



The weekend of February 16 to 18 in Melbourne will go down as one that Taylor Swift fans will only "remember all too well", as hundreds of thousands of Swifties converged on the CBD for the pop superstar's Eras Tour, which provided a billion-dollar boost to the city's economy. More on page 13. Photo: Marcela Lehecka.

## Police urge traders to be “part of solution” at problem CBD location

“Victoria Police wants to work closely with Elizabeth St South businesses to clean up a “perpetual” trouble spot.”

WORDS BY  
DAVID SCHOUT



Victoria Police have urged businesses at the southern end of Elizabeth St to be “part of the solution” to help fix what is a “problem location”. On February 28 the police are set to host a symposium with nearby business owners, alongside the City of Melbourne, Ambulance Victoria and Salvation Army, to communicate ongoing operations and future hopes for the issue-prone area.

This meeting will follow a January 25 roundtable hosted by the council and other key stakeholders that also sought to find solutions to the growing issues on the block between Flinders St and Flinders Lane. The renewed focus comes as the prominent location, which serves as a gateway to the CBD, continues to be a site of safety concerns and illegitimate begging according to the police. Area Commander for Melbourne East Inspector Dale Huntington said police want to work closely with local businesses, who they see as crucial in helping clean up the area. “We’re looking at traders and giving them an understanding of what we’ve been doing,” he told *CBD News*. “Some people do, but a lot don’t because they’re busy in their lives and businesses and trying to make ends meet ... people spend a lot of time at businesses and work, and we want to make sure that environment is the best it can be for them.” “And, they can be part of that solution. We want to give them a really good understanding of what we’re doing, because it’s not a simple solution. [People saying] ‘get them out of my area’ is not easy.” Inspector Huntington understood that some business-owners, particular those who had been in the area for many years, may have given up hope that things could change.

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### New urban park mooted for MacKenzie St

HIDDEN SECRETS, PAGE 05

### Iconic Melbourne painting you've never heard of

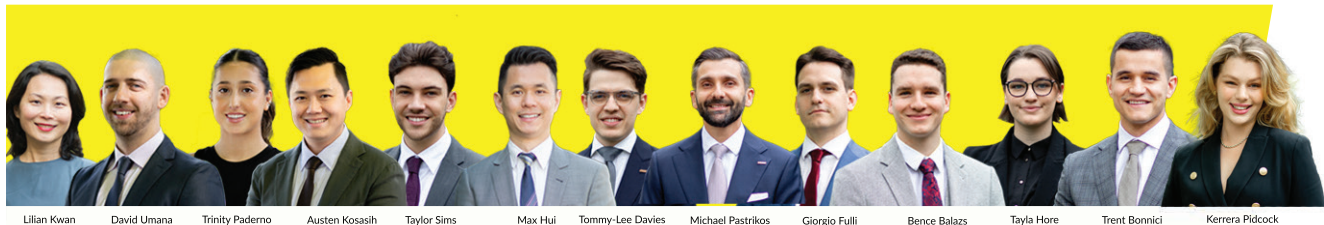
PLANNING, PAGE 07

### "Significant interest" in adaptive reuse of buildings



## Cheers to Melbourne's 2024 Food and Wine Festival

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# Police urge traders to be “**part of solution**” at problem CBD location

Continued from page 1.

However, he wanted to tell traders that improvements were possible, starting with better lines of communication, and urged businesses to report issues.

"We're saying we want you to ring in, we want you to be part of the solution and help us address this issue. When people set up their piece of cardboard out the front of your premises ... if you're competing with someone who hasn't got a person begging out the front, you're losing customers. We want you to report those people in."

The police also sought to guide businesses on what they shouldn't be doing (for example, giving away food) which could be exacerbating issues.

## Focus on fake beggars

Through Operation Protocol, a partnership outreach program alongside the Salvation Army and the council, Victoria Police say they've helped lower the number of rough sleepers in the CBD and are better-balanced at supporting people experiencing homelessness while maintaining safety and amenity.

"No one should ever sleep or be left on the street. It is not a safe location to sleep on the street," Inspector Huntington said.

He said the people causing issues at the southern end of Elizabeth St were not the rough sleepers who were known to them.

Rather, they were people posing as beggars who travel into the city and "take advantage" of "Melbourne's generosity".

"We've got a really robust system now in looking after those people and engaging with the appropriate government authorities in relation to people who need to be housed and supported. These [beggars] are not those people. We can comfortably say



now that we're dealing with these people behind the scenes who need assistance," Inspector Huntington said.

"This is a different thing we're looking at. This is a thing that's impacting people walking on the streets, especially those with a disability, and impacting businesses who are trying to make a dollar."

"We're looking out for those who need help – the homeless. But for people who are coming here to do the wrong thing they will be moved along, if not processed in some shape or form."

## "It's always been this way"

While some have argued that the southern end of Elizabeth St was getting worse, Inspector Huntington argued that it had

“always been” a problem location.

He pointed to the early 2000s when the spot outside Flinders Street Station was a site of "severe assaults" in the streets which resulted in serious injuries.

"It's not that. It's people hanging around causing issues," he said.

"There's not many 'risk areas' in the city [but] this is one of them. And it's perpetual, it's been that way for decades and certainly as long as I've been a police officer. So it's not something that'll be fixed overnight or six months. It'll be a slow burn."

"That area hasn't had too much TLC over the years, but we have to ask ourselves as traders, as police, as council, 'what can we do to make the area better without massive infrastructure changes?'" ●

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# Crowds flock to Melbourne’s Chinese Lunar New Year Festival

The Year of the Dragon began in style with excited crowds flocking to the streets of Melbourne’s Chinatown to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival on Sunday, February 11.

WORDS BY JACK HAYES



In what is the most auspicious year in the Chinese Zodiac, the Year of the Dragon represents a symbol of luck, prosperity, and happiness.

According to event organisers, nearly 200,000 people took part in this year’s festivities which included the Millennium Dragon Parade, activations at 206 Bourke Street and live performances throughout the day.

Christina Zhao, president of the City of Melbourne-endorsed precinct group, Melbourne Chinatown Business Association (MCBA), told *CBD News* that not only did the Year of the Dragon attract bumper crowds on the day of the festival, but the week of celebrations also saw “lines out the doors of many restaurants,” all hoping to “celebrate a prosperous year ahead”.

“The Year of the Dragon has started with a bang,” Ms Zhao said. “It was fantastic to see so many people throughout the streets of Chinatown, a lot of them walking alongside the Millennium Dragon hoping to touch it and receive its good luck.”

“We are already seeing visitation numbers increase in the precinct, which we hope will continue throughout this year of celebration.”

“As the Dragon is the only mythical creature in the Chinese Zodiac, the rest are different animals, it has become our culture’s most important symbol, one that represents good luck, prosperity, happiness and strength.”

Ms Zhao, along with her team at MCBA, is continuing to celebrate the Lunar New Year, which traditionally lasts for two weeks, with five days of giveaways to spend in Chinatown.

There are \$10,000 in prizes to be won. Among them are a Dumpling Feast for Two at Dragon Dumpling; Traditional Tea and Snack Sets at China Tea House; cocktail tastings for two at Manchuria Bar; a couple’s Relaxation Package at Golden Lotus Spa; nails and pedicure for two at Beauty Face; and a massage for two at Chikurin Massage.

“All you have to do is follow MCBA and the participating businesses on Instagram, tag your friends in the comments section and share our giveaway post on your story for bonus entries,” MCBA event lead Ngoc Le said.

“Winners will be randomly selected for each prize and announced on @chinatownmelbourne.”

“Good luck and let the Lunar New Year festivities bring you joy and fortune.”

Aside from a busy Lunar New Year period, Ms Zhao has recently taken part in a television documentary, *The Bigger Picture*, that will feature on Channel 7, showcasing inspirational business success stories.

“I was interviewed along with 15 business leaders in Melbourne and Lord Mayor Sally Capp, to talk about our vision for Chinatown going forward,” she said. “We [MCBA] see it as a destination location for tourists, a place for locals, and a place for everyone, not just for Chinese restaurants or businesses; there are many Korean, Thai and Vietnamese businesses moving to Chinatown because they see the potential.”

To become an MCBA member or learn more about the prize giveaway, head to [melbournechinatownbusiness.com](http://melbournechinatownbusiness.com) ●



# New park mooted for MacKenzie St

WORDS BY BRENDAN REES



A new small urban park complete with garden beds and trees has been proposed for the northern end of the CBD.

The new park would be created at the corner of MacKenzie and Victoria streets, and feature 21 new trees, more public seating and furniture and shorter and safer pedestrian crossings.

The community has been invited to have their say on the proposal, which would transform a space that was the site of a former petrol station that was removed in 2021.

There are two entry points into MacKenzie St from Victoria St, which are about 20 metres apart, but the City of Melbourne plans to remove one of these points so it can be repurposed into a park without impacting on car or bike access.

Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the proposed park would be a huge win for the community.

“We’re doing what counts for Melburnians – creating a brand-new park in the heart of our CBD, with new trees and garden beds,” he said.

“This pocket of our city is booming, so it’s vital we’re delivering more lush green space for city residents, workers, students and visitors to enjoy.”

“Growing our urban forest helps us create a more resilient city by supporting biodiversity and boosting our tree canopy cover.”

Under the plans, there would be reduced parking spaces but the proposal would maintain the existing function of a two-way traffic flow and access to all properties.

Works at the intersection last year saw the removal of redundant crossovers, and three extra car spaces created on Victoria St.

The council said the new park would address the “evolving needs of central Melbourne’s changing residential and worker population”.

MacKenzie St has been identified as a “priority planting street” in the central city Urban Forest Precinct Plan 2013-2023, a key implementation tool of the Urban Forest Strategy.

For more visit: [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/mackenzie-street-greening](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/mackenzie-street-greening) ●

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# Copper doctor Brian James brings life back to historic building

Bringing back the original beauty to the frontages of old buildings is a labour of love for copper specialist Brian James.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



Known as the “copper doctor”, Mr James’ latest work involved restoring the magnificent copper of a 114-year-old Art Deco building at 119 A’Beckett St over a four-week period.

“I was approached by the builder [Roberts and Co] of the UNO development in A’Beckett St to restore the original shine to the 1910 frontage,” he said.

“I’m passionate about every project I do because it gives me an opportunity to restore character and heritage to a building.”

The A’Beckett St building’s street-front copper, which runs along the window’s ornate frame, had lost its lustre over the past century, leaving it tarnished and

discoloured.

But through Mr James’ craftsmanship, the copper has been restored to its former glory.

The 1910-built building formerly housed a car dealership and a Harley Davidson showroom but is now a newly developed apartment building.

He said people who once walked past the fading façade, had marvelled in its renewed splendour as he went about his work.

“They just love the fact that they see it in a terrible state and then I beautify it and restore the shine,” he said.

“It’s very fulfilling. I jump out of bed; I love the challenge.”

Using no chemicals, Mr James does all his work by hand, spending hours cleaning, sanding, and polishing.

Mr James was a former communications worker but discovered his newfound passion five years ago when his daughter asked him to have a go at bringing the copper frame of her shopfront in Armadale back to life.

“I thought I never had any talent



working with my hands,” he said.

“Suddenly I developed it and also it’s pretty hard work, it keeps you fit, and the other thing is you’re always out in the public and people stop and want to chat

to you all the time so it’s a very social job.”

Today, he revitalises old heritage buildings and shopfronts in Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne. His next project will be restoring

the copper element of the building at the corner of Franklin and Queen streets, which is home to a grand copper sculpture of the goddess Fortuna featuring feathered wings and heavy brows. ●

# Liquor shop faces huge demand under state’s container deposit scheme

A liquor shop acting as the only CBD site where people can cash in bottles and cans under the state’s container deposit scheme (CDS) is struggling to cope with demand.

WORDS BY  
MARILYN TAN



Cellarbrations on Queen St is a registered over-the-counter site that issues 10-cent refunds for each drink container made of steel, aluminium, glass, plastic and cardboard.

It is part of the CDS, which was launched by the state government last November in a bid to transform Victoria’s waste and recycling system.

However, the small Cellarbrations store has faced a surge in customer refunds, with its capacity of storing collections being stretched to its limits.

When CBD News visited the shop in the middle of February, there were multiple bags of drinks containers piled at the back

of the store.

Hendra, a staff member at Cellarbrations, said that their collection bin sometimes filled up in “one to two hours”, after which the store had to find alternative storage for the items.

According to Hendra, this was because the store did not want to turn customers away, with collection trucks only doing pick-ups on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The Visy-operated collection point services the entire CBD, which, according to the most recent 2021 census has a population of more than 43,000.

Residents need to trek to a depot in Thistlewaite St, South Melbourne for their next nearest collection point or hand their items over the counter at the Carlton Supermarket in Lygon St.

Refund points take the form of reverse vending machines, over-the-counter services, and depots.

Asked if there were plans to open more collection points in the city, Visy’s CDS general manager Tim O’Donnell, said, “We’re always looking to add more refund points to make the scheme even more accessible and convenient”.

“If you’re a local business or community group and would like to sign up as a refund point, please get in touch.”

Academics such as RMIT University’s Professor Usha Iyer-Raniga, who specialises in sustainable built environments, said that

while the “idea is good”, more work needed to be done to fix teething problems in the system.

“If the process is not robust, people are going to be disincentivised,” she told CBD News.

She cited situations where the hours were incorrectly listed on the scheme’s website, and when collection points were not open, “people don’t take it seriously”.

But Prof. Iyer-Raniga did acknowledge the CDS helped to ensure that “the principles of circular economy are met”, referring to eliminating pollution and waste by closing loops, and allowing the planet to regenerate.

Dr Bhavna Middha, a Research Fellow from RMIT University focusing on waste minimisation and management, said that while the scheme was a great initiative for recycling and reuse, it was “still finding its feet in Victoria for product stewardship by companies that produce these containers”.

She said that the scheme was “not widely advertised” and described it as a “cumbersome process”, that needed to have return stations in more convenient locations, such as supermarkets and apartments. ●



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# An iconic Melbourne painting you’ve never heard of

If you found out about a little secret, one that has been hiding in plain sight for more than 100 years, completely unobstructed to view and meticulously maintained, can you truly call it a secret?

WORDS BY  
JACK HAYES



Well, according to Block Arcade manager, Grant Cohen, this secret, an ethereal painting adorning the ceiling of a store in the eastern corner of the famous arcade’s Collins St entrance, is “one of Melbourne’s best kept [secrets],” because “unless you come into The Block and you look up, you would never know it was there.”

The mural is the work of scientific artist, Phillip Goatcher, who was commissioned by the Singer Sewing Machine Company to decorate the ceiling with scenes depicting references to new technologies and science, which was completed in 1907.

“This ceiling is the only ceiling in the Block Arcade left untouched from major renovations in the 1980s,” Mr Cohen said.

“Goatcher was a theatre set designer who used his skills to paint this. If you could imagine a theatre’s drop curtain displaying a scene in Paris behind the actors, that is what he did. So, fitting with his skillset, this artwork was painted on a fabric or hessian and then laid onto the ceiling.”

“The mural cost an enormous 900 guineas at the time. If you were to go back to the record books, the brother of John



Batman, Henry Batman, purchased the land for the Block Arcade for only 18 pounds ... you can see what the gold rush has done to Melbourne over those 50 years.”

The artwork, Melbourne’s answer to Michaelangelo’s Sistine Chapel, features Renaissance-style motifs of classicly-garbed women accompanied by angels, a bald eagle holding an American flag, presumably an ode to the commissioning company’s origins, and the words “chemistry”, “mathematics”, “astronomy”, and “electricity”.

According to Mr Cohen, as the ceiling is


heritage-protected, renovations to meet compliance with fire safety meant sprinklers would need to be installed into all shops and ceilings, however, you won’t find a single sprinkler in what is now occupied by L’Occitane En Provence. Instead, you’ll find a smoke beam which ensured every inch of the iconic artwork remained untouched.

The Block Arcade opened in 1892 and is home to some of Melbourne’s most iconic shopfronts including The Tea Rooms 1892 (previously Hopetoun Tea Rooms), The Art of Dr Seuss! and Haigh’s Chocolates. ●



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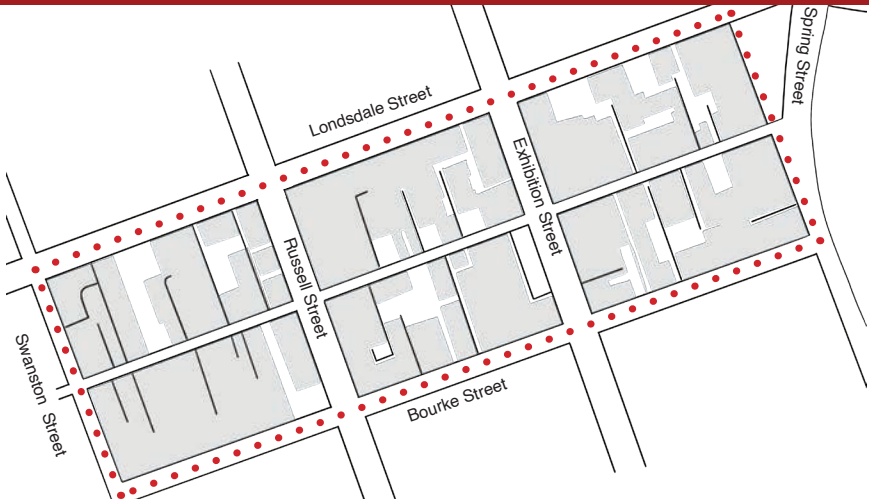
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# Cheers to Melbourne's 2024 Food and Wine Festival

The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival presented by La Trobe Financial and supported by Visit Victoria will take over the city between March 15 and 24, celebrating Melbourne's unique eating and drinking culture.

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



With more than 430 events on offer throughout the 10-day program, Melburnians can enjoy a variety of food and drink offerings from some of the city's most well-known "culinary luminaries", focusing on the "diversity and breadth of the Melbourne food scene".

One of the festival's "signature events" is The World's Longest Lunch, with up to 1700 diners set to feast from 600 metres of "beautifully dressed dining tables" on the edge of the Botanic Gardens in Kings Domain.

Designing this year's menu is Andrew McConnell, chef and owner of popular Melbourne venues including Gimlet at Cavendish House, Supernormal, Cutler & Co., and the newly opened Apollo Inn.

"In years past we have had menus designed for the event by bold-faced names including Ben Shewry and Alla Wolf-Tasker," Food and Drink Victoria CEO, Anthea Loucas Bosha said.

"This year, Andrew McConnell takes the reins for a very special event celebrating one of Melbourne's culinary icons."

The 2024 program will also host The World's Longest Brunch presented by Cocobella, a new addition to the franchise "celebrating Melbourne's famed café culture".

"This year we turn the dial up on flavour with three of the leading talents in new wave Indian food, Harry Mangat, Helly Raichura and Mischa Tropp, for a three-course menu filled with their unique takes on what brunching Indian-style looks like," Ms Loucas Bosha told CBD News.

As well as ticketed events, the festival will also include a weekend take-over of Fed Square on March 23 and 24, "celebrating everything that makes our city delicious".

"The return of Celebrity Sausage, presented by Bakers Delight, brings together stars of the stage, screen, track and beyond as they design their dream sausages – the Mighty Baker's Dozen is also back with 13 of Melbourne's most sought-after cakers and bakers bringing their creations to the square," Ms Loucas Bosha said.

"The jewel in the crown is Dan's Diner, a reboot of the classic American diner presented by Dan Murphy's, which will be on the edge of Fed Square on Swanston Street for the duration of the festival. All of the food is designed by chefs called Dan, including Dan Hunter, Dan Puskas and Dan Wilson."

As Australia's food and wine capital, the festival is an important platform to



showcase "Victoria's peerless food produce and food and drink products".

"It brings people together, and also allows Melbourne's hospitality talents the opportunity to stretch their wings and deliver a

one-off event which may scratch a creative itch or see them collaborating with some of the world and Australia's best food talent – all under the banner of the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival." ●

## "Significant interest" in adaptive reuse of CBD buildings amid calls for clearer guidelines

The City of Melbourne is pushing for greater clarity on how CBD buildings can be given a second life rather than being demolished.

WORDS BY  
DAVID SCHOUT



New and clearer guidelines were required for the building industry after there had been "significant recent interest" in converting old CBD office buildings into residential uses, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece has said.

In a motion expected to be endorsed by councillors at the February 20 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, Cr Reece urged the council's management to create new industry guidance on the matter, which would accelerate "adaptive reuse" in the city.

Research has suggested that the carbon cost of developing a typical commercial

office building was worth up to 42 years of its operational emissions, and in recent times the City of Melbourne has made a clear point of preferencing adaptive reuse rather than the development of new buildings in planning decisions.

Last year developer Mirvac chose to "re-life" an office building at the Paris End of Collins St, developing 17 storeys of "premium office space" above an existing 1980s-built commercial building with 1870s-built heritage-listed residential terraces at the ground level.

The move was said to have saved the equivalent annual carbon footprint of 889 Australian homes (compared to if it was demolished), drawing City of Melbourne commendation when it was approved.

However Cr Reece, the council's planning chair, said clearer guidelines for owners and developers were required for commercial-to-residential adaptations.

"In the past decade, the City of Melbourne has not received any planning applications for the adaptive reuse of large commercial office buildings in the central city to residential accommodation," his motion,

seconded by deputy planning chair Rohan Leppert, stated.

"However, it is understood that several projects in the central city are under active consideration, and that there has been significant activity in this area in other cities around the world, for example London and New York.

"With renewed interest in adaptive reuse conversions, the City of Melbourne wants to play a proactive role in facilitating adaptive reuse as a preferred option to the demolition and reconstruction of outdated office buildings."

The motion directed management to produce an "easily accessible publication" on how building owners and developers can navigate the planning and building frameworks for adaptive reuse proposals.

It would also see the council offer a "comprehensive planning and building pre-application meeting" with officers, recognising that the "challenging circumstances of these projects require a tailored approach".

The City of Melbourne is completing an adaptive reuse pilot project by converting its building at 602 Little Bourke St into

supported residential accommodation as part of the "Make Room" project.

Last year Nicky Drobis, a partner at leading architecture firm Fender Katsalidis, said an alliance between developers, designers and government was key to ensuring more city buildings were given a second life rather than being demolished.

Ms Drobis said getting industry and policymakers working together was crucial to cutting down the "waste and carbon emissions associated with a new build".

In September last year 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.

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.

Cr Reece said the plan featured concise direction on upgrading heavy-emitting commercial spaces, however not on adaptive reuse. ●

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# Trailblazing ex-councillor and champion of women’s leadership earns prestigious award

Susan Riley, the first woman to be elected as Deputy Lord Mayor in the history of the City of Melbourne, has been recognised with a prestigious Australia Day honour.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



Known for her unwavering commitment to fostering a vibrant city and being a pioneer for women at Town Hall, Ms Riley was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to local government, and to the community of Melbourne.

Ms Riley expressed deep gratitude and humility, saying the honour had come at a complete surprise. She quipped it was the “best kept secret I’ve ever had in my life” after having received the news before Australia Day.

“I am humble, and I still do not know to this day who nominated me, and I probably never will,” she told CBD News.

Ms Riley, also a respected publisher and advocate for community newspapers, served under three Lord Mayors during her 15-year tenure with the council, in which she became a beloved figure among residents and fellow council members alike.

Of the various contributions she made, she said one of the more rewarding moments was being able to conduct several citizenship ceremonies as the Deputy Lord Mayor during 2001 to 2004 and 2008 to 2016.

“I just got such huge pride when you honour someone on Australia Day; it is a national pride and they came from every walk of life and they were able to call Melbourne home,” she said.

“I always walked out of that feeling a little bit humbler than anything that they had made that choice and that’s why, in my opinion, if Australia Day stops having ceremonies like that, it would be a downfall.”

But her most significant highlight was being named the first woman to be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor, which inspired her to become a symbol of gender equality and empowerment for women leaders.

“I thought there’s no way that they’re going to vote for an unknown publisher, and when we did win and I walked in, I thought, ‘my goodness, where are the women?’ All the walls were just full of old men, portraits that were years old.”



▲ Pictured: Susan Riley (right) with Beverley Pinder (left) and Lisa Peterson (centre).

“I think that was another really fabulous feeling for me when John So, the Lord Mayor [at the time] said ‘we need to bring women into Town Hall.’”

Determined to make a difference, she launched an annual “Women in business lunch” which began with about 10 women attending boardroom meetings but by the later years “there was about 400 women and I just felt extraordinarily proud that I’d started that”.

Beyond her civic duties, Ms Riley enjoyed a successful career in media and publishing over a 30-year career, which included publishing free lifestyle magazines for the CBD and St Kilda Rd.

She noted the local media was a “good industry because you are always giving back to the community ... I think the local paper is the backbone of communities, apart from the Melbourne Town Hall, of course.”

Now retired, Ms Riley still has a deep-rooted passion for serving the community, including acting as the chair of Turning Hope into Action, an organisation supporting people at risk of homelessness.

She also assists in sharing her knowledge of local government issues and initiatives with the City of Knox, the municipality where she resides today, and she also recently joined the Country Women’s Association.

“I can’t make scones and I don’t do jams but I’m really good at selling raffle tickets, so they accepted me, so that’s good,” she laughed. ●

# Uncertainty for historic bookshop as building goes up for sale



The Hill of Content, the CBD’s oldest and much-loved bookshop, is facing an uncertain future as the historic building it occupies goes up for sale.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



The bookshop inside the three-storey building at 86 Bourke St, was founded a century ago and has been under the same family ownership for more than seven decades.

It opened as a bookshop in 1922 by successful bookseller Albert Henry Spencer, where he and his wife and children lived above the shop when it was owned by an unknown Jewish family.

The bookshop has remained a cherished institution for decades, but the building will go to auction on March 8, with various potential buyers eyeing its prime real estate, which is located next to Grossi Florentino.

Nick Peden, director of capital markets at real estate agent JLL, which is managing the sale, said the Hill of Content was currently on a monthly lease and “would love to stay” “but it depends on who buys it”.

“They’re obviously a fantastic tenant, they’ve been in that

location for over 100 years,” he said. “It would be terrific to see them stay ... but it depends on who buys it.”

“[The building has] been in the same family (ownership) for 73 years ... now it’s the right time for that family to sell.”

Mr Peden said there was a “mix of buyers” who were interested given the building’s location in the Bourke Hill Precinct, renowned for its historic buildings and unique streetscapes.

“There are owner-occupiers who are looking at it for their own business given the location and the nature of the surrounding use predominantly being hospitality,” he said.

“There’s a lot of hospitality-type users looking at it but also other owner-occupiers looking at it as some sort of retail, and then there’s the local and off-shore investors, given the location.”

He added, “It’s a very unique opportunity, it’s been a long, long time since it was last available so the fact that it is on the market now is very unique and it’s got that real scarcity factor to it given the size, there’s not many of them in that east end of town.”

AH Spencer, whose legacy lives on to this day with his initials still painted on the façade of the building, wrote in a memoir that the original building had been built around 1840 when it was “two storeys and a ramshackle”. ●

# Just one-third back giving priority to Aboriginal names, prominent women for new streets

City of Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece has criticised survey results that he said gave disproportionate voice to non-residents and older people.

WORDS BY  
DAVID SCHOUT



Only one-third of survey respondents have backed a City of Melbourne move to prioritise the naming of new roads and places after their Aboriginal names, and those of prominent women.

In drafting a new “Place and Road Naming Policy”, the council sought community feedback on the move to prioritise Aboriginal language and women in history, in a move that would “help address the current imbalances in our place and road names”.

During the past 20 years, 50 new roads were named after men, however just 23 named were after women and only six use Aboriginal language.

However, the returned survey results were not what the council was after.

Just 33 per cent indicated support for the

move, while 61 per cent did not support it (six per cent were “unsure”).

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the results were “mixed” and criticised the council’s own survey methodology.

Less than half (44 per cent) of survey respondents were City of Melbourne residents, while less than 40 per cent were aged under 50.

Cr Reece argued that people who lived outside the municipality and those aged “many decades” above the average local age had been disproportionately represented.

“As somebody who has a background in political science and social research – and I say this in the spirit of constructive feedback – that I do think there was some shortcomings in the methodology and the approach that was used to undertaking that community consultation process,” Cr Reece said.

“The majority of the responses were from people outside of the City of Melbourne. And secondly, if you look at the age demographics of the people who participated in the engagement exercise, you will find that they were folks of quite senior years. Now, in the City of Melbourne the average age is 30, and yet if you look at the people who participated in this community engagement exercise, you find the average age was many, many decades older than that.”

The Deputy Lord Mayor argued that Melbourne needed to “lift our game” and implement more diversity in road and place names.

“It’s a sad fact that less than 10 per cent of the street names across the City of Melbourne are names of great women and I just don’t think that’s acceptable. Sadly, it’s a situation that’s not getting better. In fact, it’s a situation that’s getting worse.”

He said the results over the past two years showed that a “huge gap that exists is actually not getting better, it’s getting worse”.

“If we just continue with business as usual it’s a situation that’s going the wrong way. So there has to be some sort of intervention to help lift our game and try and bring a bit more diversity, a bit more fairness to the naming of places across our municipality.”

However, Cr Roshena Campbell, the sole councillor to vote against the policy at the February 6 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, argued that the council did not need to implement a specific policy on the matter.

“I do believe the trend is going in the right direction and I have no doubt that if there was a local woman, and there is no doubt there are plenty of them who have made a significant contribution to Melbourne, if there was a view that a place should be named after her or an Indigenous person,

I don’t think for a minute there would be resistance from the City of Melbourne to doing that,” Cr Campbell said.

“I don’t think we need to prioritise women at the expense of men because there are plenty of people of both sexes that have made a significant contribution to this city.”

The councillor, who has been the sole dissenting voice against a number of policies during this council term – most recently, plans to rebalance CBD streets and create more space for pedestrians, and plans to retrofit heavy-emitting commercial buildings – said survey results must be respected.

“When we sought the response from survey participants on these priorities, they agreed with my viewpoint. Sixty per cent of them did. And although there may be concerns about that methodology, when we the City of Melbourne go out and say to people, ‘Tell us what you think?’ And they tell us, I think we have an obligation to listen.”

A revised version of the “Place and Road Naming Policy” was set to be presented to councillors by April 9. ●

David Schout  
JOURNALIST

DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



# Rough sleepers “tip of the iceberg” in homelessness crisis

The City of Melbourne has launched a new homelessness strategy to address the city’s “housing and homelessness crisis”.

WORDS BY  
DAVID SCHOUT



People sleeping on Melbourne’s streets were just the “tip of the iceberg” in the city’s homelessness crisis, with many more women and children sleeping in cars or on couches according to the City of Melbourne.

The council’s comments come as it put forward a new Homelessness Strategy 2024-30, which aims to respond to a “vastly changed social and political environment” since its previous guiding document (2014-17).

With the City of Melbourne being one of many agencies tasked with addressing homelessness, the document outlines a continued partnership approach as its central overarching strategy.

A draft version of the new strategy has been underpinned by research undertaken in 2022-23 and was expected to be endorsed by councillors at the February 20 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

According to the 2021 census, 1163 people were experiencing homelessness in the City of Melbourne, and 130 people were sleeping rough.

However, these statistics were taken during COVID-19 when the Victorian Government accommodated people sleeping rough in hotels during this period, which could account for the decrease.

Statistics from 2020, for instance, indicated more than 300 rough sleepers in the municipality, many of whom congregate in the CBD.

The new strategy reiterated that homelessness was something people experience rather than “who they are” and underlined that it “can happen to anyone at any point in their lives”.

“In our city, we are facing a housing and homelessness crisis, a situation mirrored across Australia and the world,” the document stated.

“Visible homelessness, people sleeping rough on the streets, is just the tip of the iceberg in our homelessness crisis. Many more women, children and families are part of the hidden problem – sleeping in their cars, on other people’s couches and in severely overcrowded or temporary accommodation.”

The strategy prioritises four cohorts: Aboriginal people, people experiencing long-term homelessness, women, and young people (aged 15 to 25).

The council said that these groups had “unique needs not currently met within Melbourne’s homelessness system”. Aboriginal people, for example, were “vastly over-represented” in Melbourne’s homelessness population.

Despite accounting for just 0.5 per cent of the City of Melbourne’s population, five per cent of people experiencing homelessness and 15 per cent experiencing chronic homelessness were Aboriginal peoples.

People experiencing long-term homelessness (for 12 months or more) are identified within the new strategy as having “multiple and complex needs”, which often involved mental health difficulties.

The cohort has elevated rates of depression and substance abuse, often used as a method used “to cope with the dangers, stress and anxiety they face”.

“It is now widely understood that housing alone is unlikely to be an adequate or lasting solution (for this group). Many who have been sleeping rough for an extended time have experienced deep trauma and violence, have complex needs and require physical and mental health support.”

The strategy indicated that the number of women with young children who don’t have anywhere to live has “risen dramatically in the past five years”, with family violence the “primary cause”.

It also indicated that one in six clients of homelessness services in Melbourne are aged 15 to 24, yet the current system “focuses on adults”.

“Young people are caught in this system, and their unique service and housing needs go unmet.”

Research underpinning the strategy identified “many



problems” with the homelessness service system at present, including short-term and unstable funding and timely access to health-care (including mental health).

Community consultation for the draft strategy is open until April 7, and the council has committed

undertaking “tailored engagement” with people with a lived experience of homelessness, and key local stakeholders including traders and residents.

Submissions can also be made at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au). ●

## Queen Victoria Women’s Centre shines the spotlight on International Women’s Day

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



To celebrate International Women’s Day (IWD) on March 8, Queen Victoria Women’s Centre (QVWC) will host a week-long program of engaging events and activities to bring women (cis, trans and non-binary) together.

While IWD serves as an important reminder of the ongoing struggle for gender equality and calls for action to eradicate gender-based discrimination, it is also a day to celebrate the women who have committed themselves to amplifying marginalised voices and creating a more inclusive society.

In an exciting line-up of experts at QVWC on March 4, the community will be able to hear from a panel of leading women to discuss this year’s United Nations IWD theme, *Invest in Women*.

Renowned journalist Wendy Tuohy will guide the discussion as the panel, consisting of Emma Dawson (Per Capita), Wil Stracke (Victorian Trades Hall Council), Nadia Mattiazzo (Women with Disabilities Victoria), and Jenny Davidson (Council of Single Mothers and their Children), explores the economic benefits of investing in women and what needs to change to achieve economic equality.

Individuals are also invited to participate in a banner-making workshop at QVWC on March 6 in

preparation for the IWD Rally on March 7, hosting a safe and inclusive space for women to gather, talk and make new friends.

Additionally, artist Camila Paz will be at QVWC on March 9 to host a two-hour painting workshop for participants to paint their own feminist icons and heroes.

“The QVWC will be a hub of activity as it celebrates IWD this year,” QVWC Trust chair, Jennifer Kanis said.

“It’s always such a busy week, but if you can’t get to any of our events, then just drop in - who knows who you will bump into?”



Positioned in the heart of the CBD, the QVWC was established as part of the Queen Victoria Women’s Centre Trust Act 1994, passed by the Victorian Parliament.

An iconic Melbourne landmark, the QVWC was built in 1848 as the original Melbourne Hospital before becoming the Queen Victoria Hospital in 1946 – one of only three hospitals in the world founded, managed, and staffed by women. ●

## Federal award for top serving community officer

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



A well-respected CBD community officer who has dedicated his time to helping the vulnerable and people experiencing homelessness has been awarded a prestigious honour.

Nick Carbines, a Services Australia community partnership specialist officer, who is currently co-located at the Salvation Army’s Project 614 in Bourke St, has helped more than 530 customers since 2022 as part of a Community Partnership Pilot program.

He helps customers access and maintain payments and other agency services, those who may otherwise be isolated from mainstream support or unable to engage over the phone or navigate digital channels.

In recognition of his efforts, Mr Carbines was awarded a Public Service Medal in the 2024 Australia Day Honours List, which recognises outstanding service by employees of the Australian Government and state, territory and local government employees.

The award was for Mr Carbine’s “outstanding public service in the provision of payments and supporting those most vulnerable and experiencing homelessness across inner city Melbourne”.

“I’m grateful to have received a Public Service Medal. It’s caused me to reflect on my 22 years working as a community officer for Services Australia and in particular the previous 18 months in my new community partnership role based full-time at Project 614,” Mr Carbines told CBD News.

“It’s important for me to acknowledge my fellow team members in Community Partnership Specialist Officer (CPSO) roles at Services Australia. CPSOs are dedicated to bringing our payments and services to the most vulnerable members of Australia’s community.”

“By being present and on-site where community members experiencing vulnerability gather means more equitable access to government services for those who need them most.”

Mr Carbines said he was passionate about helping



people who were facing hardship and disadvantage, and that he enjoyed the challenges and rewards of his role.

“I’ve heard tragic stories from customers throughout those decades. Everyone should understand that anyone can fall on hard times,” he said.

“If you don’t have support networks like family and friends – homelessness can come quickly. In many cases, circumstances leading to vulnerability are no fault of the individual.”

He said a crucial component of his role was advocacy and wraparound support, which included regular contact with housing and health services to help customers.

“Customers have said to me they now feel valued and respected because the government has recognised their difficulties and responded with genuine respect and compassion. It’s genuine gratitude and it’s powerful.”

One simple act he said that meant so much to a client was getting them approval for a proof of age card, after Mr Carbine was able to track down their birth certificate.

“The customer had not possessed photo identification for over 30 years. He held up the card, pointed at the photo and said, ‘That’s me!’ He gave me a hug. That was pretty amazing. With respect comes gratitude.” ●



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Your City of Melbourne community update

# CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF MOOMBA 7 TO 11 MARCH

The popular Underwater float will return in 2024

Head to the banks of the Yarra River, Birrarung Marr and the Alexandra Gardens for the platinum jubilee of Australia’s largest community festival this Labour Day long weekend.

Moomba has been enchanting Melburnians with free, family-friendly fun since 1955 – proudly owned and delivered by the City of Melbourne.

Join us this year for skate competitions, world-class water sports, face painting, dance workshops, live music, kids’ yoga, carnival rides, karaoke, bubble and magic shows, ukulele lessons and much more across five magical days.



A skater in action at Riverside Skate Park



A ride with a view at the Moomba carnival

## ACCESS AND INCLUSION HIGHLIGHTS

We’re introducing relaxed hours for people who are sensitive to bright or strobing lights, loud music and sounds on Friday 8 March from 4pm to 6pm.

People with hidden disabilities are also invited to collect free sunflower lanyards on-site throughout the festival. These are a discreet sign to our trained staff that you may need extra assistance.

## MOOMBA MONARCHS: DOWN MEMORY LANE

This year’s Moomba monarchs are children’s entertainer Emma Memma and comedian Peter Helliard.

The tradition of crowning Moomba monarchs dates back as long as the festival itself.

In the earliest days, a queen was chosen in a beauty contest. Finalists were judged on their self-confidence, poise and ability to answer tough questions like: “How many sheep are there in Australia?”

A string of non-Australian monarchs later caused controversy, and none more so than the 1977 King of Moomba – Mickey Mouse. Mickey received a pie to the face and a mock crowning of Blinky Bill was staged in protest.

Dame Edna Everage and Molly Meldrum were among the local personalities crowned in the following years.



The Queen Mother at Moomba in 1958



The Moomba Queen float in 1962

## A PARADE OF ALL NATIONS

The Moomba Parade is the much-loved centrepiece of the festival, promising a special kind of magic driven by the community.

Around 1800 people from dance troupes, cultural performance groups and marching bands participate in the

parade alongside a fleet of impressive floats and giant puppets. Look out for the giant new ladybugs this year.

The image below shows Tia Hutajulu wearing a beautiful costume designed and made by Ganda Marpaung in last year’s Moomba parade.

Hailing from Indonesia, Tia belongs to the Bonapasogit Victoria community and the ExtravaGanda group.

“I enjoy being in the parade because I’m not just watching, but participating directly in the very famous, colourful and amazing Moomba festival,” Tia said.

“The parade gives me the opportunity to share my country’s cultures by wearing our traditional costumes and by doing traditional dance.”



## KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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Moomba Monarchs Emma Memma and Peter Helliart

MOOMBA ARTEFACTS ON SHOW

In celebration of 70 years, a special Moomba collection has been curated at Melbourne Town Hall with a showcase of all things Moomba from over the years – from monarchs’ robes to a bottle of vintage spumante.

Tours of our Art and Heritage Collection are free and available year-round, however this special collection will be on display until 8 March. Bookings essential. Search for the Art and Heritage Collection Tour at [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

SUSTAINABILITY AND ECONOMY

Moomba has been certified carbon neutral since 2022.

The Alexandra Gardens will be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity, and our organic waste collection alone will divert more than 4.5 tonnes of food waste from landfill. That’s equivalent to 450 watermelons or 22,5000 curly potatoes.

The event also supports more than 800 jobs across a range of sectors, including the arts, creative, construction and services industries.



People watching the parade in 1987

For more information, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/moomba](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/moomba)

MUST-SEE MOOMBA MOMENTS

MOOMBA MASTERS

All weekend

Ooh and ahh as an elite field of Australian and international water ski and wakeboard athletes complete on the Yarra. There’ll be slalom, tricks and jumps galore as participants vie for the coveted Moomba Masters title.



Moomba Masters athletes

BJORN AGAIN

Saturday 9 March

Dancing queens and super troupers can relive the magic of ABBA’s 1977 Moomba performance at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl when world-renowned tribute show Bjorn Again takes to the stage as the sun sets.



A firefighter takes the leap for charity



Children enjoy a carnival ride

BIRDMAN RALLY

Sunday 10 March

See courageous competitors don inventive homemade flying devices and hurtle themselves over the Yarra in the Birdman Rally from 11am. It’s all in the name of charity, and good fun.



Cultural dancers in the parade

MOOMBA PARADE

Monday 11 March

See larger-than-life floats, dance troupes, community groups and performers pass by as the epic Moomba Parade weaves through the leafy surrounds of Linlithgow and Birdwood avenues, finishing near the Shrine of Remembrance and Royal Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre. The parade begins with a smoking ceremony at 10.45am. If you can’t make it, tune in to Channel 9 from 1.30pm.

IN BRIEF

OUT AND ABOUT ACTIVITY GUIDE OUT NOW

Discover why Melbourne is a great place to age with our latest Out and About Guide.

Our updated guide has a variety of free or low-cost events, activities, services and support information in the City of Melbourne that promote healthy ageing and social connection.

From regular community meals to gardening groups, tech help to historical tours and plenty more, there’s something to suit all interests and to help keep both body and mind active.

Pick up a free copy at your local library, neighbourhood centre or community hub, or read it online at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/outandabout](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/outandabout)



PASSIONATE ABOUT PARKS?

Expressions of interest are open to join City of Melbourne’s Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee. People from all backgrounds, with experience or an interest in parks and gardens, horticulture, ecology, landscape design or health and wellbeing are invited to apply.

Committee advises Council on a range of technical and community issues involved in sustainable management of the City of Melbourne’s parks, gardens and urban landscapes.

For more information and to express interest before 8 March, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/parks-gardens-committee](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/parks-gardens-committee)

NEW SMALL CBD PARK PROPOSAL

A new small park is being proposed for the corner of MacKenzie and Victoria streets in the CBD. Review the plans and have your say before 11 March at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/mackenzie-street-greening](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/mackenzie-street-greening)



Artist’s impression of the proposed park

# New Creative Spaces hubs open along Elizabeth St

“

The City of Melbourne’s Creative Spaces program has brought four new creative hubs to life along Elizabeth St, working to fill vacant shopfronts throughout the CBD while also lending support to independent artists and organisations.

”

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



The four shopfronts have opened to the public throughout January and house a diverse array of businesses dedicated to social justice causes and community advocacy, with a focus on creative arts, products and services.

“Melbourne is home to a vibrant arts community, which is why it’s wonderful to see this group of creatives breathing new life into our CBD,” acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said.

“Melbourne has the lowest retail vacancy rate in the nation and that’s for a good reason – we’re continuing to attract exciting new businesses and confidence is on the rise.”

The new businesses include Laneway Learning, ProudKind, Hair Gallery and Yarn Strong Sista.

Owned and operated by Taungurung woman, Annette Sax, and her husband, Bob Williams, Yarn Strong Sista is an Aboriginal education consultancy that also includes Yarn Strong Brutha and fashion label Wa-ring.

“It all started almost 23 years ago from a story told by the late Aunty Iris Lovett-Gardiner, who was a Gunditjmara teacher and activist,” Ms Sax told CBD News.

“It was her story of the Possum Hunt Puppet Show which I shared as a student, then later in life at Yarn Strong Sista, which teaches children and adults about Victorian Aboriginal culture.”

Also, an Aboriginal artist and illustrator, Ms Sax designs and manufactures Aboriginal educational

resources in addition to their First Nations teaching services, working with fair trade partners in Nepal for the past 11 years to deliver these resources to early

childhood education partners.

“I really love the idea that I can share my cultural practices through the creative arts, connecting with Aboriginal children and families – it’s all about empowering our community.”

Ms Sax hopes to utilise the space to connect with locals through their calendar of events, including a story time event for children on April 4 hosted by Julie Dascoli, author of *That Boy*.

Held during Autism Acceptance Week, Ms Dascoli will also host a networking function on the evening of April 4 for early childhood educators and teachers, where she will share her experience as an inclusion support staff member.

Yarn Strong Sista is also working with the narm ngarrgu Library and Family Services at Queen Victoria Market to host a storytelling session for local families in

the CBD to learn about Aboriginal culture and history.

“We want to make those authentic relationships and connect with people that have lived here for a very, very long time,” Ms Sax said.

“It’s also been fantastic to connect with the other artists and their businesses around us - we’ve actually been having conversations about Harmony Week and we’re all going to be part of an event that’s happening at the Drill Hall.”

Operating since 2008, the Creative Spaces program has supported “more than 150 artists and creative organisations” through the program, “providing valuable space for Melbourne locals to thrive”.

“A massive Ngun godjin (thanks) to Creative Spaces for this opportunity.” ●



Yarn Strong Sista, City Launch. Photographer: Hunter Callaghan



## The Lost City of Melbourne wins history award

The filmmaker behind *The Lost City of Melbourne* documentary has received a community history award.

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



Filmmaker and co-owner of Thornbury Picture House and Blow Up Cinema, Gus Berger, won the History Interpretation Award at the 2024 Community History Awards on February 2 for his documentary, exploring Melbourne’s heritage.

The annual ceremony is presented by Public Record Office Victoria in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, to celebrate individuals who are dedicated to telling local stories through creative and unique history projects.

Mr Berger’s inspiration for the documentary came when both of his businesses were among “the first to close at the start of COVID lockdowns and the last to reopen”, and he began thinking about what he could do creatively to get through “the difficult times”.

“I’ve always been fascinated with and known where all the old cinemas used to be and what happened to not only them, but also the old markets, hotels and pubs,” he told CBD News.

“It was just something that I was working on quite independently and talking to my wife Lou about it, until things were open again and I could conduct some interviews.”

What followed was an extraordinary discovery of some of Melbourne’s most magnificent buildings being pulled down “within a very short period of time” throughout the 1950s and ‘60s.

“It was kind of a bittersweet revelation that came from the discoveries in the film,” Mr Berger said.

“It was amazing to see photographs and film of

these incredible buildings, but it was also pretty devastating to come to terms with the fact that they were all pulled down – there was just no heritage legislation and there wasn’t enough public will to stop what was happening.”

Following its premiere at the Melbourne International Film Festival, *The Lost City of Melbourne* had sold out screenings in some of Melbourne’s most iconic cinemas such as The Capitol and the Forum Melbourne theatre.

“I was definitely surprised by how people responded to the film – it really resonated with a lot of people, particularly people who have grown up in Melbourne and have memories of that time,” Mr Berger said.

“I got some lovely feedback and a lot of really sweet emails from people that have seen it and talked about some of the memories that they had of some of the buildings and theatres.”

One of Mr Berger’s favourite discoveries from the film was the story of the Padua Cinema; an Art Deco theatre built in 1930 with a “UFO-style ticket booth that looked like it was floating in the middle of the foyer”.

“There was a local man called Alan Windley who was horrified that this beautiful theatre was being demolished, so he spent a bit of time filming the last few films that were there and he filmed the process of the building being demolished – it’s really powerful footage.”

Following its run in cinemas, Mr Berger has worked with Madman Entertainment to find the film a permanent home on SBS’s streaming service, as well as publishing a book of some of the images he uncovered throughout the filmmaking process.

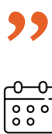
“The first edition sold out in December just after Christmas which was amazing, and we’re getting a second edition printed at the moment which should be available in April or May,” he said. “History was never a subject that I did at school but I’ve sort of always been interested in it, so it’s a real honour and privilege to win an award like this.” ●

# Taylor Swift fans' *Wildest Dreams* become reality



“  
Hosted by Federation Square in collaboration with the University of Melbourne (UoM), enthusiastic Taylor Swift fans gathered on February 11 for a panel discussion exploring the extraordinary influence the musician has had on feminism and the music industry.

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



As part of the UoM's broader Swiftposium conference held between February 11 and 13, while most academic conferences "don't tend to go viral", the event gained such international attention that organisers decided to host the public

event for excited Swifties to celebrate the countdown to her arrival in Melbourne for The Eras Tour. "We did think it was really important to open up the space to fans," Jennifer Beckett said who was one of the "masterminds" behind Swiftposium.  
"The job of universities is not just to create knowledge but to share it with everybody, and that means presenting it in ways like this that make it really easy for people to engage with – and who doesn't want to talk about Taylor Swift?"  
Moderating the panel was self-proclaimed Swiftie Georgie Tunny, presenter on *The Project* and host of her own Taylor Swift podcast, *Ready For It*.  
Joining her on-stage was award-winning composer and lecturer at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Kate Neal, artist manager and festival coordinator, Mahala Bond, and PhD student at RMIT, Kate Pattison.  
The conversation spanned a variety of topics; from dissecting the intricacies of her fan engagement strategy, to pondering the legacy that Ms Swift has left on emerging

artists in a post-Taylor's version world.  
"I think it's important to not just hear from academics, but to have a really good cross-section of people with different types of experiences and lenses on similar questions," Ms Beckett told CBD News.  
The broader Swiftposium that unfolded over the three days saw academics from six universities across Australia and New Zealand attending the conference.  
Attracting more than 400 submissions since it was first announced in September 2023, 130 were accepted for the conference from 78 academic institutions worldwide, covering 60 academic disciplines such as music, economics, business, media studies and health.  
Swiftposium also presented the free Fanposium event at RMIT, which included a screening of the *Miss Americana* documentary at The Capitol cinema.  
Across three consecutive nights on February 16, 17 and 18, the pop superstar enchanted audiences of more than 288,000 – making her Melbourne leg the largest crowds she has seen in her career so far,



affectionately declaring the city the "love of my life".  
For fans who weren't able to get tickets, crowds of more than 20,000 gathered "On The Other Side of the Door" of the stadium each night to sing, dance and trade friendship bracelets.  
As Ms Swift makes her way to Sydney for the remaining Australian tour dates, Ms Beckett encourages fans to "enjoy your fandom" and "not be ashamed to be a fan of pop artists".  
"We would very much like to thank the Taylor Swift fans in Melbourne for getting on board and wanting to be a part of it." ●

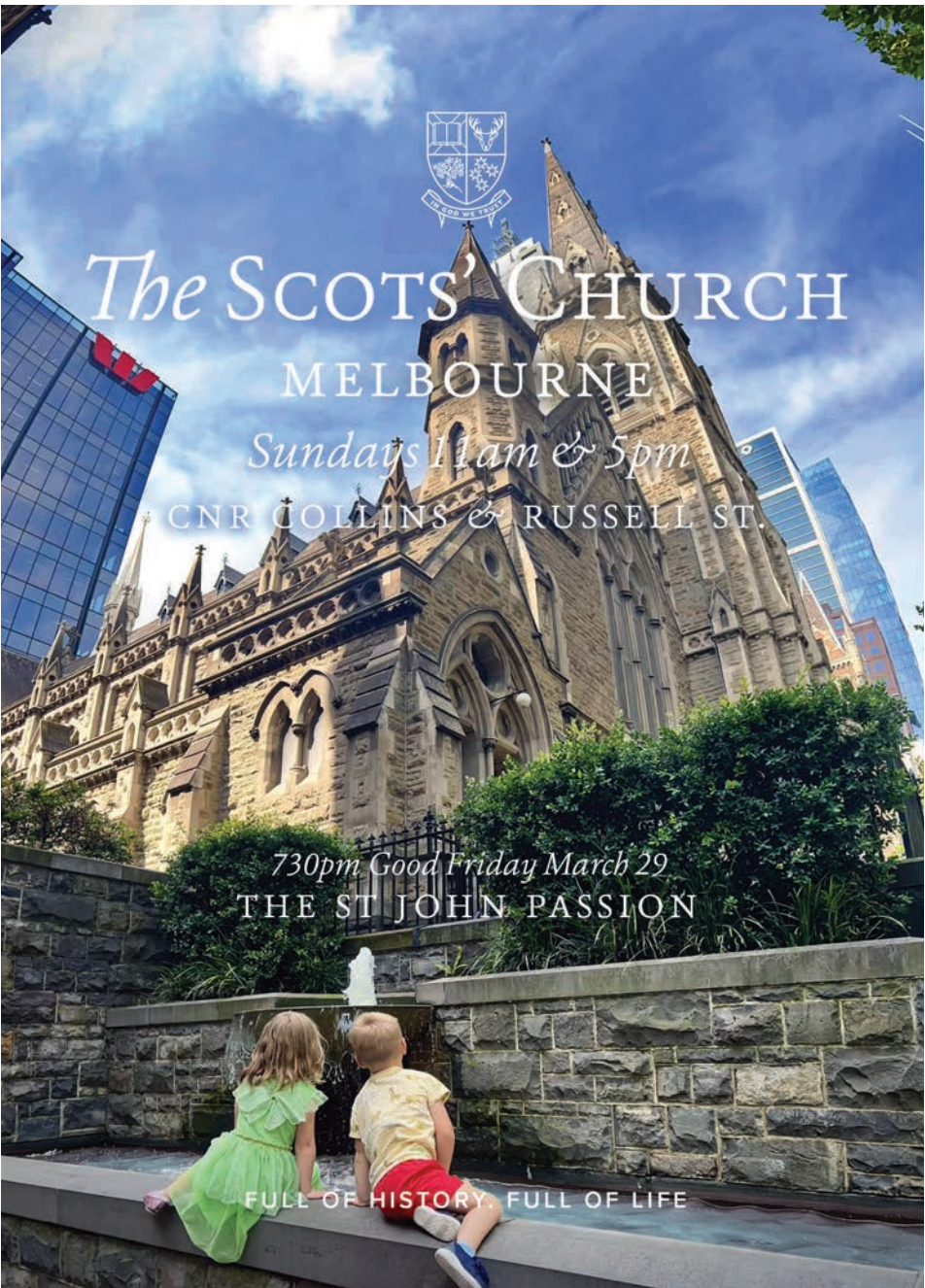
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CBD NEWS





QUESTION:  
What has been your summer highlight?

# Faces of the CBD



NATHAN  
The Taylor Swift concert



OLIVER  
Hugging Taylor Swift



VANESSA  
Going to Vietnam for a holiday



## HISTORY

### Giuseppe Buzzi and his fried fish shop

This photo taken between 1908 and 1912 shows a sleepy Latrobe St afternoon. The image is dominated by a giant telegraph pole with a fire alarm.

WORDS BY  
JULIE BEVAN

An unhitched cart is parked nearby, the horse presumably having retired to a nearby livery stable and his master to his home or perhaps some well-earned refreshment at a nearby hostelry, maybe the International or Exhibition Hotels just down the road.

On the other side of the street an enigmatic figure stands in the long shadows stretching across the entrance to Evans Lane.

On the opposite side of Evans Lane is a shop with a verandah. Part of the signage can just be made out. This is the restaurant of Giuseppe Buzzi at 105 Latrobe St.

We have only the barest details of Giuseppe's time in Melbourne but we know enough to follow at least part of his story for a while. He first appears in 1897 at 41 King William St, Fitzroy. No profession is listed next to his name so this, presumably, is where he lives.

In the next year he is joined by Mr J. Gottardo, a chimney sweep and, likely, a fellow countryman. Unfortunately, we never learn Mr Gottardo's given name apart from the anglicised letter "J". The two continue to share digs here until 1903.

Giuseppe Buzzi disappears from the lists of Sands and McDougall Directories in 1904 but reappears in 1905 having purchased a fried fish shop from Constantin Theodorou at 182 Exhibition St not far from the bustle of Bourke Street but he moves again in 1907 and the fish shop becomes tearooms.

By 1908 he is listed as a restaurateur with premises at 105 Latrobe Street, the well-presented frontage we can see in the photo. Giuseppe ran his business here until 1912 when he relocated to 400 or 490 Spencer St where he ran another fish and chip shop until 1918, when he disappears.

This is the little we know of Giuseppe Buzzi, the man whose proud little restaurant becomes the true focus of this image. It is tempting to clothe this skeleton of a life with many imaginings, but Evans Lane no longer runs to Latrobe St.

The little shops have been swallowed by glass towers and, in the end, Giuseppe remains much like the figure in the afternoon shadow, just beyond our reach. ●



QVM TRADER PROFILE

The best fresh-cooked mussels in town

If you're looking for a fresh and delicious seafood treat, you might want to check out The Mussel Pot at the iconic Queen Victoria Market (QVM).

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



Its owner Alex Drysdale, a former mussel farmer of 30 years, offers raw and cooked mussels sourced from a reputable farm in Portarlington, which are prepared from his little mobile van at the bottom of the market's A Shed.

"It all started with a mussel farmer trying to promote the mussel industry – that's what started it and that's how it still is," he said, adding he was passionate

about sharing a delicious experience with his customers. His popular van regularly sees a line of people queuing up for lunch, particularly tourists who eagerly await to indulge in his mussel creations, whether grilled or steamed, including his best seller: steamed chilli coconut mussels.

While offering a range of flavours and sauces including grilled tomato, chilli and cheese, Mr Drysdale said it was the classic side serving of "crusty bread which everyone loves".

"Most people do them in paellas and the mussels are mixed with a lot of other different things whereas we just cook mussels, nothing else," he said.

For those who may never have tried mussels, he laughed, saying that "We have converted a lot of people; don't worry about that".

Mr Drysdale said he loved working at QVM, where he has

been based for the past 11 years with most of his staff coming from all over the world.

His business initially began by selling mussels from a boat in Geelong before Mr Drysdale bought a van with his former business partner Pixie and fitted it with a custom-built kitchen. Since becoming part of the QVM community, he said The Mussel Pot had continued to grow.

"We built this little van cause because it doesn't sink and you're not having to take it out of the water and paint it," he said.

Such is his popularity today, Mr Drysdale said they had featured on many television shows and even had an article published in the *New York Times*, as well as in a US food blog.

So, what makes The Mussel Pot so unique? "We're fairly priced ... everything's cooked fresh," he said, adding he kept things simple.



"We don't phone orders and there's no Deliveroo – none of that rubbish. Customers just queue up; that's the way we're going to operate and we're not

going to change that."

The Mussel Pot is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9am to 3pm; and Saturdays and Sundays 9am to 4pm. ●

STATE MP

All are welcome at Camp Sovereignty

Right in the heart of our city, in between the NGV and Myer Music Bowl, is a patch of land where the remains of First Nations people from 38 clans have been laid to rest. Yet, this place is still, insensitively, called "King's Domain".

This burial ground, which includes remains of Aboriginal people brought back from overseas museums and institutions, is a sacred and calm place, right in the middle of our busy city.

On January 26 this year, Uncle Robbie Thorpe, along with several other First Nations people, set up Camp Sovereignty on this site, and I recently joined a smoking ceremony there at sunset. I was welcomed with warm smiles and cups of tea. It's clear

it's a very special and healing place.

The camp has been set up to reignite calls for a piece of this land to be returned to Aboriginal people to use for ceremonial purposes, and as a place for Aboriginal people to invite the broader community to be part of cultural practices. They also want the place to be renamed, so it's no longer "King's Domain", but something more culturally appropriate.

"This is a very significant site for Aboriginal people," Uncle Robbie said. "Under that rock there are fragments of our people. That makes it a burial ground. There's an amazing history of the site. It's a former Aboriginal reserve."

First Nations people have been asking for this land back for decades. Some people may remember Uncle Robbie set up the original Camp Sovereignty here in 2006, at the time of the Commonwealth Games.

Uncle Robbie says that what prompted

them to set up camp this time was feeling devastated about what was happening in Gaza, and the poor response from our governments.

As well as reigniting the call for Aboriginal land back, they've welcomed protesters for peace in Palestine onto the site. "Under our sovereignty we want to protect them," Uncle Robbie said.

It's shocking that such a significant site is still known as "King's Domain". We still have so much to do when it comes to justice for First Nations people. I was disgusted to learn in January that the Liberals and Nationals have pulled out of their support for Treaty.

Camp Sovereignty is open to all who wish to join. They are hosting a whole range of activities including film screenings, art sessions, workshops, and smoking ceremonies. You can find weekly schedules at @old.country.calling on Instagram. ●



**Ellen Sandell**  
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE  
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM



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



# Metro Tunnel brings world-class art to the daily commute

The major public artworks that will feature at Melbourne’s five new underground train stations will create a world-class art trail when the Metro Tunnel opens in 2025.

The permanent works were revealed to the public for the first time earlier this month, marking another huge milestone for the city-shaping project. They range from an eight-metre-high etched glass landscape featuring Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung women at State Library Station to an abstract textured tile installation at Parkville Station.

The creators of the works are among

the nation’s foremost artists, chosen by an expert advisory panel including leading figures from Victoria’s creative industries. Each work has been created with its location and the people of Melbourne in mind. Arden Station’s *Come Together*, by Sydney-based multi-disciplinary artist Abdul Abdullah, features two large-scale aluminium hands reaching out to each other, set against graphic mosaic tiling that depicts historical imagery of the area. Internationally renowned artist Patricia Piccinini’s *Vernal Glade* at Parkville Station is a collage of vibrant hand-glazed ceramic tiles that acts as a gesture of care to the users of Melbourne’s leading healthcare and research precinct.

Contemporary artist Danie Mellor has used photographic images of Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung women in his work for the main entrance at State Library Station. His work acknowledges Victoria’s First Peoples and honours their social, familial, and cultural contributions to Melbourne. Further south at Anzac Station, Rafaat Ishak’s bright and colourful *Future Wall Painting* at the station’s Albert Rd entrance features abstract representations of iconic St Kilda Rd landmarks, such as 19th century tent cities and the Shrine of Remembrance. Finally, pre-eminent First Nations artist Maree Clarke has created a line-wide artwork called *Tracks* featuring a collection of oversized animal footprints, modelled on the tracks of Kulin Nation animals. The



footprints will be stamped across the platforms of the five new underground stations. Permanent artworks have also been installed at the Metro Tunnel’s two entrances at Kensington and South Yarra. Metro Tunnel project director Ben Ryan said the artworks would add a cultural dimension to the Metro Tunnel stations. ●

## RESIDENTS 3000

# The secret lives of worms

Does your building have worms? No, this is not some uncomfortable affliction, it is to do with “saving the planet”. It is all about recycling your building’s day-to-day leftover vegetable matter.

The Hero Apartments at the corner of Russell and Little Collins streets, have a thriving worm farm in their car park. In fact, I am told that it is the biggest worm farm in the CBD. If your building does not have one, then it should! Hero’s residents love the worm farm. They know that there is a huge saving in the total volume of waste from the building when they take their vegetable waste to the farm. Then they benefit from having a ready supply of liquid fertiliser for their indoor and outdoor plants as well a soil fertiliser which is harvested about three times a year. The worm farm needs to be large enough to cater for the number of residents in the building. In about 2016 the Hero building set up a trial worm farm with help from the City of Melbourne. In no time the farm became popular. So much so, that the farm was expanded with extra bins and taken over by the owners’ corporation. It is essential that the worm farm be professionally maintained. In Hero’s case, the farm is professionally attended to every

two weeks. Each bin is examined to see that the worms are healthy and not over fed. At Hero, the farm is so successful that excess food is often transferred to other local smaller farms to boost their supply. In between maintenance visits, the Hero building manager and keen residents keep the farm in good order. The routine maintenance schedule involves labelling the bin covers as either “Feed Me” or “Don’t Feed Me” ensuring that the worms are not over fed. To keep the food (nitrogen)/paper (carbon) balance optimal at about 50/50, shredded old *CBD News* (sorry Sean!) paper is added. The worms’ environment is then mildly moistened to keep the humidity just right. The feed layer needs to be kept light and fluffy so that there is plenty of air circulating, allowing the magic microbes enough space to do their job. Regular maintenance ensures that the area is kept neat and tidy, that reminder notices are maintained, the worm juice dispensing tank is filled, and any casings (worm soil) is set out in bins for residents to collect. Having a communal farm in the building is much better than residents trying to run individual smaller farms in their apartments. Even though worms are top feeders, they benefit from large and deep bins. It seems that the quality of the casing and worm juice is better with the specially designed bins.



### Secret lives

You can easily tell if the worm farm is healthy. When you raise the bin lid, you are greeted with a pleasant “out in the country” freshness smell, like a walk in a market garden. You should see lots and lots of worms. They immediately scurry away under their food or into the soil. Worms don’t like the daylight. Worms must have a healthy diet, just like us. All sorts of fruit and green vegetable scraps, tea bags, small cuttings from your balcony garden, coffee grounds and even eggshells are fine. Chopping these titbits into small pieces is best. The idea is to ensure that the food does not take too long to break down. But worms should not be fed any animal products, oils, detergents, acidic foods like citrus, onions or pineapple nor waxed or coated paper.

Worms do not like the hot weather. Temperatures greater than 30 degree C are a problem. Keeping worms in a cool underground car park helps. Otherwise, a frozen bottle of water needs to be put in each bin to keep a cool zone for the worms.

### Residents 3000 – next Forum 3000

Our next forum will be held at the Kelvin Club on Thursday, March 7 at 6pm. We welcome City of Melbourne CEO Alison Leighton. For more: residents3000.com.au.

Dr Sue Saunders  
VICE PRESIDENT



Quiz



1. *Groundhog Day* The Musical (pictured) has hit the stage at the Princess Theatre. Who is the famous Australian behind the play's music and lyrics?
2. Joanna Lumley plays which character in British comedy show *Absolutely Fabulous*?
3. Approximately how many tennis balls are used during Wimbledon?
4. In which year was Google invented?
5. Smelling something that is not actually there is called what?
6. What is the official summer sport of Canada?
7. Running through the heart of the CBD, which Melbourne tram route is considered the city's busiest?
8. Where will you find heritage-priced coffee (\$3.50) being served from a heritage Melbourne tram?
9. According to Drinking History Tours, what pub is considered Melbourne's oldest? A) The Mitre Tavern, B) Captain Melville or C) The Duke of Wellington.
10. Which number's letters are in alphabetical order when spelled out?
11. According to the Chinese Zodiac, 2024 is the year of the what?
12. The City of Melbourne have opened what new facility as part of the Queen Vic Market precinct?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Tim Minchin 2. Patsy Stone 3. 54,000 4. 1998 5. Phantomia 6. Lacrosse 7. Route 96 8. William Angliss Tram Cafe, 555 La Trobe St 9. C) The Duke of Wellington (1853) 10. Forty 11. Dragon 12. Narrm ngarrngu Library and Family Services

5x5

No. 034

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

G		P		D
	N		N	
V		S		A
	S		E	
N		A		S

SOLUTIONS

GAPED, INANE, VISTA, ESTER, NEARS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION  
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PAGEMASTERS.COM March, 2024

Sudoku

No. 033

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

6	9	2	8	5				1
4	8		3					
			6					8
		9	1			6		
2		3				5		4
		1			2	9		
3					8			
				3		4	5	
5				4	6	1	2	3

HARD

								5
			2	4	6			
1	4	5						
9	1		5	2				
7				9				6
				3	4		9	8
							6	8
				1	3	4		
	6							

SOLUTIONS

EASY

8	2	1	9	7	6	8	7	9
9	7	8	3	7	2	9	1	6
6	9	7	8	1	5	4	7	2
7	8	6	2	9	7	1	1	5
7	1	5	6	8	7	2	9	2
2	8	9	5	3	1	6	7	7
8	6	7	7	7	2	9	5	3
9	5	2	2	1	6	3	7	4
7	1	3	8	5	8	2	6	9

HARD

9	1	6	8	7	2	7	9	3
2	7	4	3	1	9	6	8	5
3	8	9	7	9	6	1	2	7
8	6	1	7	3	8	7	9	2
9	2	5	1	6	8	7	3	7
7	7	3	9	2	5	8	1	6
6	9	8	2	2	7	3	5	7
1	3	7	3	4	6	4	6	8
7	5	2	6	1	8	1	3	7

Wordfind

Theme: South America

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

AMAZON	GUYANA
ANACONDA	MACAW
ANDES	MACHU PICCHU
ARGENTINA	PATAGONIA
BRAZIL	PIRANHA
CAPYBARA	RIO
COLOMBIA	SURINAME
GALAPAGOS	VENEZUELA

Secret message: Very diverse place

Crossword

No. 033

ACROSS

- 1 Highways (5)
- 4 Best features (9)
- 9 Paintings of people (9)
- 10 Gap (5)
- 11 Prefix meaning new (3)
- 12 Bigotry (11)
- 13 Female stage performer (7)
- 15 It causes a bad reaction (7)
- 17 Acrobat (7)
- 20 Journeys (7)
- 23 Focus (11)
- 25 Enemy (3)
- 26 Former US president (5)
- 27 Provided safe-haven (9)
- 28 Levels (of quality) (9)
- 29 Short literary composition (5)

DOWN

- 1 Contrite (9)
- 2 Transport hub (7)
- 3 Endure (7)
- 4 Type of garment (5)
- 5 Subsequent (9)
- 6 Nose hole (7)
- 7 Coach (7)
- 8 Part of a play (5)
- 14 Injured player carrier (9)
- 16 Preceding day (9)
- 18 US state (7)

- 19 On the sheltered side (7)
- 21 Great (7)
- 22 Attempts (7)
- 23 Cuts (wood) (5)
- 24 Land measures (5)

SOLUTION

A	V	S	S	E	S	O	H	V	D	N	V	I	S
D	E	R	N	O	B	E	H	V	W	V	B	O	
H	O	S	O	C	O	M	I	L	H				
F	O	E	A	T	E	N	E	C	N	O	G		
I	S	F	W	E	E	O							
E	S	T	E	S	A	V	E	L	I				
A	D	D	E	L	L								
E													
C	O	N	V	E	R	E	O	L	I	O	E	N	
N	I	L	I	U	N	I							
C	H	P	S	S	I	V	I	R	I	O	P		
C	R	O	E	X	I	N	I						
S	H	I	L	I	N	E	S	S	I	D	I	O	

Codeword

No. 033

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

SOLUTIONS

S	G	I	J	T	O	V	K	X	M	X	C	M	Z
35	37	12	33	22	15	32	31	38	36	21	34	30	24
U	B	U	P	F	H	I	A	N	E	Y	L	W	O
13	35	11	35	9	8	9	8	14	19	10	8	3	26

9-Letter

No. 033

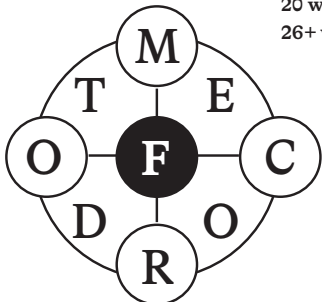
Today's Focus:

14 words: Good

20 words: Very good

26+ 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

Reference:  
Collins Concise  
English Dictionary

comfort, COMFORTED, corf, crot, deform, def, doof, doofer, food, foot, footed, foeter, force, ford, fordo, fore, forme, formed, fort, forte, fret, frie, from, ref, roof, roofed

# 警方敦促商家“成为解决问题的一部分”解决中央商务区问题地点

维多利亚警察希望与伊丽莎白街南端的企业密切合作，清理一个“长期存在”的问题地点。

David Schout

维多利亚警察敦促伊丽莎白街南端的企业“成为解决问题的一部分”，帮助解决这个“问题地点”。

2月28日，警察计划与附近企业主、墨尔本市政府、维多利亚救护车和救世军一起主持一个座谈会，以交流对该问题区域的持续行动和未来希望。

这次会议是在1月25日由市政府和其他主要利益相关方主持的一个圆桌会议之后，该会议也寻求在弗林德斯大街和弗林德斯巷之间的区域解决不断增长的问题。

在警方看来，这个显眼的位置，作为通往中央商务区的入口，仍然是一个存在安全问题和非法乞讨的地方。

墨尔本东部地区指挥官戴尔·亨廷顿检查员表示，警方希望与当地企业密切合作，他们认为这对帮助清理该地区至关重要。

“我们正在寻找商家，并使他们了解我们一直在做什么，”他告诉CBD新闻。

“有些人这样做了，但很多人没有，因为他们在忙于自己的生活 and 事业，努力维持生计...人们在企业 and 工作中花费很多时间，我们希望确保该环境对他们而言是最好的。”

“而且，他们可以成为解决问题的一部分。我们希望给他们一个真正了解我们正在做什么的机会，因为这不是一个简单的解决方案。

[人们说]‘把他们赶出我的区域’并不容易。”

亨廷顿检查员理解一些企业主，特别是那些在该地区经营了多年的人，可能已经对事物有所改变失去了希望。

但是，他想告诉商家，改善是可能的，从更好的沟通开始，并敦促企业报告问题。“我们说你希望我们打电话，我们希望成为解决问题的一部分，帮助我们解决这个问题。

当人们在你的企业前面摆放他们的硬纸板时...如果你在和一个没有人在前面乞讨的人竞争，你会失去顾客。我们希望你报告这些人。”

警方还试图指导企业不应该做的事情（例如赠送食物），这可能会加剧问题。



# 泰勒·斯威夫特的粉丝的疯狂梦想成为现实

由联邦广场与墨尔本大学（UoM）合作举办，热情洋溢的泰勒·斯威夫特粉丝于2月11日齐聚一堂，参加了一场小组讨论，探讨了这位音乐家对女权主义和音乐行业产生的非凡影响。

Georgie Atkins

作为UoM在2月11日至13日举行的更广泛的Swiftposium大会的一部分，虽然大多数学术会议“往往不会走红”，但这个活动引起了国际关注，组织者决定为兴奋的Swiftie主办公共活动，庆祝她即将抵达墨尔本进行“时代之旅”。

詹妮弗·贝克特是Swiftposium背后的“



策划者”之一，她表示：“我们认为向粉丝开放空间非常重要。”

“大学的任务不仅是创造知识，还要与所有人分享，这意味着以这样一种使人们轻松参与的方式展示知识 – 而且谁不想谈论泰勒·斯威夫特呢？”

小组讨论的主持人是自称为Swiftie的乔治·塔尼，她是“The Project”节目的主持人，也是自己的泰勒·斯威夫特播客“Ready For It”的主持人。

与她一同登台的是墨尔本音乐学院的屡获殊荣的作曲家和讲师凯特·尼尔、艺术家经理和音乐节协调员马哈拉·邦德，以及RMIT的博士生凯特·帕蒂森。

讨论涵盖了各种主题；从剖析她的粉丝参与策略的复杂性，到思考斯威夫特女士在泰勒版本时代留给新兴艺术家的遗产。

贝克特女士告诉CBD News：“我认为重要的不仅是听取学术界的意见，而且要有各种不同经验和观点的人对类似问题进行交叉的深入讨论。”

在为期三天的Swiftposium大会中，来自澳大利亚和新西兰六所大学的学者参加了这次会议。



# 创纪录的人群涌向墨尔本的农历新年庆典

龙年以创纪录的人群涌向墨尔本唐人街庆祝农历新年节日拉开帷幕，日期为2月11日，星期日。

Jack Hayes

作为中国生肖中最为吉祥的一年，龙年象征着好运、繁荣和幸福。

根据墨尔本市政府的数据，近20万名参与者参加了今年的庆祝活动，包括千禧年龙游行、在206号伯克街的活动以及全天的现场表演。

墨尔本市认可的区域团体，墨尔本唐人街商业协会（MCBA）的主席克里斯蒂娜·赵告诉CBD News，龙年不仅吸引了庆祝活动当天创纪录的人群，而且在庆祝活动的一周内，“许多餐厅门口排起了长队”，所有人都希望“迎接一个繁荣的新年”。

赵女士说：“龙年伊始，便掀起了一场热潮。”“看到这么多人走在唐人街的街头，很多人都在千禧年龙的旁边行走，希望能够触摸它并得到好运。”



“我们已经看到景区的参观人数在增加，我们希望在这个欢庆之年持续增长。”

“作为中国生肖中唯一的神话生物，其他都是不同的动物，龙成为了我们文化中最重要象征之一，代表着好运、繁荣、幸福和力量。”

赵女士与她在MCBA的团队一起，继续庆祝农历新年，这个传统上持续两周的节日，还有五天的在唐人街消费的礼品赠送活动。

总奖金达到1万美元。其中包括在千禧年龙饺子店享用的两人饺子盛宴；在中茶居享用的传统茶点套餐；在满洲里酒吧品尝的两人鸡尾酒；在金莲花水疗中心享用的情侣放松套餐；在美容面庄享受的两人美甲和足疗；以及在竹林按摩中心享受的两人按摩。

# 酒类商店在州的容器押金计划下面临巨大需求

一家充当唯一CBD站点的酒类商店，在州的容器押金计划（CDS）下，用于退还瓶罐，正难以满足需求。

Marilyn Tan

位于皇后街的Cellarbrations是一家注册的店面，可为每个空瓶（铝制、玻璃、塑料和纸盒）退还10分钱。

它是CDS的一部分，该计划是州政府去年11月推出的，旨在改革维多利亚州的废物和回收系统。

然而，这家小型的Cellarbrations商店面临着客户退款激增的困境，其存储集合物品的能力已经达到了极限。

当CBD News在2月中旬访问了这家商店时，商店后面堆积着多袋的塑料容器。

Cellarbrations的工作人员Hendra表示，他们的收集箱有时在“一两个小时”内就会填满，之后商店必须为这些物品找到替代的存储地点。

据Hendra说，这是因为商店不想拒绝



客户，而收集卡车只在周二和周五进行收集。

这个由Visy运营的集合点服务整个CBD，根据最近的2021年人口普查，CBD有超过43,000人口。

居民需要前往南墨尔本Thistlewaite St的仓库，才能找到离他们最近的收集点，或者在Lygon St的卡尔顿超市的柜台。

退款点包括逆向售货机、店内服务和仓库。

在被问及是否有计划在城市开设更多收集点时，Visy的CDS总经理蒂姆·奥唐奈表示：“我们始终在寻找添加更多退款点，使该计划更加便利和易用。”

“如果您是一家本地企业或社区团体，并希望注册为退款点，请与我们联系。”

WHAT'S ON  
March

Autum is just about here, and so is a jam-packed line-up of events throughout Melbourne's CBD. All events can also be found online at [cbdnews.com.au](http://cbdnews.com.au)

**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](http://antipodesfestival.com.au)

**SAMPA THE GREAT AT FED SQUARE**  
Fed Square will host a free, all-ages live music event headlined by Sampa the Great, as part of Summer at the Square's live music Saturdays program.  
**Fed Square, Melbourne**  
[fedsquare.com/events/summer-at-the-square](http://fedsquare.com/events/summer-at-the-square)

**#STANDWITHUKRAINE AT FED SQUARE**  
On February 24, a rally will be held at 3pm at Federation Square to commemorate the second anniversary of the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine.  
**Fed Square, Melbourne**  
[auv.org.au/venue/federation-square](http://auv.org.au/venue/federation-square)

**MOOMBA PARADE, FESTIVAL CARNIVAL AND FIREWORKS**  
Moomba returns from 7–11 March 2024 with a huge, extra-long weekend of family-friendly fun. Entry is entirely free!  
**Kings Domain and Birrarung Marr**  
[whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

**SUMMER NIGHT MARKET**  
Gather your friends and family as the Market's iconic sheds burst to life with delicious street food, shopping, refreshing cocktails and mocktails. Plus enjoy the sounds of live music and roving entertainment while soaking up the summer atmosphere.  
**Queen Victoria Market**

**Belongings**  
Objects and Family Life  
FREE EXHIBITION AT OLD TREASURY BUILDING  
[OTB.ORG.AU/BELONGINGS](http://OTB.ORG.AU/BELONGINGS)  
20 Spring Street, Melbourne  
OPEN 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

MARCH 7 - 11

WEDNESDAYS, UNTIL MARCH 13, 5PM - 10PM

SUNDAYS - FRIDAYS, 10AM - 4PM

WEDNESDAYS, 12PM - 3PM

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**Kim Davey 0418 924 324**  
**Suzie Inglis 0416 671 572**  
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**CBD - 5 MINUTES  
TO YOUR DOOR**  
たくさんの美しい女性  
日本語を話します

**D**  
**MELBOURNE**  
BOUTIQUE  
PROPERTY



**1109/118 Russell St**  
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**702/260 Lt Collins St**  
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**1003/133 Russell St**  
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**1903/368 St Kilda Rd**  
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To discuss your investment in confidence, please reach out to our team using the contact numbers provided below.

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