRED

My New Year’s resolution is to travel more.



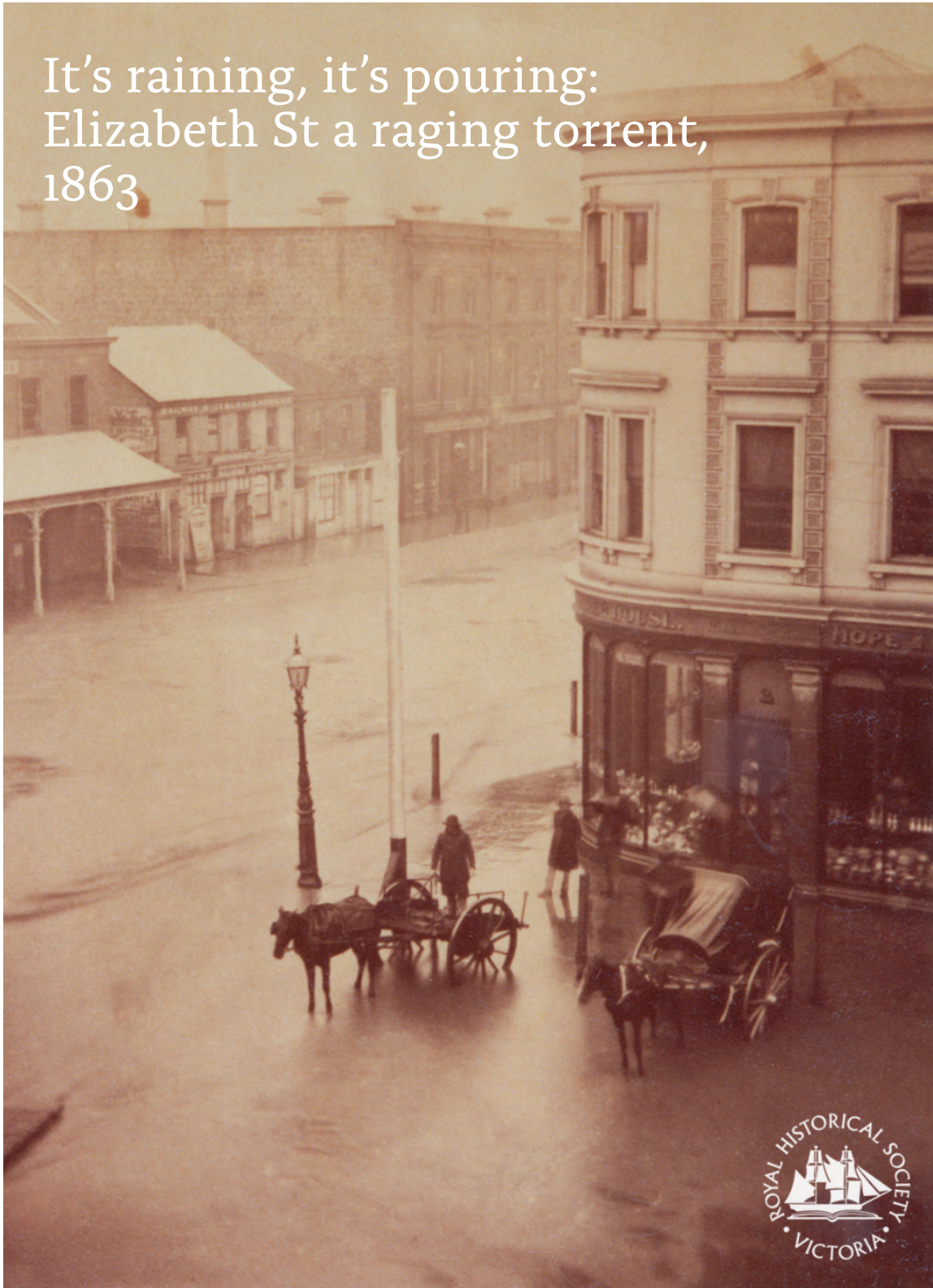
VALERIA

My New Year’s resolution is to start exercising.



HISTORY

It’s raining, it’s pouring:
Elizabeth St a raging torrent,
1863



December 15 to 22, 1863 – a week to remember for the citizens of Melbourne. It rained and rained and rained some more and when the rain stopped, and the sun emerged, more than 127 millimetres had fallen.

You’re looking at Elizabeth St at the corner of Collins, a street temporarily transformed back into Williams Creek, the tributary of Birrarung (the Yarra) that it had been before the imposition of the Hoddle Grid just 30 of so years before.

It’s a very still, almost tranquil scene. Horse drawn carts stand outside the premises of Hope & King at 48 Collins St east. Brought to a standstill by the impassable Elizabeth St? Or business as usual for these busy importers of glass and china?

There is little indication here of the havoc caused by the rainstorm and the fierce westerly gale that accompanied it. Just a short block away, in Little Collins St, an iron building where ovens were manufactured was blown down, the owner only just managing to escape. In some places timber houses were washed away, and houses, furniture, clothing, and household goods bounced furiously down the river together. Thousands of bags of staples such as salt, sugar and tea stored in city warehouses were damaged and nearby market gardens were ruined.

The Age reported that across the river, Emerald Hill (South Melbourne) was again reduced to a “peninsula state” and that it took courage to walk along the wooden pathways laid out across the flat that we know today as Southbank. And a few kilometres north, the Zoological Gardens were completely submerged.

Princes Bridge, the main link across the Yarra, was closed, temporarily cutting off north from south. Train services were

suspended as the torrential rain fell and kept on falling, but at Spencer Street Station enterprising staff made boat mooring available so that those who felt brave enough to travel by water had a safe landing place.

So how did this happen? That chronicler of early Melbourne, Garryowen (Edmund Finn) recorded that during the first 10 years of settlement there had been six floods. It seems that First Peoples had tried to warn settlers of the dangers of building on a flood plain, but they went unheeded. Waterways were altered, vegetation cut down and hills flattened. And the most vulnerable place? The deep gully at the intersection of Elizabeth and Collins streets which you see here.

In February 1972, just over 100 years after this photograph was taken, Elizabeth St was turned again into what The Age termed a “white-capped river”. Waves of water came up over the tops of parking meters and cars were lifted and thrown around as though they were Dinky toys. A once in a lifetime experience? I hope so. ●



Dr Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF VICTORIA
HISTORYVICTORIA.ORG.AU

QVM TRADER PROFILE

A taste of Spain at QVM



El Rincon is dedicated to providing guests with an immersive Spanish experience, transporting you to the heart of the Spain with not only the food and drink, but its genuine passion for hospitality and authenticity.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Specialising in traditional Spanish tapas and adorned with Spanish decor and memorabilia, El Rincon is a visual and culinary feast. While initially opening more than five years ago, the restaurant has just reopened their doors in Queen Victoria Market's (QVM) redeveloped Food Hall, with director Manuel Jimenez-Navarro feeling "very happy and very hopeful" to be welcoming guests back.

"Although not professionally trained, my grandmother was a great chef, so as kids we were introduced to all the main traditional Spanish dishes," Manuel said. "When you taste food, it's like an imprint on your fingers – the taste stays with you." The oldest of four, Manuel took in an interest in Spanish cuisine from an early age where he would help his uncles in bars, igniting his passion in serving people and creating unforgettable experiences. While the kitchen is being run by Chef Kirby, Manuel is responsible for designing the dishes and ensuring that the venue stays true to its authentic roots. "I always tried for El Rincon to be a place of excellence; I take it very seriously," Manuel told CBD News. There are "no excuses" when it comes to quality at El Rincon, with Manuel insisting on using extra virgin oil from Spain, complimented by 50 per cent of its products sourced directly from "the largest pantry in the world" at QVM. El Rincon also embraces traditional techniques over shortcuts, one example being their Spanish omelette which is prepared by poaching and slow cooking onion and

potato in olive oil, rather than boiling the potato. "We're very particular about what we do, we even import our own squid ink from the North of Spain for our paella." Before opening El Rincon, Manuel had been a long-time supporter of QVM for more than 40 years, even sharing his grandmother's irresistible sangria recipe with market-goers at the Running Bull Sangria stall during the summer night markets. With the new redevelopments in the Food Hall, Manuel is confident that the market and El Rincon will continue going from "strength to strength" with its reopening. "QVM is the pride of Victoria, not one single person comes to Victoria without visiting the market," he said. "It's been a great investment on behalf of the Melbourne City Council and has been extremely well accepted by people so far; it looks great." •

El Rincon is located at 69 Victoria St and is open from 11am to 9pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, 10am to 9pm on Thursday, 10am to 11pm on Friday and Saturday, and 10am to 4pm on Sunday.



Awards clean sweep for Central Equity

Late last year, Central Equity won a second major 2023 industry award for its FOCUS Apartments project, this time winning the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) Victorian Apartments (High-rise) Excellence Award. This follows the recent announcement from the Housing Industry Association (HIA), where FOCUS Apartments won the Victoria Apartment Complex Award (more than \$20 million). According to the UDIA, "judges were impressed by Central Equity's ability to build from their experience in apartments in the area over many years." "This shows in their attention to detail. They have achieved a price point both for the initial purchase and ongoing costs that makes FOCUS an outstanding development," the association said. FOCUS Apartments has an end sales value of approximately \$470 million. FOCUS Apartments, a 50-level tower, located at 81 City Rd, Southbank, has a luxurious entry foyer with 24/7 concierge and approximately 1100sqm of resort style facilities. The resident facilities are home to a "gold class" private cinema, expansive lounge and dining areas, outdoor BBQ dining terrace, a gymnasium, indoor heated swimming pool and a sauna. At street level, Central Equity took great care to restore an existing three-level historic building. The historic portion was incorporated as part of the project to create an architectural feature and provide an active and vibrant streetscape. Central Equity has been credited as the pioneer of inner city living in Melbourne, developing residential properties in Southbank and the CBD. The 2023 HIA and UDIA awards is testament to Central Equity's 37-year history of "delivering as promised". •

For more information: focusmelb.com.au

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



The city most liveable

Let’s take a philosophical view of life in the city. It does not matter where you live, there will also be the good and the bad. In the Melbourne CBD, this article looks at both, making some suggestions for improvement.

Many Residents 3000 members are long term residents of the CBD. What is it that makes living in the city so enjoyable? It is like living in a big country town.

You meet and talk to people you know in the street and in the corridors or the lift of your building. Everything you need in life, such as places to buy food and clothes, the post office, the chemist, your doctor, optician, and the dentist most likely is within 100 metres of your apartment. There are wonderful parks, sporting facilities, arts centres, theatres, and regular events to attend. Such essentials of life exist within walking or tram ride of your home.

Since COVID though, Melbourne is not the most liveable city in the world. Why is that?

Here is a list of eight “no, no’s” for our beautiful city. That which is definitely “NOT COOL”. See if you agree.

- **Loud noises.** As residents, do we not have the right to “quiet enjoyment” of our living space? For example, the people who ride their un-muffled motor bikes or cars up and down the streets as though the competition with their mates is to make the loudest noise. They are so far behind the times. Today, I would think that “cool” are those that are silent and fast (via an electric vehicle).
- **Protesters.** Walking our streets on Saturday at lunch time, it is not that bad, as the protesters are usually well behaved and respectful. It is just the guy or gal who yells into a megaphone. “Not cool”. This is not fair on buskers who must be licenced and of a certain standard before they can perform in the streets.
- **Construction sites.** There are many that are well run, especially those that use electric rather than diesel powered cranes. They keep their workplace tidy, remove graffiti and keep dust to a minimum. “Cool”.
- **Graffiti tagging as opposed to commissioned street art.** The people who adorn our buildings and structures with their jumbled markings might think that it is a legitimate art form, but it is

often an expression of rebellion against society. It shows a lack of awareness that for livability and mental health, the appearance of our community environment needs to be stylish and appealing, even glamorous to show off our vibrant environment.

- **Rough sleepers and organised beggars.** What a perplexing problem! Long term residents know that many beggars are regular attendees on weekends or holidays to take advantage of the gullible tourists. There are a lot of hard-working people, often with more than one job who must look at the rough sleepers and wish there was more support for them to help them turn their life around.
- **“Post no Bills” used to be the saying.** City people really do not want political stickers posted on poles and shelters. Currently the city is being festooned with them! “Not cool”. Again, this activity degrades the visual amenity of the city and disturbs other who may not agree with the messaging.
- **Litter and cigarette butts.** A definite “no, no” for a progressive, modern city where people want to work and play. Think about ways to encourage people to want to keep our city clean and lovely.
- **Drug dealing and organised crime.** Unfortunately, such activities are present in all the big cities of the world. This is a serious problem needing the strong hand of the law and adequate policing.

What if these “not cool” things could be fixed? Those that want a more liveable city to enjoy and to share with our many visitors and daily workers need to report problems, take part in helping authorities with their jobs for the common good.

There are apps like “Snap, Send, Solve” that allow you to take a photo of the problem and send it to the correct department who have the resources to take action.

Change will come about if the mindset of the community becomes one of wanting to build a better, more liveable, more appealing city.

Note: Residents 3000 next Forum is on Thursday, February 1, 2024 at the Kelvin Club. Please see details on our website, Facebook, or Instagram. ●

Dr Sue Saunders
VICE PRESIDENT



New Year, new hope?

Is 2024 a year to dream that the impossible might happen?

Shall we dare believe what We Live Here has been advocating for, since we launched in 2016, might become a reality?

Our reason for cautious hope is that Victoria has a new Premier and a new Minister for Consumer Affairs.

If these politicians are to do justice to their new roles, they must revisit the appallingly weak legislation on short-stays that was introduced into the Victorian Parliament in 2016 following the dismal failure of the so-called “independent panel” on short-stays.

That panel failed to reach consensus after two lengthy sittings – unsurprisingly because litigious, industrial-scale short-stay operators were invited to be members of the “independent panel”!

By the time the legislation was introduced into parliament in 2016, Airbnb was already well embedded in the local body politic. In a cringeworthy photo op, the then Minister for Consumer Affairs was snapped shaking hands with the Airbnb Australian Manager on the steps of Parliament House.

Now, eight years on, this is the state of play:

- A housing crisis of unprecedented severity;
- high-rise apartment buildings taking over the city skyline and neighbouring suburbs;
- the toothless short-stay legislation yielding zero successes after more than 50

VCAT cases; and

- Victoria continues to be regarded as the most penetrated city in the world.
- This status quo is scarcely something the state government should be proud of.

To top it off, the parting gesture of the outgoing Premier was to declare a risible short-stay micro-levy, a self-proclaimed fundraiser.

The following case study demonstrates the deficiencies in the legislation:

St Kilda’s nightmarish apartment block: a case study

Party house chaos unleashed: In the heart of St Kilda, a tranquil apartment block turned into a nightmare for new purchasers. Adjacent apartments, both owned by an absentee landlord, morphed into raucous party houses, disrupting the lives of neighbouring residents. For two-and-a-half years, our new residents endured non-stop parties, with gatherings at all hours, several times a week, shattering the once-peaceful community.

Escalation of antisocial behaviour: The chaos extended beyond noise, featuring excessive music, public intoxication, strippers in common areas, and verbal abuse including sexual slurs. Police were frequently called to address these disturbances.

Legal battles and frustration: Residents took the absentee owner to VCAT and due to legal deficiencies, the case failed. Residents incurred a significant legal bill in their pursuit of justice. ●

Continue Reading: cbdnews.com.au

METRO TUNNEL

First Metro Tunnel station complete

The Metro Tunnel has moved a major step closer to opening with construction of the first of five new underground stations now complete.



Arden Station – which forms the heart of a future health precinct just two kilometres from the CBD – is now ready for testing before the underground rail line opens a full year ahead of schedule in 2025.

Sitting on a former industrial site, Arden Station features a soaring brick arched entrance, skylights to let natural light flow 14 metres underground and Victorian-first platform screen doors for better safety.

The modern station includes bike parking spaces, drop-off zones, accessible carparks and will be within walking distance of the North Melbourne Recreation Centre, Arden Street Oval and the route 57 tram.

Since construction began in 2018, thousands of workers have excavated 330,000 tonnes of rock and soil, installed 3000 lights and laid 104,000 locally manufactured bricks.

Arden Station’s completion was accelerated to start testing systems and provide a template for the remaining stations. In recent weeks, crews have laid down Arden’s finishing touches – with landscaping, seating, paving, bicycle hoops and passenger information displays now in place.

Work on the Metro Tunnel’s CBD stations – Town Hall and State Library – is continuing as crews turn their attention to the stations’ entrances.

A section of Flinders Lane between Swanston St and Royston Place closed to traffic in January, to allow work on two Town Hall Station entrances in Cocker Alley and Scott Alley.

Town Hall Station will have seven entrances; in Cocker Alley, Scott Alley, City Square, Federation Square, Degrares Subway, Flinders St and Swanston St, making it easy to get to and from the station and some of Melbourne’s most iconic landmarks.

The section of Flinders Lane is expected to reopen in March.

The structure for State Library Station’s main entrance at the corner of Swanston and La Trobe streets is now complete after six massive entrance beams were lifted into place late last year.

Deep below Swanston St both stations are progressing at pace, with architectural fit-out well underway and installation of Victorian-first platform screen doors now complete.

The Metro Tunnel will connect the busy Sunbury, Cranbourne, and Pakenham lines via a new tunnel under the city, creating an end-to-end rail line from the north-west to the south-east, freeing up space in the City Loop and creating capacity to run more trains more often. ●

1. Axl Rose cameoed as a musician in which 1988 film alongside Clint Eastwood?
2. What was the name of Blackbeard's ship?
3. What is the name of the cognitive process that allows people to comprehend jumbled and incorrectly spelt words?
4. According to the Victorian Government, heroin-involved overdose deaths rose to what figure in 2022?
5. Before moving to her current location on Collins St, fashion icon Christine Barro called what city lane home?
6. Before the days of electricity, the CBD's lifts were powered by what?
7. Why are bananas curved?
8. Which two CBD-based businesses took out awards at the Melbourne Awards?
9. Who played the lead character, Tony Soprano, in the hit TV series *The Sopranos*?
10. What is the official national sport of Australia?
11. On average, Melbourne imports how many tonnes of coffee beans each day?
12. Opened in 1859, Melbourne unveiled its first toilet (pictured) outside which CBD landmark?

Reverse 3. Typoglycemia 4.24 deaths
per year 5. Flinders lane 6. Water/steam
pressure 7. They grow towards the sun
8. The Living Room and Mojo Festival
9. James Gandolfini 10. Cricket 11. 30
tonnes
(enough to make three million cups) 12
General Post Office (GPO) building

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

B		S		L
	M		T	
A		N		A
	L		M	
T		R		E

BASIL, EMOTE, APNEA, SLAMS, TERSE

February 2024

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

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		4	9				7	
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The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

E	H	A	M	S	T	E	R	A	O	G
S	L	P	A	L	R	L	S	L	P	N
U	L	O	O	E	A	W	W	L	O	I
O	A	E	M	R	C	I	A	I	S	W
M	M	N	A	R	C	T	P	H	S	A
R	M	I	R	I	O	U	A	C	U	N
O	A	R	M	U	O	O	P	N	M	G
D	M	U	O	Q	N	G	Y	I	S	N
I	B	M	T	S	R	A	T	H	N	B
K	N	U	M	P	I	H	C	C	L	E
I	N	C	A	P	Y	B	A	R	A	G

MARMOT

Secret message: Always nibbling

1	Head of state (9)				
2	Passivity (7)	17	Protector (8)		
3	Systematic (10)	19	Filled (with holes, e.g.) (7)		
4	Losers (8)	21	Recommended; guided (7)		
5	As one (6)	22	Imprudent (6)		
6	Playthings (4)	23	Vishnu worshipper (5)		
7	Mean (7)				
8	Bird of prey (5)				
13	Inexorable (10)				
16	Prized items (9)	25	Scorch (4)		

[illegible][illegible]

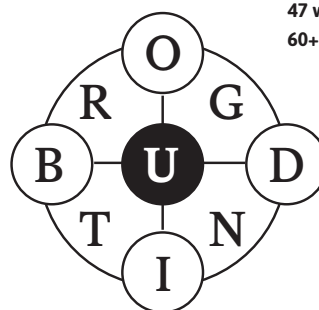
4	18	9	24	19	T	7	19	6		2	20	22	
24		24		23		10		19		19		3	
1	20	18	22		T	24	10	6	22		T	19	21
20		W				16		7		18		20	
18	19	22	18	4		18	6	9	18	4	10	2	
20				10		11		24		4			
21	18	15	15	19	18		5	4	18	19	9	18	
		18			T	12		4				6	
14	19	6	22	7	18	18		18	8	19	4	T	
19		18		22		2				17		21	
6	10	21		10	T	7	18	21	W	24	22	18	
13		19		17		3		20		6		18	
10	24	4		18	15	21	18	15	24	10	20	22	

1	Q	P	Y	T	C	N	H	X	V	O	D	Z	J
2			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	B	G	K	M	E	A	U	R	S	F	I	W	L
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		

Today's Focus:
30 words: Good
47 words: Very good
60+ 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".

Reference:
Collins Concise English
Dictionary



SOLUTIONS

传统价位的咖啡， 来自墨尔本的传统有轨电车

位于威廉·安格利斯学院墨尔本城市校区的新推出的有轨电车咖啡馆，不仅是中央商务区独特的餐饮景观的新成员，还是渴望从事酒店管理的学生的实际培训场所。

Sean Car

该电车咖啡馆于去年12月由培训与技能及高等教育部长盖尔·蒂尔尼女士揭幕，位于555 La Trobe St（介于斯宾塞街和金街之间），将于2024年1月8日恢复运营，每个工作日上午8点至下午3点为墨尔本市民提供服务。

这家咖啡馆为本地员工、居民和学生提供的不仅是其历史魅力，还有美味的咖啡，起价仅为3.50澳元。

在物价飙升的时代，对于这辆已经退役的有轨电车昔日时光的致敬使其成为游客、交通爱好者、咖啡爱好者和当地人必游之地。

这家有轨电车咖啡馆由精心修复的传统SW5级车厢改建而成，设有16个用餐座位和一个多功能用餐区，提供各种学生和合作伙伴活动的场地。

除了迷人的外观吸引力外，这个培训设施旨在为烹饪和酒店管理学生提供实际经验，为学院现有的厨艺空间如安格利斯餐厅和安格利斯小酒馆提供补充。

旅游和活动管理学生还将受益于对商业运营、市场营销和活动交付的实际经验。

获取更多信息：angliss.edu.au



理事会召集主要团体帮助解决伊丽莎白街南端问题

市长表示需要“有针对性的方法”来使弗林德斯街车站附近的一个问题区域“更安全更宜人”。

David Schout

墨尔本市政府已召集维多利亚政府、警察和其他关键代表，共同寻找解决伊丽莎白街南端日益严重的安全问题的办法。

市长萨利·凯普承认需要采取新方法，使该地区更安全更宜人，这个地区因靠近弗林德斯街车站而成为墨尔本最繁忙的步行区之一。

1月25日，市议会与利益相关方举行了圆桌讨论，包括维多利亚

警察、州政府、Yarra有轨电车和城市列车，以找到在弗林德斯街和弗林德斯巷之间的街区上不断增长的问题的解决方案。

市政厅还通过在线问卷征集了当地居民和商家团体的意见。

由于毒品活动以及整体安全和环境问题，该地区长期以来一直是令人担忧的地区。

凯普市长在2021年表示，弗林德斯街和伊丽莎白街交汇处的“热点”给居民和商家带来了“创伤”。

然而，近来在这个通往市中心的大门处问题变得更加严重。

救世军少校布伦丹·诺特表示，这个地区现在是两个群体的“汇合点”；一直在那里聚集的人，以及曾经在弗林德斯街和斯旺斯顿街交汇处聚集的人，但由于地铁隧



道工程迫使几家商店关闭，他们已经离开。

“这几乎就像是一个漏斗，城市各个地方的人都汇聚到那里，有几个原因，”他去年晚些时候告诉ABC广播。

“首先，这是一个交通枢纽。其次，那里有所有的快餐店。所以，如果你想凌晨两点吃点东

西，那就是去的地方。”

诺特尔少校说，其中一些店铺的员工非常少，这导致了更多的问题。

伊丽莎白街的未来计划即将到来

2024年的开始对伊丽莎白街的未来至关重要，这不仅因为1月下旬的圆桌会议。

作为伊丽莎白街战略机会计划的一部分，弃置已久的计划，计划将墨尔本市中心这条重要街道的大部分地区改为步行街，将重新被提上议程。

该计划于2019年5月获得批准，计划对空间进行全面改变，远离车辆。研究表明，伊丽莎白街上的人中平均有九成是步行者或有轨电车用户，然而该街道主要是为乘坐汽车的人设计的，而这仅占用户

的百分之六。

然而，自那时以来，该计划一直受到延迟的困扰，加上市政厅对何时可能实施该计划的沉默。

只有第一阶段的工程（在弗林德斯街和弗林德斯巷之间）已经完成。

第二阶段计划于2020-21年开始，计划在小科林斯街和小包尔克街之间几乎完全将伊丽莎白街改为步行街，但在过去几年里一直没有得到实质性的更新。

在2022年6月，市议员要求管理层在2023年3月最近提出伊丽莎白街计划，但这尚未提出。

去年年底，市议会表示，该计划未来阶段的可行性研究即将进行，可能会在2024年3月提出。

墨尔本市未回答关于这些延误的问题。

电动滑板车伤害不断上升，新的墨尔本皇家医院数据显示

墨尔本皇家医院的创伤项目经理凯莉·冈表达了对电动滑板车使用危险的担忧，因为受伤患者数量不断上升。

Brendan Rees

冈女士表示，他们看到许多患者出现手臂和手指骨折，以及脑部受伤，她指出这可能对人们产生长期后果。

她说：“有时我们看到一些患者出现手臂骨折的组合，其中一些是两只手臂都骨折，或者一只手臂骨折以及摩托车的垂直部分刺入他们的胸膛，或者他们在地面上重重着陆。”

根据墨尔本皇家医院的新数据，2022年因电动滑板车跌倒或碰撞而在医院就诊的247名骑手和9名行人中，21%被确定为严重创伤。

研究发现，大多数患者为男性（69%），平均年龄为29岁，其中酒精（34%）和不戴头盔（33%）是导致受伤的主要因素之一。

一半的患者遭受了头部、颈部或面部受伤，医疗程序和手术的费用估计为190万美元。

这份于2023年12月发布的报告发现，这些发现“强调了采取改进安全措施以减少电动滑板车相关伤害及其临床和经济影响的迫切需要”。

报告称：“尽管电动滑板车可能带来潜在的环境效益，但其使用呈现出日益增长的公共健康问题，对



当地医疗系统产生越来越大的经济负担。”

然而，数据没有区分私人 and 租赁电动滑板车的受伤情况。

私人电动滑板车在2023年10月合法化，此前该州政府延长了由Neuron和Lime运营的电动滑板车共享租赁计划，它们缺乏租赁电动滑板车的安全功能，最高时速可达100公里/小时。

冈女士是该报告的八名作者之一，她表示希望这些数据能够为政策制定者提供信息，“努力制定合适的规则”，以便电动滑板车成为城市交通景观的长期组成部分。



在维多利亚女王市场区域开设新图书馆和家庭服务设施

一座新的价值1570万美元的三层图书馆和家庭服务中心正式在女王维多利亚市场区域开业。

这个名为narm ngarrgu图书馆和家庭服务的先进设施拥有一个室外露台、一个专门的儿童图书馆、声音工作室、30000本新书等。

这座设施是市政府近十年来开设的第一家图书馆，内有由土著艺术家玛丽·克拉克创作的一系列具有文化意义的沉浸式作品。

narm ngarrgu的名称在Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung语中意为“墨尔本知识”，将丰富市场的热情好客、零售和娱乐提供。

这座新建筑位于Queen和Therry街交界处的500万美元Munro开发项目内，还将提供产妇和儿童健康支持服务、育儿服务（包括喂养婴儿的哺乳室）、游乐区和室外游乐空间、儿童和成年人的免疫接种、家庭支持和咨询等服务。

市长莎莉·凯普表示，这次开业是一个重要的里程碑，将“增添女王维多利亚市场区域的活力，吸引更多游客，促进商家的业务。”

WHAT'S ON

February




The weather is getting warmer and Melbourne's events season is just getting started. Here's our list of the best community events this month.



CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR DRAGON FESTIVAL

Chinatown celebrates the Year of the Dragon, symbolising longevity, prosperity, wealth and happiness.


Chinatown, Little Bourke St, Melbourne.
melbournechinatown@gmail.com



SUMMER AT THE SQUARE


Running from February 13 to February 29, the varied program offers free and easy entertainment, perfect for CBD workers looking to conveniently visit Fed Square after work with colleagues or friends.

fedsquare.com/events/summer-at-the-square



SIDNEY MYER FREE CONCERTS: PUCCINI IN THE PARK

Pack a picnic and come along for a magnificent evening at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl to experience your favourite arias set against the sparkling backdrop of Melbourne's nighttime skyline.



ANTIPODES FESTIVAL

Antipodes Festival returns in February. Get ready for an unforgettable experience and an epic celebration of Greek culture, food, music, dance and more.

Lonsdale St, Melbourne
antipodesfestival.com.au

FEBRUARY 24-25, 10AM - 11PM



COLONIAL CONFUSION

Curated by artist Megan Evans, Colonial Confusion asks us to look at our conflicted relationship to the past to reframe our perspective in the present.

City Gallery, Town Hall, 110 Swanston St

UNTIL FEBRUARY 26, 9AM - 5PM



BELONGINGS: OBJECTS AND FAMILY LIFE

The exhibition ranges in time from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day, a period that has seen many changes in the idea, size, and shape of the family.

Old Treasury Building, 20 Spring Street
oldtreasurybuilding.org.au

SUNDAY - FRIDAY, 10AM - 4PM



CLASSIC FILM CLUB

Gold Coin donation (optional) all films on the big Screen in CINEMASCOPE. This club is rUn by volunteers. All welcome.

The Hub, 506 Elizabeth St.
Contact: 0456 960 321 or 0482 511 698

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Kim Davey 0418 924 324
Suzie Inglis 0416 671 572
Will Caldwell 0419 010 270


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The questions Rental Providers need to ask themselves in 2024...

- How many Property Managers did you have in 2023?
- Has the new Property Manager seen your property?
- Has constant turnover impacted the renter?
- How detrimental is this on your property?
- What is this costing you in the long term?

Experience the difference of a team that values consistency and a personalised approach. For a confidential conversation about your investment, contact our team on the contact numbers below.

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Chelsea Menjivar
0497 924 222

Gina Donazzan
0412 430 326

Kim Davey
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