



First apartment unveiled at Make Room

Cohealth CEO Nicole Bartholomeusz, Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Unison Housing CEO James Unison revealed the first studio apartment on May 20 as part of the City of Melbourne's soon-to-be-completed Make Room project, which is providing accommodation for 50 rough sleepers. More on page 8. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

## Fight to save lives continues as community reacts with mixed emotions to injection room scrap

“

Community members have expressed disappointment over the state government's decision to reject a supervised drug injection room in the CBD while others, including traders, say it has been met with relief.

The proposal, which would have provided a safe and monitored drug injecting centre, was scrapped by the government after conceding it was “unable to identify a suitable site that balances the needs of people who use drugs with the needs of the broader CBD community”.

Instead, the government plans to establish a community health centre at 244 Flinders St, connecting GPs, counsellors, allied health, and addiction medicine specialists, as well as expanded drug treatment.

While the Victoria Police Association and traders who spoke to *CBD News* welcomed the decision, supporters of such a facility, including the Keep Our City Alive (KOCA) group, said the “announcement does not go far enough and represents a band-aid solution to a broader issue”.

But Pellegrini's Espresso Bar owner David Malaspina said while he was not against an injection room, the proposed Bourke St site would have been inappropriate.

“Common sense has prevailed, and a better location should be sought,” he told *CBD News*. “The community talks to us, and we pass that on ... that the community doesn't want it. We don't understand why it would be considered at our beautiful top end of the city.”

”



WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES

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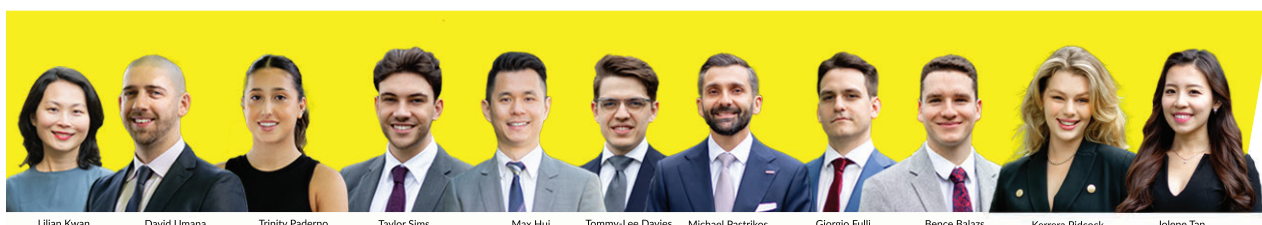
### Council revises its "riding lane" rollout



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## Collins Street Studios unveiled in the CBD

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**CONTACT**  
Suite 208, 198 Harbour Esplanade  
Docklands 3008  
cbdnews.com.au  
Tel: 8689 7980

**EDITOR**  
Sean Car

**PUBLISHER**  
Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd  
ABN: 57 623 558 725

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admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au

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# An oasis on the edge of the city



Step away from the hustle and bustle of the Hoddle Grid, just a short walk from Spring St to Fitzroy Gardens, and you'll find The Conservatory; a horticultural paradise with floral displays all year round.



**WORDS BY**  
JACK HAYES



When you step inside The Conservatory, you are met with a kaleidoscope of colours, a surplus of scents, and even a sub-tropical change of humidity and heat as you weave and duck through the paths and hanging display of plants on show.

Built in the classic Spanish mission style, the building opened in March 1930 and has since become an integral part of the City of Melbourne's commitment to excellence in horticulture.

The Conservatory's enchanting floral display rotates five times a year. Currently, tropical plants and poinsettias take the stage until July, cinerarias and cyclamens from July to September, schizanthus and calceolaria from September to November, hydrangeas and fuchsias bloom from November to February, and begonias and gloxinias from February to April.

While it may be hard to argue a 30-metre-by-15-metre glasshouse with such horticultural wonder can be considered "hidden",



especially as it is one of the City's most visited tourist sites. However, it's easy to meander through Fitzroy Gardens and past The Conservatory without peering inside, but to do so would be a desperately lost opportunity to venture into a gardener's oasis like few others in the country.

The Conservatory is open every day from 9am to 5pm (5.30pm daylight saving), excluding a handful of dates blocked out to remove and install the new display. ●



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## Council budget delivers surplus; funding to be “rephased” on major projects

The City of Melbourne has announced a draft budget of \$781 million, delivering a “modest surplus” of \$101,000 after “difficult decisions” were made to “rephase funding” on major projects.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



The surplus is the first time the council has returned to the black in five years, with surpluses forecasted to continue to 2028.

In handing down her final budget, outgoing Lord Mayor Sally Capp said a surplus was made possible after \$42 million was made in spending cuts – most of which involved slashing operational costs, rephasing projects, investing in new technology, and improving efficiency across the organisation, along with reducing spending on consultants.

“To achieve surplus in the draft budget for next year, the difficult decisions have really been focused around cutting spending,” she said. “Deficit budgets are unsustainable. The great thing about returning to surplus budgets is that it gives future councils to continue to invest in what counts here in Melbourne.”

However, Cr Capp maintained that spending cuts would not impact major projects including Greenline and the Queen Victoria Market renewal, but funding would instead be “rephased”.

The \$316m Greenline trail will deliver four kilometres of promenades, parks and open spaces between Birrarung Marr and the Bolte Bridge.

“The rephasing of the budget for Greenline doesn’t impact in any way the timing or



▼ Cr Nick Reece, Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Cr Phil Le Liu announce the draft budget on May 14. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

finalising of Greenline and construction is under way,” she said. These works include building the Seafarers Park in Docklands, and Birrarung Marr precinct, all on the north bank of the Yarra River.

The budget has allocated \$10m to Greenline in the next financial year, with a further \$12.5m in grant funding. This would be followed by \$12m and \$2m in grants in 2026, \$8m in 2027, and \$10m in 2028.

Funding of \$20 million from the Australian Government has been allocated across the delivery of the Greenline Project Masterplan and the site one works at Birrarung Marr.

“We have every confidence that Greenline will be delivered. The business case presents a compelling case for why Greenline is important city-shaping project for

Melbourne,” Cr Capp said.

Speaking about rephasing projects, she added, “These are difficult decisions, and it does show prudent financial management to make those difficult decisions to rephase funding on major projects.”

The budget, announced on May 14, will see rates increase under the state government’s maximum 2.75 per cent rate cap in the next financial year after being paused during the pandemic. Rates for property owners will increase by an average of \$37.

Parking fees are also set to go up by 10 per cent to \$54 million with more paid parking to be delivered outside of the CBD, while parking fines are forecasted to increase by 2.4 per cent to \$40 million.

Waste charges for residents will be reduced by \$15 up to \$53 due to the munic-

pality’s growing number of users.

For businesses, more than half of the council’s fees and charges will rise by less than five per cent. But \$1.6m will be invested to expand the council’s business concierge program, which is expected to create 640 new jobs and inject \$70m into the economy.

Business precinct associations will also get \$1.2m, alongside small business grants of \$500,000 and \$150,000 Aboriginal small business grants programs.

Construction of the Make Room Project will be completed in August, which is repurposing a council-owned building at 602 Little Bourke St to address people experiencing homelessness by providing 50 studio apartments.

Overall, the budget will see \$224.7 spent on infrastructure, \$64.1 on cleaning and safety, and \$49.8 million on open spaces and greening.

\$13 million will also be spent on upgrading roads and footpaths.

Revenue from general fines including drinking alcohol in banned public areas, and dumping rubbish, is projected to jump from \$2.3m to \$3.7m.

The council’s finance, governance and risk portfolio lead Cr Philip Le Liu said returning to surplus was an important step.

“We’ve cleared an underlying deficit of \$25.6 million by lowering operational costs, re-phasing projects, improving efficiency and doing more work in-house,” he said.

Public feedback on the draft budget will be open online until June 3 via Participate Melbourne. ●

**Brendan Rees**

JOURNALIST

BRENDAN@  
HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



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**FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL RETURNS**

**WITH WORLD-FIRST UNDERGROUND LIGHT SHOW**

A never-before-seen labyrinth of light and sound will dazzle Docklands this winter as an extension of the much-loved Firelight Festival.

Firelight Labyrinth will transform the underground space at Marvel Stadium into a spectacular maze designed by international creative lighting specialists, Mandylights.

"Firelight Labyrinth is the largest 3D video installation ever built in Australia," said Mandylights CEO Richard Neville. "The maze is essentially a giant three-dimensional video screen that people can walk inside."

"The term 'immersive experience' gets bandied around a lot these days, but by putting people in the middle of this video maze - well, you can't really get any more surrounded and immersed than that!"

Richard said many of the Mandylights design team began their careers in local high schools and amateur theatres. From these small-scale beginnings to vast global projects, their passion runs deep.

"Even though we're working with more lights and more pressure these days, my team and I feel lucky to be paid to play with lights. It's great fun."

The designers spent two months exploring unused spaces around the City of Melbourne before deciding on Marvel Stadium's underground car park.

"For concerts and theatrical productions, lighting is a supporting element," Richard said. "With Firelight Labyrinth, there is no artist or set to light - the lights are the whole show."

"We've had a blank canvas and an open creative brief. So, we can plunge everybody into darkness and present something amazing."

"In this day and age - when audiences have seen and done everything - it's rare to be able to offer a completely new, never-before-seen experience."

"It's always great to present work in Melbourne because people here don't need to wait until they see photographs on Instagram - they naturally want to go and explore unique experiences."

City of Melbourne's free Firelight Festival will once again illuminate New Quay Promenade, Victoria Promenade and Harbour Esplanade in Docklands, offering a diverse range of tasty eats and entertainment.

There'll be fire performers, African drumming, live music and storytelling, plus fire pits and drums, flame jets, fire sculptures and arches.

Warming food and drink will also be on offer, including dumplings, smoked meats, paella, churros and hot chocolate.

A team of fire drummers will be among the performers who'll create a buzzing atmosphere.



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The free Firelight Festival will take place on the first weekend of the school holidays, from Friday 28 June to Sunday 30 June.

The ticketed Firelight Labyrinth experience will continue until Sunday 14 July.

Visit [firelight.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://firelight.melbourne.vic.gov.au) for more information.



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## “Evocative lozenge”: Collins St heritage icons preserved under new tower plan

The City of Melbourne has given its enthusiastic support of a \$276 million development above the heritage-listed Winfield and Rialto buildings on Collins St, in a project the Victorian Government Architect quizzically described as an “evocative lozenge”.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



The plans by developer Salter Brothers and Cox Architects would see the 1980s building that currently sits behind the Winfield building at 495 Collins St demolished to make way for a new 32-storey tower.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece lauded the project as being a “truly mixed-use development”, which includes a luxury hotel with 273 suites, retail, around 21,000sqm of office space and a new multi-storey “micro museum”.

But it was the application’s preservation and adaptation of the existing heritage-listed Winfield and Rialto buildings that pleased councillors the most at their April 23 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting.

Under the plans, the Winfield building would comprise a new club celebrating “knowledge and diversity” complete with conference and meeting rooms, while the Rialto building would be retained and used for hotel, club accommodation and retail.

The proposal sees the new tower integrated with the heritage buildings via a new footbridge and at ground level via a “newly refined atrium” and through link between Collins St and Flinders Lane, which will open to pedestrians between 7am and 7pm, seven days a week.

The developer has also proposed activating the horseshoe shaped internal access way at “Winfield

Square” at the base of the Rialto building fronted by retail spaces – a move also commended by Cr Reece.

“I’m also really excited to see the enhancement and return of the horseshoe laneway as well – I think that’ll be a real feature of this building and knowing Melburnians, I think you’ll have crowds of people coming along to see [it]” Cr Reece said.

Councillors gave their unanimous support of the project subject to a number of conditions imposed by the council’s planning team, which included addressing additional overshadowing of the Yarra River and Enterprize Park.

The council’s deputy chair of planning Cr Rohan Leppert said the applicant’s emphasis on conserving and adapting what were “some of Victoria’s most important heritage buildings” had to be commended.

“It’s a very high-quality application and with these conditions, hopefully the Minister [for Planning] will approve a permit because this has the capacity to be really spectacular,” Cr Leppert said.

The proposal also received approval from Heritage Victoria on the same day councillors considered it, while a representative from Cox Architects said they were pleased by feedback received from the Victorian Government Architect: “A new, exciting evocative lozenge that would perch amongst the other buildings in Collins St”.

In response, Cr Reece said, “we might have a new phrase here in Melbourne”.

“I’m not exactly sure what’s meant by the Office of the Victorian Government Architect when they talk about an ‘evocative lozenge’, but maybe it will become apparent to us when the project is complete,” Cr Reece said. ●

Sean Car

EDITOR

SEAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



## A safe place for gig workers launches in the CBD

A “Gig Workers’ Hub” where riders, drivers and cleaners can come together and have free access to food and drinks, has opened in the CBD.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



Based at the Melbourne Multicultural Hub on Elizabeth St, the initiative is an Australian-first, providing a safe space where gig workers can find respite.

Delivery and rideshare platforms have reshaped life in Melbourne, but until recently there have been no spaces designed for gig workers themselves.

Founded by a group of volunteers, the hub is supported by migrant and refugee agency AMES Australia and the City of Melbourne.

Andrew Copolov, a former delivery driver and now an Architecture PhD student, was the driving force behind the hub, which also

supplies relevant information on visas and work rights, as well as phone chargers, and other amenities.

“Gig workers are largely unseen and unappreciated. You are barely conscious that there is a human being performing the role,” he said.

“And there is widespread abuse and underpayment. Ninety per cent of these delivery drivers are migrants and this migrant community faces a variety of challenges.”

Mr Copolov said the hub, which was previously based at temporary Testing Grounds at Queen Victoria Market, helped new migrants by providing a safe space.

“It’s effectively a first port of call for people who may have been here just a matter of weeks,” he said.

“There are immediately useful things like free drinks and snacks. But we also have gear – water bottles and lights,” Mr Copolov said.

“Gig workers deserve dignity, and they deserve respect and it’s on all of us to help them achieve that.”

“To the gig workers, I would say here’s a



space that is yours. Come here and enjoy it and meet other people.”

Satyam Jayani, who worked for almost a year as a delivery driver in 2022 and 2023, said the work could be exhausting and dangerous with his scooter being stolen at one point.

He now volunteers at the hub, which he

said was a place where people could come together to meet one another and feel supported.

“When I was working as a delivery rider, the pay was okay, but now it’s much less. It’s also hard working in bad weather,” he said.

“The hub will be really useful for lots of people. It will be somewhere people can rest in safety and with some comfort and amenity,” Satyam said.

Multicultural Hub manager Maria Tsopanis said AMES was delighted to be able to support gig workers.

“These workers, who include delivery and ride share drivers as well as cleaners, are doing difficult and often dangerous work serving the people of Melbourne, so it’s nice to be able to make them feel welcome and valued,” Ms Tsopanis said.

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the gig economy was worth \$6.3 billion to the city.

“We want our gig workers to feel valued and supported,” she said.

The Gig Worker Hub is open Wednesday to Sunday between 4pm and 9pm. ●

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## Second term for Invest Melbourne

The City of Melbourne has unanimously backed a second term for the Invest Melbourne Advisory Board following an overwhelmingly successful first year in operation.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



Councillors voted in support of the move at their April 30 council meeting, with former vice president strategy and culture at the University of Melbourne Dr Julie Wells appointed as chair of the board's second term, following the resignation of inaugural chair – River Capital CEO Amanda Coombs.

Focused on three key sectors of renewable energy, life sciences and technology, the council's city activation portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell said the advisory board had "really paid dividends for Melbourne" during its first year.

According to the council report, Invest Melbourne has helped to secure seven investment projects for the city, creating 724 jobs and \$345 million in capital expenditure.

This also includes one Australian headquarters and managing a growing pipeline of a further 60 projects that have the potential to deliver up to 4950 jobs, \$1.5 billion in capital expenditure, and 10 headquarters and research and development centres.

"There are so many people who give so much to their city, including their most valuable resource, their time, and that is certainly the case for the members of our Invest Melbourne board industry leaders who have given up their time," Cr Campbell said.

"The board has delivered so much to date and I'm really excited to see what comes in the second term."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said, "It [Invest Melbourne] is demonstrating results that have benefits right across our city. We should remain ambitious, we should remain diligent and we should remain committed to investments like these that have an exponential benefit in our economy."

Invest Melbourne was established as the trade and investment attraction and facilitation arm of the council as part of its 2021-2025 council plan, stemming as action from its Economic Development Strategy 2031.

Outgoing board chair Amanda Coombs is joined by executive chairman of Kay & Burton Scott Tanner and founder and managing director of Commercial Eyes Andrew Carter in not renewing for a second term as part of the nine-person executive.

The report to council on April 30 proposed filling the three vacant board positions with candidates who have life science, business start-ups/venture capital and retail subject matter expertise. ●

## Fight to save lives continues as community reacts with mixed emotions to injection room scrap

Continued from page 1.

Mr Malaspina made it clear that "we're not for or against an injection room – we were against the proposed location," noting disappointingly there was no consultation.

"[The location] affects traders, that affects residents, that affects anyone who comes to the city."

Asked if he supported a new community health centre, Mr Malaspina said he hoped it "would be available for everyone that needs help".

Waffle On owner Marc Laucher, whose shop is on Degraives St, said he was also relieved with the news but hoped there were other ways to help drug users.

"We are not against an injection room – we have to do something for those people because they're lost," he said.

Mr Laucher said Flinders St was not an appropriate location because it was the one of the busiest areas for tourists and visitors.

According to a Coroners Court of Victoria report, the number of heroin-involved deaths within Melbourne rose from nine in 2021 to 24 in 2022 – the highest annual rate of deaths involving the drug in the past 10 years, with the previous highest being 16 in 2014.

A rise in the death rate was not confined to Melbourne, with a state-wide 33 per cent increase in heroin-involved overdoses (from 173 to 230).

Professor Suzanne Nielsen, opioid expert and deputy director of Monash Addiction Research Centre, said there was an urgent need to upscale a range of effective harm reduction interventions, including supervised injecting facilities.

"This is especially so with the threat of high-potency opioids such as nitazenes being detected in Australia," she said.

"It is a false dichotomy to say we are choosing between a supervised injecting room and treatment – we urgently need more of both."

City of Melbourne councillor Dr Olivia Ball, a former psychologist as well as a health and wellbeing spokesperson for the council, said evidence was clear that a safe injecting room was needed, "especially in the face of synthetic opioids already circulating in Australia that are far, far more dangerous than heroin".

"Melbourne City Council has repeatedly called on the state government to open overdose prevention services (aka supervised injecting) in the City of Melbourne," she said.

"Our municipality now has the highest death rate from opioid overdose of any in the country. Someone dies in the City of Melbourne every other week, on average. And surviving an unmanaged overdose puts one at risk of brain injury – the costs to the individual and society are enormous."

Cr Dr Ball successfully moved a motion at



▲ Waffle On owner Marc Laucher with his wife Atchara Phiwluang. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

a council meeting last November calling on the state government to improve access to naloxone, an overdose reversal medicine – which the government announced in April it would trial at 20 vending machines alongside needle exchange programs.

Dr Stan Capp, president of residents group EastEnders, said he stood by comments he made in 2021, that "there is no doubt that harm to users is minimised with a supervised injection service".

"Ironically, the fears of some residents and traders will not be eliminated simply because there is no injection service as drug users remain on the streets in unsafe injecting environments. At least an injection room would have created a safer space," he said.

Residents 3000 president Raf Camillo welcomed the state government's decision to reject an injection room but at the same time was concerned a new health centre "could become a Trojan horse" on Flinders St.

"The money should be spent in partnership with council and state on mental health facilities and rehabilitation beds in hospitals as the waiting list is more than four months," he said.

"There should be a partnership with council, state and hospitals instead of money going directly to not-for-profit organisations as they are not accountable, and we should be focussing on people in disarray waiting for rehabilitation."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council welcomed the government's "state-wide

response to a state-wide problem".

"The announcement of a dedicated, comprehensive approach to long-term health and social support will make a positive difference to more people's lives," she said.

"Speculation about a second injecting room has created uncertainty for city traders, residents and workers. We now have a resolution to the Ken Lay report and can move forward with improving health and amenity in the city."

Victorian Chamber of Commerce chief executive Paul Guerra said the state government's decision delivered a "pragmatic and respectful outcome".

"As a compassionate and inclusive business community, we want to see our vulnerable taken care of, which will have a positive impact also on ambience and the perception of safety in our city," he said.

"No business wants an injecting room on their doorstep, but I think everyone agrees that something needs to be done to address drug use in the CBD."

The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association CEO Chris Christoforou welcomed the announcement of state-wide action plan which was "bittersweet, given the innovations to save lives are offset by the decision to not proceed with a CBD MSIR (medically supervised injecting room)."

But he commended the government on trialing hydromorphone, "with these types of initiatives including the increased access to naloxone playing a protective role in the event of a rise in fentanyl and other potent synthetic opioids". ●





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# “This is not binary”: City of Melbourne revises bike lane rollout

“

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp has called out “binary” debates surrounding transport in the city, declaring “everyone is welcome” to Melbourne, as the council called time on its accelerated bike lane rollout last month.

”

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Cr Capp made the comments at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on April 23 where a majority of councillors endorsed an updated Cycling and Micromobility Infrastructure Program.

Following the adoption of its 2030 Transport Strategy in 2020, the council set an ambitious target of constructing 44 kilometres of new bike lanes by June 2024 – a goal that has fallen short by more than 23 kilometres.

The report on April 23 noted that as at March 2024, 27.4 kilometres had been installed across the city, 18.7 kilometres of which the council said had been delivered under its accelerated program.

The remainder of new separated bike lanes have been provided through other council programs, including Turner and Graham streets in Fishermans Bend (2.1km), and a further 6.6km was installed along St Kilda Rd by the state government.

Councillors voted in support of “the cessation of the ‘accelerated program’” after the Department of Transport and Planning informed the council that it would no longer consider low-cost trial construction materials, opting instead for permanent solutions.

It also follows the state government’s April 4 announcement that the current e-scooter trial would be made permanent, and the council said this only reinforced the need for more physically separated lanes “to facilitate the safe movement of micromobility modes in addition to cycling”.

The report provided a rephased timeline on all current bike lane projects until 2026/27, with Grattan St, Arden St, Royal Parade, Abbotsford St, and Exhibition St (between Lonsdale and La Trobe streets) all next in the queue.

While speaking in support of the motion, Cr Rohan Leppert said it was a “bitter disappointment” that long-awaited bike lanes



▲ (Top) a map highlighting the council’s revised rollout, and (right) two different modes use a local “riding lane”.

(or “riding lanes” which is now the preferred term to capture all modes of mobility) on Flinders St had been delayed.

“I am exceptionally disappointed that we’re not progressing with Flinders St at this time,” Cr Leppert said, adding that “we really do need a bit more cooperation and love from the state government on this stuff.”

Following the “pause” to the bike lane rollout in the Hoddle Grid in 2022, the council committed to bring forward other routes outside the CBD, however Cr Leppert said many were still awaiting the state government “to do their bit”.

“We’re actually going to need a bit more cooperation and speed from the state in order to do our bits, and the state needs to do their bits. This is an ongoing problem,” Cr Leppert said.

Evaluation of separated mobility lanes showed a reduction in the crash rate by 46 per cent, a 22 per cent increase in usage and an increase in the number of women riders from 24 per cent to 36 per cent, while 30 per cent of e-scooter trips reported as replacing a car trip and 84 per cent of e-scooter trips utilised mobility lanes.

Despite the positive results, long outspoken critic of the program Cr Roshena Campbell was alone in voting against the plan, arguing that the city’s traders was a critical voice that was being ignored in the debate.

“I speak to traders who tell me that bike lanes have made it harder for their customers to get in and for them to do business; I’ve spoken to those customers who tell me that when they’re serious about shopping in the city ... they are coming in by car,” Cr Campbell said.

“If we make these bike lanes permanent, if we commit to rolling out more, we are ignoring a critical voice in this debate.”

The Lord Mayor responded by slamming “binary” discussions as unhelpful.

“Cr Campbell spoke of a message being received where some people feel that usually, if they’re coming from afar, that cars aren’t welcome. The message is, everyone’s welcome,” Cr Capp said.

“Let’s be clear: drivers of cars and vehicles still have the majority of space in our transport network. I’ll say it again: people who drive cars are welcome to our city; they have the majority of space available to them.”

“What the evidence and data shows us is that when we build riding lanes, people use them.”

“As leaders of the city, we have a responsibility to reflect the reality and that is a transport system that is able to welcome all modes of transport. This is about people.” ●

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## \$24m upgrade set for underground power assets, including the CBD's largest tunnel

One of the largest underground tunnels with cables powering large parts of the CBD is being upgraded to keep up with the city's growing population.

The 80-metre 1930s-built tunnel under Little Queen St will be part of a \$24 million upgrade to the CBD's underground power assets, securing the structure for the next century.

It will pave the way for the first phase of a major power upgrade to the underground power network by electricity distributor CitiPower to accommodate the city's growing population as greater electrification and increasing electric vehicle take-up fuel power demand.

It will see a larger three-year revamp of a nearby zone substation to support both planned new developments in the city and greater electrification of existing customers across the CBD.

CitiPower's head of network planning Andrew Dinning said demand was expected to rise by at least 60 per cent over the coming decade from its current peak of 470MW from recent years to over 700MW.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the city had a residential population of 12,000 at the time of the 2001 census, compared to more than 40,000 in the 2021 census.

"Melbourne is growing and we are continuing to develop the infrastructure that is essential for powering our city into the future," Mr Dinning said.

"This major upgrade will allow us to maintain the reliable, flexible and secure power supply that is critical to our city's economy, future growth and clean energy transition."

CitiPower's major projects manager Mal Harrison said works to the tunnel was expected to be completed in June, adding underground crews had a rare view of the CBD.

"We've found some amazing things on the job, from old tram pulleys, to forgotten railways, old horseshoes – it's incredible," he said.

"There are parts of Melbourne's underground that nobody knows exist, and we get to work in them every day, so it's not a bad office." ●

# "Make Room" homelessness housing project nears completion

A new \$24.9 million project transforming a City of Melbourne-owned building into a specialist homelessness accommodation in the CBD is close to opening its doors.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



The building at 602 Little Bourke St will provide 50 studio apartments, allowing short-term accommodation for people, for up to 12 months, with wraparound supports onsite.

Unison Housing is delivering The Make Room project, which, alongside the council, unveiled the first completed studio on May 20, fitted with a bedroom, kitchenette and ensuite bathroom, ahead of the building's grand opening in August.

The council has put \$16.1 million towards the project with the state committing \$4.8 million over two years for on-site support and specialised tenancy management.

A range of leading philanthropic and corporate partners have also provided funding, including the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust which has pledged an additional \$500,000 to the project to bring its donated total to \$720,000.

The project, which is reinvigorating a six-storey rendered brick building built in 1952, will also feature a new rooftop garden, communal areas and Indigenous plants and artwork.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who viewed the opening of the completed studio, said she was proud of a project that would save lives.

"Everyone deserves access to safe, secure housing and support services – and we're doing everything we can to help break the cycle of homelessness," Cr Capp said.

Unison Housing CEO James King said the project was an opportunity to create meaningful change amid the current housing crisis.

"Make Room exemplifies the power of collaboration between a community housing organisation, local and state government, philanthropic organisations, and the private sector," he said.

"Our partnership with cohealth ensures that Make Room goes beyond providing shelter, guiding our city's most vulnerable toward secure long-term housing and a brighter future."

Minister for Housing Harriet Shing said partnerships ensured government investments "can go even further" and "highlight the importance of collaboration when it comes to tackling homelessness."



◀ Lord Mayor Sally Capp tours a completed studio at the Make Room project in the CBD. Photos: Hanna Komissarova.

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust CEO Debra Morgan praised the council and Unison Housing for their leadership and compassionate approach to addressing homelessness.

"Helen Macpherson Smith Trust is pleased to support this partnership, which will provide not only housing, but sustained support to our most vulnerable community members," she said.

Cohealth will provide on-site wraparound social and health support services including mental health, housing, and legal supports, as well as dental, women's health, and podiatry.

Cohealth CEO Nicole Bartholomeusz said its services were about transforming lives "as well as a roof and four walls" because "people who are homeless need support to address the ravaging health impacts of long-term homelessness".

The council's health, wellbeing and belonging portfolio lead councillor Dr Olivia Ball said everyone deserved a safe place to call home.

"Cohealth does vital work every day to improve the lives of people in the City of Melbourne, and I'm delighted we'll expand our partnership to support residents on-site at Make Room," she said.

Individuals and organisations are encouraged to pledge their support for Make Room through the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation: ●



# ELLEN SANDELL

## GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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I'm here to help. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

(03) 9328 4637  
office@ellensandell.com

55 St Andrews Place  
East Melbourne VIC 3002





# Melbourne's one-of-a-kind planning and property practice

When the founder of CBD-based Planning & Property Partners (PPP) Mark Naughton decided to leave the familiarity and safety of a multinational law firm to start his own practice, he was presented with a litany of questions; many of which he answered: why not?

WORDS BY  
JACK HAYES



Why can't you create a business that is a front-end town planner and back-end planning legal practice under one roof? Why has this not been done before? And why has it not been replicated since?

Luckily for Mr Naughton, who is one of a small number of Law Institute of Victoria accredited specialists in environmental, planning, and local government law, no-one has, and PPP truly remains a one-of-a-kind.

Now more than 16 years old, PPP is made up of 30 town planners and legal experts with their fingerprints on some of Melbourne's most regarded projects including the multi-billion dollar Melbourne Square, the Australian Unity building at 217 Spring St, and Assemble's mixed-used Macaulay Urban Renewal Precinct project. PPP has also played a major hand in recent approvals for the redevelopment of the InterContinental Hotel on Collins St, Cabrini Hospital, Victoria Gardens Shopping Centre, and Shell House at 1 Spring St.

"We have managed to attract great quality and loyal clients who continue to give us a range of excellent work," Mr Naughton said. "We are very proud to be, and will remain, a longstanding tenant of the city."

"If we can be involved in the better projects in our part of the world, then that is great. Our staff love getting involved in projects that they can feel and touch and see around them; that's a real bonus in having the focus around the city and inner city."

PPP offers a range of services, from planning to environmental approvals, liquor approvals, land compensation matters, and they love their music festival approvals.

One of the planning leads is Sue Zhang, a qualified planner with experience across a wide range of strategic and statutory planning projects.

Ms Zhang told *CBD News* there was often a misconception that town planners worked exclusively in local government to approve or assess planning applications; however, in a private practice, her job was to "help clients to navigate through Victoria's complex planning system, and get the approval they desire".

"We help work closely with architects to achieve good site-responsive built-form outcomes that meet the relevant planning objectives," she said.

"We have great working relationships with all local governments in Victoria, particularly the City of Melbourne. Those relationships are important because we can have constructive conversations to facilitate good planning outcomes."

"You won't find another firm where I, as a town planner, can walk across to our legal part of the office and say, 'I've got a couple of questions; what do you think?' The marriage between planning and planning law under the same roof is incredibly unique."

When asked what more could be done to preserve heritage buildings in the CBD or retrofit existing commercial for residential or mixed-use purposes, Mr Naughton said he would be "delighted to think at some stage there could be a specialist body set up to assist building owners and managers to come forward with propositions ... instead



▲ Planning & Property Partners planning lead, Sue Zhang, and founder Mark Naughton.

of being put through the usual planning and building approaches."

"The challenge has to be to find ways to facilitate approvals and opportunities of consideration," he said. "We have bodies such as the Office of the Victorian Government Architect that assesses a building's design excellence; we have bodies that have the ability to assess the conversion of a golf course to a residential housing estate

... why can't we have a specialist body with the right skill set that will enable them to test housing options and adaptability of buildings – we desperately need it." ●

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



## COMMERCIAL FACILITY SERVICES

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## CBD NEWS

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Your City of Melbourne community update



Our draft Budget invests in cleaning, making our city greener and building better community facilities closer to home.

# OUR DRAFT BUDGET 2024-25

## HERE'S WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU

The City of Melbourne's \$781 million draft Budget 2024-25 is about doing what counts and delivering on our promises to the community, while strengthening our financial future.

Our draft Budget, together with our Annual Plan, sets out the priorities and investments we will deliver for Melburnians in the final year of our Council Plan 2021-25.

We are proud to announce a surplus Budget - a year ahead of schedule, with surpluses projected to continue to 2028.

We've made responsible choices so we can deliver what counts for our community now and continue to invest for our growing population in the years ahead.

The cost of living has been front of mind during the development of this Budget. We are continuing to deliver our core frontline services, along with free and affordable services our community relies on.

### SEVEN HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR DRAFT BUDGET

#### 1. Keeping our city clean

We're supercharging our cleaning efforts with \$41.6 million to ensure our streets are sparkling. Our Clean Team will be on the ground 24/7 - cleaning our streets, prioritising the removal of graffiti, monitoring hotspots and collecting and disposing of public litter.

#### 2. More parks and open space

We're transforming our city from grey to green in neighbourhoods that need it most - with almost \$50 million to deliver more open spaces, and ensure our city is greener and more sustainable. This includes new green open space on Normanby Road in Southbank, expanding the Miles and Dodds Street Reserve, plus opening the Bedford Street Pocket Park, North Melbourne. We'll also plant 3,000 trees and maintain our parks and gardens.

#### 3. Building better community facilities

More Melburnians will be able to play the game they love - close to home. We've earmarked \$224.7 million to build city-shaping projects and upgrade grassroots sporting facilities. We'll open the new Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre, complete the first stage of the Greenline Project in Birrarung Marr, build the state-of-the-art Trader Shed at Queen Victoria Market and a new Ryder Pavilion in Royal Park. We'll also invest almost \$13 million to maintain and upgrade our roads and footpaths to make it as easy as possible to get around.

#### 4. More affordable homes and homelessness support

We're doing our part to address the housing crisis - with a proposal to transform two sites on Curzon Street, North Melbourne and Victoria Street, West Melbourne into new affordable housing. We'll also open the doors to Make Room, our landmark social housing initiative, providing accommodation and support for 50 people experiencing homelessness.

#### 5. Country's biggest events calendar

We're doing everything we can to bring more people into the city - and delivering the best events calendar in the country does exactly that, with an investment of more than \$26 million. All our favourites are back - the Christmas Festival, Moomba, New Year's Eve, Now or Never and Firelight Festival, along with a world-first underground light show. With most of our major events free to attend, everyone can enjoy an affordable day or night out in the city.

#### 6. Lower waste collection charge

Our hardworking team will continue to empty bins from homes and businesses on time, while reducing the waste charge for residents this year. Owners of properties valued above \$515,000 will receive a \$53 reduction, with owners of properties valued below \$515,000 receiving a \$15 reduction.



Lower fees for waste collection

#### 7. Making it easier to do business

We're expanding our Business Concierge service with \$1.6 million to provide more support for our small businesses and traders. A new-look, highly visible team will provide tools and advice for more new businesses beyond the CBD to start and succeed.



Local business owner Hakim Halim



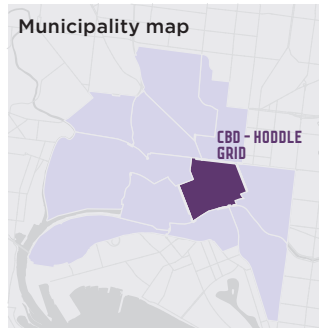
Our Clean Team is out removing graffiti 24/7

Have your say on the City of Melbourne draft Budget 2024-25 at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans-2024-25](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans-2024-25) by 5.30pm on Monday 3 June.

# INVESTING IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD IN 2024-25

The City of Melbourne is a dynamic municipality with 11 diverse neighbourhoods. While we're all Melburnians at heart, the support and services naturally differ for each area.

Our draft Annual Plan and Budget 2024-25 sets out how we plan to invest in the CBD to deliver core services, maintain and improve parks, public spaces and recreational facilities, and fund events that will boost community connection as well as Melbourne as a world-class city.



|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| <b>Residential population<sup>1</sup></b><br><b>54,001</b>                          | <b>Number of businesses<sup>2</sup></b><br><b>7644</b>                              | <b>Local jobs<sup>2</sup></b><br><b>228,992</b>                                     | <b>Residents born overseas<sup>3</sup></b><br><b>69%</b>                            |



## Building better infrastructure

The City of Melbourne will invest **\$224.7 million in 2024-25 to deliver new parks and better community facilities to ensure Melbourne remains a liveable and attractive city for residents, businesses and traders.**

New infrastructure investments and upgrades in the CBD include:

- \$51.9 million for Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal program

- \$22.5 million for the Greenline Project
- \$5 million for major streetscape improvements
- \$4 million for cycle infrastructure
- \$3.2 million for climate adaptation urban landscapes works
- \$1.5 million for improving pedestrian safety

- \$1.4 million for parking and kerbside management
- \$1.3 million for Waste and Resource Recovery Hub Expansion Program
- \$1.2 million for road safety initiatives
- \$1 million for Queens Corner Building
- \$696,000 for Power Melbourne
- \$350,000 for Melbourne City Baths redevelopment
- \$340,000 for new drainage
- \$250,000 for Elizabeth Street

Renewal and maintenance works to be carried out in the CBD include:

- \$2 million for parks and greening
- \$4.1 million for infrastructure
- \$7.2 million for buildings and properties
- \$1.3 million for equipment, fixtures and technology
- \$34,000 for other assets

- \$2 million for Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal program maintenance
- \$2 million for Make Room, our social housing initiative
- \$200,000 for street trading infrastructure maintenance
- \$20,000 for ArtPlay theatre equipment and furniture maintenance
- \$20,000 for Signal theatre equipment and furniture maintenance
- \$2.3 million for other maintenance



## Grants support

CBD businesses and community groups will be able to apply for their share of funding in 2024-25 with:

- Up to \$100,000 to support community-led activities and initiatives through the Connected Neighbourhoods Small Grants.
- \$1.2 million in business support, activations and marketing through our Business Precinct Program.
- \$100,000 in our Business Event Sponsorship Program for hosting business events.
- \$500,000 in Small Business Grants to support new businesses to get started and for existing businesses to expand and grow.
- \$200,000 in our Social Enterprise Grants to support local social enterprises.

## Delivering vital local services

We're providing the highest level of services to our community.



### Community services

Our narm ngarrgu Library and Family Services offers community maternal and child health immunisations, family support and counselling, and parenting services. The library has a collection of about 40,000 items.

City Library will reopen mid-2024 after refurbishment with additional meeting rooms. The library has a collection of about 30,000 items.

Both venues offer programs for children, teenagers and adults, providing study spaces, access to computers and wi-fi, online access to books, film, music and learning resources.

### Parks and open spaces

We manage and maintain seven public spaces in the CBD. These include Enterprise Park and Eight Hour Reserve.

### Sporting and recreation venues

Melbourne City Baths has about 1400 members, 1100 swimming lessons enrolments and 250,000 visits a year.

The venue offers a gym, group fitness, reformer pilates, pool, swimming lessons, squash, facility hire and Mikvah Bathhouse. It also hosts women's-only fitness and swim sessions.

## YOUR SAY MATTERS

Earlier this year, we surveyed more than 4400 people across all neighbourhoods, checking in on priorities and making sure we're doing

what counts as we head into the final year of our four-year Council Plan.




The resounding feedback across the community is to continue to focus on improving safety, wellbeing, access, affordability and sustainability.

To find out more about what we're doing in the CBD over the next 12 months, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans-2024-25](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans-2024-25) to have your say by 5.30pm on Monday 3 June.

Visit the Neighbourhood Portals to learn more about each neighbourhood at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods)

## 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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# Iconic comedy *The Odd Couple* makes its way to Comedy Theatre



From the Broadway stage to the Hollywood screen, Neil Simon's timeless comedy *The Odd Couple* has delighted audiences worldwide, with the show's latest adaptation opening at Melbourne's Comedy Theatre on May 23.



WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



Starring Aussie legends Shane Jacobson and Todd McKenney as Oscar and Felix, *The Odd Couple* follows the misadventures of two recently single friends whose opposite personalities clash when they decide to become roommates.

Felix's neurotic cleanliness contrasts sharply with Oscar's laid-back sloppiness, qualities that led them both to leave their wives, soon have the pair at each other's throats.

Known for their dynamic chemistry on both television and stage in productions including *The Real Full Monty* and *The Rocky Horror Show*, Mr Jacobson and Mr McKenney are gearing up to charm Melbourne audiences.

"When I witnessed the great friendship between Shane Jacobson and Todd

McKenney, and how wonderfully they work together on stage, I knew I'd found my perfect Oscar and Felix," producer John Frost said.

"We have found an exceptionally gifted company of actors to perform this much-loved classic. I know audiences are going to love *The Odd Couple* and getting to know these mismatched flatmates all over again."

Adding to the laughter are Lucy Durack and Penny McNamee, who portray the giggly English sisters, Cecily and Gwendolyn Pigeon, who live upstairs.

The two stars bring an extra layer of comedy to the production with their infectious energy, drawing on their longstanding friendship forged during their time in the original Australian cast of *Wicked*.

"I'm thrilled we have such a stellar cast to join Shane and Todd in *The Odd Couple*. What a coup that Lucy and Penny are available to join the cast," Mr Frost said.

Since its debut, Neil Simon's Tony Award-winning play has been adapted numerous times for film and television, captivating audiences with its timeless and relatable themes of friendship, divorce, and the absurdities of human relationships.

As the curtain rises on this Australian production, audiences can once again revel in the laughter and joy that *The Odd Couple* brings to the stage.

"I've long been a fan of Neil Simon's work," Mr Frost said.

"This classic, laugh-a-minute play by the master of comedy is sure to have audiences rolling in the aisles."

*The Odd Couple* will run at Melbourne's Comedy Theatre from May 18 to June 23. ●



## ACMI presents *Beings with Universal Everything*

ACMI promises a winter filled with boundless creativity as it hosts the world premiere of *Beings* from May 22 to September 29.

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



Showcased are 13 pieces drawn from the 20-year career of renowned international art and design collective Universal Everything, as well as four brand new artworks.

Featuring an array of digital characters created through code, visitors are invited to move, dance, and interact to animate these captivating creatures on large-scale screens.

"This is technology with heart and soul. Innovative, interactive, and enriching, Universal Everything's joyous creations bring warmth and a sense of humanity," ACMI director and

CEO Seb Chan said. "Whether you have an eye for design, an interest in new tech or are simply looking for some fun, this family-friendly experience will make you smile."

Universal Everything crafts expansive digital pieces that reimagine traditional CGI, physics simulations, and real-time gaming graphics to create innovative moving images.

The exhibition will delve into the creative processes and cutting-edge technology behind the artworks, displaying hand-drawn sketches publicly for the first time.

"I relish this opportunity to push our studio practice even further, with some never-before-seen artworks created for Melbourne audiences," Universal Everything founder Matt Pyke said.

Established in 2004, the UK-based collective has expanded into a global network of architects, engineers, designers, cinematographers, animators, musicians, and developers, and their distinctive works have been exhibited internationally. ●

# Collins Street Studios unveiled in the CBD

A vacant office space in the heart of the CBD has been transformed into a new creative co-working hub.

WORDS BY  
RUIXUE SU



Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks officially opened Collins Street Studios on May 9, which has been created in a partnership between the City of Melbourne's creative spaces program and the state government.

Formerly an empty office floor at 271 Collins St, the facility offers more than 1100 square metres of affordable space for creative organisations and practitioners to work, collaborate and connect.

"We're proud to back Collins Street Studios, which offer our creative talent the space they need to grow their practice and businesses while boosting Melbourne's reputation as Australia's creative and cultural heart," Mr Brooks said.

With space for more than 100 creative businesses, 50 individuals, microbusinesses and organisations have so far taken up residency, including leading digital games company Summer fall Studios, street dance company Cypher Culture, architecture and heritage group Robin Boyd Foundation, and publisher No More Poetry.

Collins Street Studios is managed under the City of Melbourne's Creative Spaces program, which aims to provide affordable spaces for the creative sector.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the hub was about unlocking affordable workspace for local creatives and backing more businesses and workers.

"Creative Spaces is about partnerships, collaboration and innovation, connecting landlords with vacant spaces and the creative sector – and we're proud to be doing what counts," Cr Capp said.

The facility is supported through the \$200 million



Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund, a partnership between the state government and the City of Melbourne, as well as funding from Creative Victoria's Creative Neighbourhoods Infrastructure Support Program.

Collins Street Studios complements The Guild creative co-working space, which launched in 2017 inside a residential building on Sturt St, Southbank, another partnership between the council and the state government.

The Robin Boyd Foundation said it was delighted to join the community at Collins Street Studios.

"As a micro not-for-profit, the initiative has provided a dedicated space outside our iconic modernist house museum, Walsh St, to develop our program, which increases community awareness, dialogue, understanding, and participation in Australian architecture and design," it said. ●

## CBD LOCAL

# Former Paralympian switches sport for performing arts

CBD resident Matthew Hearne is one talented human being.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Originally from Wollongong, Matthew swapped the world of elite sports for the pursuit of a career in musical theatre having moved to Melbourne to study at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA).

Born with cerebral palsy, Matthew represented Australia in both soccer and swimming at the Paralympics, and while since leaving the world of competitive sport behind, still plays a leading advocacy role for people living with a disability.

Whether that be on-stage or the sports field, Matthew said "representation" and "visibility" were some of the most crucial tools in helping "move the needle and push the boundaries" for the disability community.

And that's exactly what Matthew has always done under the two different hats of athlete and artist, continuing to inspire others and make the world a more equitable place.

Matthew told *CBD News* that while professional sports was the first passion pursued professionally, the world of the arts had always been a feature at home and school from a young age in Woolongong.

"I was very fortunate to attend a performing arts high school," Matthew said. "I would say Dad in particular was a creative influence; he was a little bit older than Mum and grew up in a time where like people still listened to musicals recreationally."

"All throughout high school I was swimming competitively five days a week, Monday to Friday. I'd be swimming at around 4:30 in the morning and then going to school, then swimming a couple of afternoons a week and going to soccer training, school musical rehearsals and singing lessons. So, I was very busy!"

Going on to represent Australia across multiple sports at the Paralympics, Matthew has held many national records and titles in swimming and has travelled the world with the Australian Paralympic soccer team, "The Pararoos", featuring in their self-titled documentary, and taking part in fundraising

events and campaigns for the team and the broader disabled community.

But with Paralympians who represent Australia still unpaid, Matthew said professional sport begun to take its toll for many in the team, which was the point when the long-held desire to switch to a career in performing arts was pursued.

Since moving to Melbourne, Matthew was apart of the final VCA foundation musical theatre course and also graduated from Andrew Hallsworth's musical theatre course at Patrick School of Arts in Windsor, performing the role of Sky Masterson in its production of *Guys & Dolls*.

Matt has also performed as Tom Watson in *Parade*, Alan in *I Can Jump Puddles*, Matterson in *The Hello Girls*, and has even sung the National Anthem at a Soccerroos game against Ecuador.

In May, Matt also finished up a role as Grinpayne in *The Grinning Man* at Alex Theatre in St Kilda, a character whose story involves overcoming a physical disability to find themselves on the stage.

"In regard to playing young Grinpayne, his struggle to come to terms with the reality of his condition is something that I can relate to in regards to my initial diagnosis with cerebral palsy and the uncertainties I had surrounding that at the time," Matthew said.

Now living out the childhood dream here in Melbourne, Matthew said life in the city immersed among one of the world's largest Arts Precincts was "inspiring".

"There's so much opportunity for growth and development and expression as an artist in Melbourne. I just think it's absolutely wonderful," Matthew said.

"I absolutely adore the fact that I can just walk down any side street on any given day and discover something that I've never seen before."

"I'm a barista when I'm not I'm not doing shows, so I love my coffee and I love going exploring different places. But as for coffee and hospitality, within the city there are some of the best operators in the world, as well as some of the best art in the world. I certainly find it very inspiring." ●



## New sign honours one of the greatest bookshops in Melbourne

One of the world's largest bookstores that once called a CBD laneway home during the gold rush era, and visited by literary legend Mark Twain, has been honoured.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



The former Coles Book Arcade, which was opened by Edward William Cole in the 1800s, boasted more than one million books in the historic laneway of Howey Place, marking itself as a cultural landmark in Melbourne that shaped the city's identity.

To honour the book arcade's enduring legacy, members of the E.W. Cole Foundation together with the City of Melbourne unveiled a new illuminated rainbow sign that reads "Palace of Intellect", which refers to the colloquial name of the bookstore.

The sign, unveiled on May 20, sits below the laneway's signature glass and wrought iron canopy, which was also created by Cole.

It is the only installation in the city which pays tribute to Cole and his bookshop, which first occupied 153 Bourke St in 1875 before moving to Howey Place in 1883.

Ron Male, the foundation's

trustee alongside Tony Balfe, said Cole "sold books on every imaginable topic" and the "stock he carried would have been enormous even by today's standards".

Mr Male said it was an honour and privilege to pay tribute to one of Melbourne's most progressive thinkers.

"We really believe that the sign will be a wonderful colourful addition to the City of Melbourne. And it so appropriate that the sign is being erected in Howey Place (the site of Cole's Arcade) with funding provided to the E.W. Cole Foundation by Cole's grandson, the late Bill Rudd," Mr Male said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was proud to install the sign, which would "shine brightly and pay homage to the Melbourne institution that played such an important part in our history".

"Howey Place was once home to the famous Cole's Book Arcade – one of the world's largest bookshops at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century," Cr Capp said. "It was a landmark ahead of its time – a place of solace while the city was gripped with gold rush fever." ●

## Your voice, your city: How and why to register for Melbourne's upcoming council elections

**This October the City of Melbourne will host its council elections by postal vote, presenting a vital opportunity for all residents, businesses, and ratepayers to shape the future of our vibrant city.**

This includes those often unaware of their voting rights, like international students and new residents, who are also entitled to shape our community's future. So, whether you stroll down the bustling streets of the CBD daily or own property within our boundaries, your participation is crucial.

Voting is not just a right; it's a civic duty that impacts every aspect of local governance from public safety to environmental policies.

In Melbourne's council elections, there are two main categories of voters: state-enrolled and council-enrolled. Let's break down what this means for you ...

State-enrolled voters are typically Australian citizens, aged 18 years or older, who have lived in the City of Melbourne for more than a month. If this describes you, you're likely to be already familiar with voting in federal and state elections.

For the local council elections, you'll automatically receive a ballot pack at your registered address when voting time approaches. If you are a director or company secretary of a company that owns or pays rates on a property in the City of Melbourne, you'll also be automatically enrolled.

Ensure your details are current by visiting the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) at [enrolment.vec.vic.gov.au](http://enrolment.vec.vic.gov.au).

Council-enrolled voters include a broader group, particularly relevant to those not automatically enrolled. This category welcomes non-resident landlords, businesses, corporations, and importantly, individuals like international students or temporary residents who might not realise they can have a voice in local matters.

If you have a registered business or own property in the City of Melbourne, or have a lease longer than three months, you are eligible. Enrolment for council voters isn't automatic, so you'll need to register:



### But why is voting crucial?

First, voting in council elections allows you to influence decisions that affect everyday services such as waste management, libraries, public spaces, and planning permissions. These decisions shape the urban environment and quality of life in Melbourne. By voting, you ensure that your views on these issues are represented in council policies.

Second, it's about accountability and representation. Council elections are a direct line to holding your elected officials accountable. We are your representatives, tasked with voicing your concerns and advocating for your needs at the council level. Voting gives you the power to choose candidates who align with your vision for the community and to replace those who do not.

Finally, it's about strengthening democracy. Every vote contributes to the robustness of our democratic processes. By participating, you help ensure that the council accurately reflects the diverse composition of Melbourne's population, including voices that are often underrepresented. Every vote counts.

For international students and overseas voters, participating in local elections might seem daunting or perhaps less relevant,

but your experiences and perspectives are invaluable. Voting in local elections allows you to engage with issues that directly affect your daily life in Melbourne, from public transport to local educational resources. It's also a chance to learn about Australian civic processes and contribute to the community you're living in, even if temporarily.

So, if you haven't registered yet or need to update your details, now is the time. For those needing to enrol on the council roll, keep an eye on the City of Melbourne website for the upcoming link to the online form. Your vote is your voice in our democracy, and every voice matters.

As we approach the elections this October, I encourage every eligible member of our community, especially those who haven't participated before, to register and vote. It's a significant opportunity to make your mark on Melbourne's future. ●

**Cr Jamal Hakim**  
CITY OF MELBOURNE  
JAMAL.HAKIM@  
MELBOURNE.VIC.GOV.AU





## An elegant colossus reaches for the sky

Captured by amateur photographer Pierre Robin in early September 1959, this is one of the last photographs to capture the solid presence of the Colonial Mutual Building on the north-west corner of Collins and Elizabeth streets.

It rises here from a busy urban setting, trams running along the two major thoroughfares, jostling for space with pedestrians and vehicles. In the foreground is an iconic two-toned Holden FE station wagon, the epitome of Australian-produced modernity.

In contrast to the bustle around it, the Colonial Mutual Building rises high into the sky, its solid presence dominating the skyline. When it was built in the early 1890s it was touted as “the grandest building in the Southern Hemisphere”.

Designed by Austrian architect Edward E Raht for the Equitable Life Assurance Company of America, only the best would do.

Built by David Mitchell (Dame Nellie Melba’s father), who was also responsible for building the Exhibition Buildings, Scots Church and St Patrick’s Cathedral, there was nothing but praise for the sophistication and luxury of its finish, inside and out.

The exterior of this Italian Renaissance building was made of grey granite from Harcourt, the Collins St entrance overseen by a magnificent sculpture – of a female figure protecting a woman and her two children – by Austrian sculptor Victor Tilgner. The roof and downpipes, all copper, gleamed.

Inside was equally spectacular – pink granite from Cape Woolamai on Phillip Island; marble from Italy

and Belgium; window frames, doors and ceilings of high-quality cedar, all joined without recourse to nails.

So why did it have to go? It seems that the beautiful interiors and exteriors, all high spec, all deliciously detailed, were too expensive to maintain and convert to the needs of the modern workplace, so Whelan the Wrecker was called in and demolition began.

It took almost 12 months to demolish. The building disappeared, but not all of its fabulous features went with it. Some Harcourt granite was used in the new building. Some of the marble fittings and interior timber went to other buildings. A copper time capsule found during demolition went to the New York headquarters of the Equitable Life Assurance Company.

The Tilgner statue found its way to Melbourne University. And 25 blocks from the building’s exterior were incorporated into a sculpture outside the Melbourne Museum.

The photographer, Pierre Robin, knew that he was recording a city in transition and thanks to him, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria has more than 400 of his slides documenting the changes he witnessed in his wanderings around the CBD in the late 1950s and the 1960s. ●

**Dr Cheryl Griffin**

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

HISTORYVICTORIA.ORG.AU



## RESIDENTS 3000

# Misguided metropolis: Melbourne’s misstep with Queen Victoria Market

As Melbourne embarks on a controversial \$1.7 billion development, concerns mount over the impact on its beloved market and urban fabric.

This month, Residents 3000 is pleased to publish a thoughtful and important opinion piece from committee member, Richard Grace. His concerns are shared by many of our members, including the Friends of the Queen Victoria Market. We publish in the interest of providing further information relevant to city living and amenity ...



into action, the question remains: is this development a necessary evolution of urban space, or a grievous error that will haunt Melbourne for decades to come?

For a city that prides itself on its liveability and vibrant public spaces, the stakes could not be higher. The unfolding saga at the QVM will test Melbourne’s commitment to preserving its heritage and character amid the pressures of modernisation and commercial gain.

### Rushing towards the future?

For those vested in the city’s future, the unfolding developments will serve as a critical litmus test for Melbourne’s approach to urban planning and heritage preservation. As the debate rages on, the legacy of the Queen Victoria Market hangs in the balance, a reminder that in the rush towards the future, cities must not trample over their past.

The community’s response to this development is crucial. As ratepayers and residents, we have the right to know the impact of prolonged construction works in our neighbourhood – given the traffic chaos, obstruction, noise, and pollution – who will be responsible for compensating anyone adversely affected by this project?

A petition has been launched to urge a reconsideration of the project to ensure that it aligns more closely with the needs and values of Melbourne’s residents and heritage. To participate in preserving the integrity and vibrancy of the Queen Victoria Market, please sign and share the petition below by scanning the QR code: ●



“  
**High-rise at the market – is this a good idea?**”

OPINION BY  
RICHARD GRACE



of Melbourne, under the banner of “QVM renewal”.

Erecting three towering structures on a major road thoroughfare and a modest roundabout will not merely be a change of skyline, it’s a fundamental alteration of community dynamics and urban flow.

### Original vision versus actual outcome

Initially conceived in 2014 by then Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and former Premier Dennis Napthine, the project aimed to transform QVM into a bustling hub reminiscent of Europe’s famed markets. This grand vision, however, has devolved into a contentious affair, fraught with delayed timelines and shifting project scopes that have left many Melburnians sceptical of the purported benefits.

Critics of the development argue that the disruption it will cause – severing four critical traffic lanes and complicating access to the market – will do more harm than good. The market, a historic site, and a linchpin in Melbourne’s urban identity, faces the risk of being overshadowed by commercial interests, quite literally by the high-rises

planned to tower over its stalls.

The irony is palpable as this development coincides with national debates over market concentrations, particularly in the grocery sector. The construction chaos, likely to turn a simple trip to the market into a logistical challenge, might inadvertently funnel frustrated shoppers into the arms of supermarket chains, thus exacerbating the very concentration of market power that politicians decry.

Yet, there is a broader implication to consider. Urban development, when done thoughtfully, serves as a catalyst for cultural and economic vibrancy. But when mismanaged, it risks not just the aesthetics of a city but its very soul. Melbourne’s high-rise frenzy appears to be a textbook case of commercial interests prevailing over community needs. The projected completion of a 1.8-hectare open space adjacent to the market, promising relief, and beautification, seems a paltry consolation if the market itself loses its allure and accessibility in the process.

As construction crews prepare to swing

## QVM TRADER PROFILE

# Jumbo Ugg Boots: “Ugg boots for everyone”

While Jumbo Ugg Boots is a 30-year-old business owned by Binder Enterprises, Chien Nguyen has been the “face and representative of the brand” for nearly 20 years at Queen Victoria Market (QVM).

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



Founded in Melbourne in 1989, Jumbo Ugg Boots is a family business renowned for its sheepskin products.

Using first-grade double-faced Australian sheepskin, the company started humbly with a single industrial sewing machine and has since grown into a trusted name in the industry.

“I came here about 20 years ago to study – at the time I worked for Binder Enterprises factory store in the market as a part-time job, and then was offered the chance to have my own business,” Mr Nguyen told CBD News.



When it comes to high-quality sheepskin footwear, Mr Nguyen distinguishes Jumbo Ugg Boots from cheaper products that are made from layered, glued-together pieces.

“It offers excellent insulation, breathability, and comfort. If you look at the sole, you can see it’s like a sports shoe sole and has very good support, always with double stitching,” he said.

Jumbo Ugg Boots offers a diverse range of footwear including men’s boots, women’s boots, fashion boots, kids’ boots, slippers, and moccasins, all proudly manufactured in Moorabbin.

Prices range from \$59 to \$109, reflecting the exceptional quality and craftsmanship that keep customers returning.

“It’s mainly me in the market because you don’t need too many people, it’s a simple and effective way to run it,” he said.

“People talk to me, and they come back and check out the stuff and say, ‘Chien, I came back not just for the quality of the product but your personality as well – I can feel that you’re proud of what you’re doing.’”

Now a regular face at the market, Mr Nguyen says the “unique community” at QVM has been an important pillar of support through the challenging times.

“The stallholders and customers create a very lively atmosphere, and the support from the local community has been incredible after COVID,” he said.

“Just this morning, a gentleman in his 70s came over and said, ‘Hey Chien, I bought your boots 12 months ago and I love them’ – it’s the small things that keep you going.”

Jumbo Ugg Boots is located at QVM in the E Shed at Stall 113-114, and is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8am to 3pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 8am to 4pm. ●

## How to choose the best strata manager for your building

If you’re unhappy with your current owners’ corporation (OC) manager or simply wish to explore alternative options, understanding what to consider is crucial before making a decision.

WORDS BY  
MELCORP STRATA



Melcorp Strata knows that changing your manager can impact the quality of service, communication, and overall compliance within your building. That’s why we’ve put together some of the important factors to think about before choosing a new OC manager.

### Consider your property needs

Understanding the unique requirements of your property is fundamental to selecting a manager that aligns with your specific needs. For example, if your building requires defect rectification, seek a manager well-versed in relevant legislation and experienced in managing such issues.

Older buildings might demand more maintenance, making it beneficial to appoint a manager with a maintenance background and an efficient online work order system.

Establish clear criteria and shortlist candidates accordingly, then compare their proposals or service agreements to ensure they have listened to and addressed your property’s needs.

### Carefully assess the fees

While contemplating a change, carefully assess the fees

associated with potential strata management. Ask yourself if the current fees match the level of service you are receiving.

Opting for a lower-cost manager may lead to subpar performance, while investing more may secure proactive management attuned to your building’s needs. It’s crucial to strike a balance between cost and service quality, ensuring that your chosen manager offers the best value for the fees charged.

### Don’t overlook team structure

Team/staff structure is something that often goes overlooked. Consider scenarios where the strata manager may be unavailable – does the company have a robust team structure in place to support your OC?

A well-organised team, including competent assistants and qualified specialists in areas such as finance, can make a huge difference in keeping tasks on track and efficiently addressing issues within your building.

Melcorp Strata’s general

manager Esin Falvo emphasised the importance of this: “A team-oriented approach proactively addresses any miscommunication between all stakeholders involved, whether owners, contractors, or the manager. Owners should feel assured that their property is in capable hands, with every aspect of its management handled with care and diligence.”

Remember, it’s not just about finding any strata manager – it’s about finding the perfect fit tailored to the distinctive needs of your property. After all, this is your home.

If you would like more expert advice, reach out to one of our dedicated strata managers today by scanning the QR code. ●



## Pet’s Corner



### An observer in a CBD high-rise

Yuanbao is an Australian domestic short-hair cat who was adopted by his owner Helen from an agency a year ago.

WORDS BY  
RUIXUE SU

“Yuanbao seems to thrive in the CBD,” Helen told CBD News. “He loves exploring the bustling streets and lounging by the window to watch the flow of vehicles.”

“Whenever we take him outside on a leash, he eagerly sniffs around, taking in all the scents and sounds. Overall, it appears that Yuanbao truly enjoys the CBD life.”

While cats don’t need to be taken outside every day like dogs, Yuanbao is curious about the outside world and is taken for regular walks.

From his CBD apartment, he can only play in his climbing box and Helen sometimes plays with a cat teasing stick. And, according to Helen, Yuanbao also likes to play hide-and-seek.

When venturing outdoors, one of Yuanbao’s favourite parks to visit is Flagstaff Gardens, and although he is cautious every time he goes out, Helen said that he really enjoyed exploring.

And since Yuanbao is a little socially phobic and doesn’t have too many friends as a result, he simply prefers to observe other animals from a distance. ●



# Victoria's financial landscape under Labor's stewardship increasingly perilous

Former Premier Dan Andrews asserted that we could have "not rail or hospitals" but both, referencing the Old El Paso advertisement. However, Labor's most recent budget shows this was never possible.

**WORDS BY**  
EVAN MULHOLLAND  
MP FOR NORTHERN METRO

The ratings agencies are beginning to express concern and increasingly everyday Victorians are paying the price for Labor's attempt to have its cake and eat it too.

Despite these attempts to hoodwink Victorians, the price of this attitude is becoming clear. Net debt is expected to skyrocket to a staggering \$188 billion by 2028. We already have more debt than New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania combined. But don't be fooled – it won't be other people paying for it – it will be you. By 2028, interest payments will reach \$26 million per day – enough to build an early parenting centre every single day. To pay for this debt and spending, taxation revenue will increase by five per cent every year – despite our overall income increasing by only half that. Since Labor has been in power – nearly a decade now – it has introduced or increased 55 taxes.

Some of them might appear to hit the top end of town or landlords, but it's everyday Victorians that end up paying. For example, I recently visited

Sparkling Beverages in the outer north of my electorate. Sparkling Beverages is a medium-sized business that supplies Woolworths with carbonated beverages.

This business has been sluggish with a waste levy, and increased payroll tax and WorkCover premiums. Small hardworking manufacturers aren't a piggy bank to pinch money from, ultimately someone must pay for this. The costs could then be passed on to Woolworths which in turn passes it on to Victorians at the checkout.

It's the same story when it comes to rentals. Of the 55 new or increased taxes since Labor's election in 2014, 29 are on property, much of this cost gets passed on to renters. Renters who are often young people and those unable to afford to buy their own home – the latter made more difficult by Labor. According to the Urban Development Institute of Australia, up to 42 per cent of the

cost of a new home is taxes, fees, and charges.

Labor's reckless infrastructure spending – with total cost blowouts exceeding \$40 billion, including huge blowouts on the North East Link and West Gate Tunnel, is a key source of the problem. We all want better infrastructure, but the reality is that it comes at a cost. Sometimes that cost is too high.

A prime example is the Suburban Rail Loop, which is not endorsed by any transport expert and according to the Victorian Auditor-General will return only half the benefit that it costs. A report by the Independent Auditor-General found that the first two stages of the project will cost \$216 billion.

We know we cannot have our cake and eat it too. This mega project means Victorians will pay more tax and miss out on other worthy – and often far more compelling projects. In the

northern part of my electorate, locals suffer terrible frequency on the Upfield Line, the northern part of which still is not duplicated. Further north locals in Donnybrook and Wallan still have no electrified rail service – despite now living on the outskirts of Melbourne.

Victorians deserve a government that can prudently and respectively manage their money, not one that thinks a billion dollars is just a rounding error, as Premier Jacinta Allan has suggested. We need to ensure the long-term sustainability of the services that Victorians need, infrastructure spending is paced and well-managed and that the Victorian people are not treated like a cash cow. Victorians deserve to be rewarded for effort, not continually punished.

*Evan Mulholland is the Liberal Member for the Northern Metropolitan Region ●*

## APARTMENT LIVING

### Living in a world of apartments is complex, so ask your question.

Inside every building is a story but it is a story that is told from many different perspectives. Apartment living is complex so join us as we answer your questions so we can all understand that world a little bit better.

**WORDS BY**  
VAN HUYNH - CONTRIBUTOR  
COMMERCIAL FACILITY SERVICES

#### Jane asked us: "What is a maintenance plan and does my building require one?"

A: If you are a Tier 1 (more than 100 occupiable lots) or a Tier 2 (51 to 100 occupiable lots), the owners' corporation (OC) must obtain and implement a maintenance plan.

The maintenance plan will set out the major capital expenditure items that will need repair or replacement, along with a budget for a 10-year period so when the time comes for maintenance or replacement, the OC isn't hit with bill (or levy) shock.

Unfortunately, as buildings age, major works or replacement is inevitable and will need to be undertaken to ensure the building is looking and functioning as intended and hazard free. Some major capital items that may need maintenance or replacement are:

- Lifts
- Waterproof membranes
- Car stackers
- Façade maintenance
- Essential services
- Pools

#### Lyn asked: "I'm completing plaster repairs to my ceiling due to water damage. Is there anything I should be aware of regarding essential services?"

A: Yes, you need to be mindful of the overhead sprinklers and the smoke

detectors in your apartment when working closely to these assets as setting them off can prove costly.

Sprinklers need to be carefully considered to prevent accidentally setting them off. We've seen far too often contractors (like a painter) accidentally clipping the head off the sprinkler or using a heat gun too close to the head leading to sprinkler activation.

Isolating the smoke detectors are also just as important as dust accumulation while trades are working in your property is common and can cause the alarm to be set off, resulting in a full building evacuation.

It's better to be safe than sorry and we'd recommend reaching out to your building/strata management if you have any questions prior to undertaking work in your property.

#### True story

Despite receiving our advice (refer to Lyn's question), work was undertaken anyway without isolating the sprinkler in the apartment and, guess what? The contractor struck the sprinkler head clean off flooding the apartment and prompting the fire brigade to attend.

Luckily only minor damage was caused to the apartment below, and even less damage to the 12 apartments directly below that due to the quick actions of our building management team. That day, working in the rain would've been the least of their concerns.

Have a question that you would like answered? Submit yours to [admin@commercialfs.net.au](mailto:admin@commercialfs.net.au) and stay tuned to future editions. ●

## METRO TUNNEL



### Impressive progress at Parkville

Major construction at Parkville Station is now complete, as the opening of the Metro Tunnel in 2025 draws nearer.

Parkville will be connected to the rail network for the first time when the station opens, making transport easier for thousands of medical staff, students, patients, and family members.

The station – the second of five new state-of-the-art stations to be finished as part of the Metro Tunnel Project – will provide a quick and easy rail connection for Victorians to the busy health and education precinct.

Since construction began back in 2018, crews have worked to remove 80 Olympic-sized swimming pools worth of dirt, opening space for the station to be built beneath Grattan St.

The station has a footprint around the size of one-and-a-half MCGs, carefully designed to fit among the area's existing health, research and education institutions.

Passengers will enjoy an open, well-lit station concourse, with the Grattan St entrance's 54-metre-long and 6.5-metre-wide steel and glass entrance canopy allowing the station to fill with natural light.

The station's landmark artwork *Vernal Glade* by internationally acclaimed Melbourne artist Patricia Piccinni was installed in March on the concourse,

allowing the art to be bathed in natural light from the skylight canopy above.

Parkville Station will include a pedestrian underpass beneath Royal Parade that will be accessible and free for all pedestrians during station operating hours, allowing people to easily walk from The Royal Melbourne Hospital to the University of Melbourne without needing to wait for traffic.

Complete with lifts at all four entrances, the new station will make it easier for everyone moving through the station and around Parkville.

As major construction comes to an end below ground, crews have begun returning space to the public.

In mid-May the project reopened a single lane of traffic in each direction on Grattan St between Flemington Rd and Royal Parade. This section of Grattan St has been upgraded with wider footpaths, new bike lanes, more bike parking spaces, seating and new bus shelters.

The Metro Tunnel team is making excellent progress on train testing in the tunnels and on the Cranbourne/Pakenham and Sunbury lines, with trains undergoing more than 2000 hours of testing so far.

The Metro Tunnel will connect the busy Sunbury and Cranbourne/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 better connecting all Victorians to jobs, healthcare, and education. ●





# 社区对政府取消拟议的注射室反应不一

社区成员对州政府拒绝在中央商务区设立监督注射室的决定表示失望，而包括商人在内的其他人则认为这一决定令人松了一口气。

*Brendan Rees*

该提案原本将提供一个安全且受监管的药物注射中心，但政府在承认“无法确定一个能够平衡吸毒者需求与更广泛CBD社区需求的合适地点”后取消了该计划。

取而代之的是，政府计划在弗林德斯街244号建立一个社区健康中心，连接全科医生、顾问、联合健康和成瘾医学专家，并扩大药物治疗。

尽管维多利亚警察协会和向《CBD新闻》发表意见的商人们对这一决定表示欢迎，但支持此类设施的“让我们的城市活着”(KOCA)组织表示，“这一宣布并未走得足够远，只是对更广泛问题的权宜之计。”

但Pellegrini's Espresso Bar的老板大卫·马拉斯皮纳(David Malaspina)表示，虽然他并不反对注射室，但其拟议地点是不

合适的。

“常识占了上风，应该另寻一个更好的地点，”他告诉《CBD新闻》。

“社区和我们交谈，我们将其传达给他们……社区不希望这样做。我们不明白为什么会考虑在我们美丽的城市上端。”

马拉斯皮纳明确表示，“我们不支持也不反对注射室——我们反对的是拟议的地点，”他遗憾地指出没有进行任何咨询。

“[该地点]影响商人，影响居民，影响任何来到城市的人。”

当被问及他是否支持新的社区健康中心时，马拉斯皮纳表示希望它“能够为所有需要帮助的人提供服务”。

Waffle On的老板马克·劳彻(Marc Laucher)，其店铺位于德格拉夫斯街(Degraves St)，他说他对这一消息也感到宽慰，但希望有其他方法可以帮助吸毒者。

“我们并不反对注射室——我们必须为这些迷失的人做点什么，”他说。

劳彻表示，弗林德斯街不是一个合适的地点，因为它是游客和访客最多的区域之一。

根据验尸法院的一份报告，2022年墨尔本有24起涉及海洛因的过量死亡事件，



比2021年的9起有所增加——这是过去10年中与该药物有关的死亡事件的最高年发生率，之前的最高记录是2014年的16起。

死亡人数的上升不仅限于墨尔本，整个州涉及海洛因过量的死亡率增加了33% (从

173起增至230起)。

墨尔本大学成瘾研究中心副主任、阿片类药物专家苏珊·尼尔森教授表示，迫切需要扩大一系列有效的减害干预措施，包括监督注射设施。

# “这不是非此即彼的选择”：墨尔本市修订自行车道计划

墨尔本市长萨莉·卡普批评了有关城市交通的“二元”辩论，并宣称“欢迎所有人”来到墨尔本，因为市议会在上月暂停了加速自行车道的推广计划。

*Sean Car*

卡普议员在4月23日的未来墨尔本委员会(FMC)会议上发表了上述言论，当时大多数议员支持修订后的自行车和微出行基础设施计划。

在通过2030年交通战略后，市议会在2020年设定了一个雄心勃勃的目标，即在2024年6月之前建造44公里的新自行车道——但该目标还差23公里未完成。

4月23日的报告指出，截至2024年3月，全市已安装了27.4公里的自行车道，其中18.7公里是市议会称在加速计划下完成的。

其余的新分隔自行车道是通过其他市议会计划提供的，包括在渔夫湾的特纳街和格雷厄姆街(2.1公里)，以及由州政府在圣基尔达路上建设的6.6公里。

议员们投票支持“停止‘加速计划’”，因为交通和规划部通知市议会将不再考虑低成本试验性建筑材料，而是选择永久性解决方案。



这也紧随州政府于4月4日宣布当前的电动滑板车试验将成为永久性项目，市议会表示，这进一步强化了需要更多的物理隔离车道，“以促进除骑行外微出行方式的安全移动”。

报告提供了所有当前自行车道项目的重新分阶段时间表，直至2026/27年，格拉坦街、阿登街、皇家大道、阿博茨福德街和展览街(介于伦斯代尔街和拉筹伯街之间)均在下一轮计划中。

在支持这一动议时，罗翰·莱珀特议员表示，长期期待的自行车道(或现在更倾向于称为“骑行道”，以涵盖所有出行方式)在弗林德斯街被延迟，是一个“痛苦的失望”。

## 柯林斯街工作室在中央商务区揭幕

市中心一处空置的办公空间已被改造成一个新的创意联合办公中心。

*Ruixue Su*

创意产业部长科林·布鲁克斯于5月9日正式揭开了柯林斯街工作室的帷幕，该工作室是墨尔本市创意空间计划与州政府合作创建的。

这座前身为空置办公楼层的设施位于柯林斯街271号，提供超过1100平方米的经济实惠空间，供创意组织和从业者工作、合作和交流。

“我们很自豪能够支持柯林斯街工作室，它为我们的创意人才提供了他们发展实践和业务所需的空间，同时提升了墨尔本作为澳大利亚创意和文化中心的声誉，”布鲁克斯先生说。

目前已有50个创意个体、微型企业



和组织在此驻扎，包括领先的数字游戏公司Summerfall Studios、街舞公司Cypher Culture、建筑和遗产组织Robin Boyd Foundation以及出版社No More Poetry。该设施可以容纳超过100家创意企业。

柯林斯街工作室将由墨尔本市的创意空间计划管理，该计划旨在为创意行业提供经济实惠的空间。

市长萨莉·卡普表示，这个中心旨在为本地创意人士解锁经济实惠的工作空间，并支持更多的企业和工作人员。

“创意空间计划旨在促进合作、创新和伙伴关系，将业主的空置空间与创意行业连接起来——我们很自豪能够做出实质性的贡献，”卡普议员说。

## CBD为零工工人开设安全场所

一个为骑手、司机和清洁工提供聚集场所并免费提供食物和饮料的“零工工人中心”在CBD开幕。

*Brendan Rees*

该中心位于伊丽莎白街的墨尔本多元文化中心，是澳大利亚首个为零工工人提供安全休息空间的项目。

外卖和共乘平台改变了墨尔本的生活方式，但直到最近，还没有专门为零工工人设计的空间。

该中心由一群志愿者创立，并得到移民和难民机构AMES Australia和墨尔本市的支持。

前送货员、现为建筑学博士生的安德鲁·科波洛夫(Andrew Copolov)是该中心的推动力。中心还提供有关签证和工作权利的相关信息，以及手机充电器和其他设施。



“零工工人大多是隐形的，未被认可的。你几乎不会意识到有一个人在履行这个角色，”他说。

“而且普遍存在虐待和少付工资的情况。90%的外卖司机是移民，这个移民社区面临各种挑战。”

科波洛夫先生表示，该中心之前曾在维多利亚女王市场的测试场地临时设立，通过提供一个安全的空间帮助新移民。

“对于那些可能刚到这里几周的人来说，这实际上是他们的第一个落脚点，”他说。

## WHAT'S ON June



June in Melbourne is bustling with exciting events, from the RISING Festival to the Winter Night Market, offering something for everyone to enjoy.



### MELBOURNE CONVERSATIONS: CITY FOOD HEROES

The city is filled with people doing good every day to build a sustainable future for Melburnians. These initiatives, big and small, are having positive impacts for generations to come. Book online.

**The Edge, Fed Square, Melbourne**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 6PM - 7.15PM



### LIONS CLUB MULTICULTURAL DAY

This event promises to be an extraordinary celebration of cultural diversity and unity, aiming to foster an understanding of both the similarities and differences among cultures.

**Drill Hall, 26 Therry St, Melbourne**

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 11AM - 3PM



### CREATIVE COSTUMING: A MASTERCLASS WITH SARAH AND LUNA

Revitalise your wardrobe and give your beloved garments a second life in this costuming workshop, focusing on the magic of upcycling.

**narrm ngarrgu Library, 141 Therry St, Melbourne**

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 3.30PM - 6.30PM



### RISING: NIGHT TRADE

For its 2024 return, Night Trade takes over Melbourne's historically camp Capitol Arcade to spread festival buzz and good vibes with micro-bars, music, art and food.

**Capitol Theatre, Melbourne**

JUNE 1 - 15, 5PM - 12AM



### WOMEN WORK FOR VICTORY IN WWII

During World War II, thousands of women joined the workforce, many working in jobs previously reserved for men. This exhibition explores their story.

**Old Treasury Building, 20 Spring St  
oldtreasurybuilding.org.au**

UNTIL AUG 25, 10AM - 4PM



### ACMI CREW NIGHT

ACMI Crew Night is a monthly gathering for anyone interested in filmmaking to hang out and hear some tips and tricks from established filmmakers and industry pros.

**ACMI, Flinders St, Melbourne**

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, JULY 9 AND AUG 6



### QVM WINTER NIGHT MARKET

Winter Night Market is back for 2024 under the famous sheds of the Queen Victoria Market. Since the first Winter Night Market in 2013, it has continued to make Wednesday nights magical with exciting themes.

**Queen Victoria Market, Melbourne**

WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 5 - AUGUST 28, 5PM - 10PM

## Business Directory

### ACCOUNTING

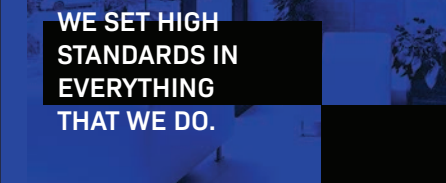


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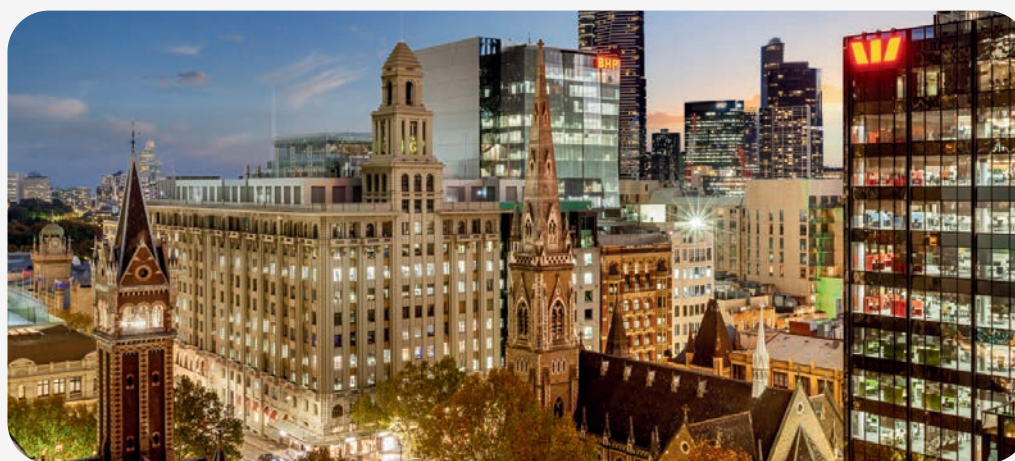


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