



Melbourne Fashion Week (M/FW) returns from October 21 to 27, marking its 30th anniversary by spotlighting the city's vibrant fashion community with the help of this year's ambassador - internationally acclaimed Melbourne-born artist G Flip. More on page 7.

From Greenline to the Regent Theatre: who's in the box seat for Town Hall?

“With the election campaign for the City of Melbourne now in overdrive, we assess who looks likely to take the reins at Town Hall for the next four years in what is becoming an increasing tight contest.”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



At the time of publishing, all teams competing in what's become an incredibly stacked field had now finalised all their preferences, providing some key insights and clues as to how the final council jigsaw may fall into place.

At the closure of nominations, 11 leadership tickets had been submitted to the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), all with associated councillor tickets, while a further five councillor-only tickets had been

filed. A further five ungrouped councillor candidates have also nominated.

What the size of the field means is that the nine vacant councillor positions are likely to be filled by those teams running with leadership tickets, with only the faintest chance of the ninth and final spot being taken by one of the few councillor-only candidates.

But starting from the top end of the field, one of the major questions will be just how damaging incumbent Lord Mayor Nick Reece's announcement regarding selling the council's share of the Regent Theatre will prove to be ...

Cr Reece and his running mate Cr Roshena Campbell took everyone by surprise on September 8 when announcing that their team, if successful, would sell the council's majority stake in the theatre, with the state government controlling the remaining 49 per cent.

While pledging to use the funds from the sale, understood to be in the order of around \$40 million, to establish a Melbourne Arts Future Fund to support the city's creatives in perpetuity, it's fair to say the proposal wasn't received well by many.

Whether voters believe there is merit to the plan or not, it has opened the door for the election to now be turned into somewhat of a campaign to "Save the Regent Theatre" by Team Reece's opponents.

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BUSINESS, PAGE 03

Introducing the city's latest restaurant Reed House

ELECTIONS, PAGE 05

Team Reece ready to "get good done" for Melbourne

COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 21

Car spaces freed up at QVM amid federal heritage review



BUSINESS, PAGE 28

Benvenuto il Mercato Centrale! Italian food hub opens

After more than two years of anticipation, il Mercato Centrale officially opened its doors on September 19, marking its first location outside Italy in the heart of Melbourne's CBD.



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“Hidden in a Melbourne laneway, a striking mural by local artist Jaycob Campbell, known as Gonketa, captures the attention and curiosity of passers-by.”

Gonketa says he's been "interested in creating art ever since I could talk", unable to resist the urge to express himself whenever a pen and paper are within reach.

"It was fun, especially driving to the city when it was empty. No queues for food, and it was nice to have an excuse to get out of the house with a permit." ●



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Introducing Reed House: one of Melbourne’s most anticipated openings of 2024

“Melbourne’s latest culinary offering comes direct from two Ottolenghi alumni, who are excited to finally open their own venue after years of extensive experience in the hospitality scene.”



WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Named after the building’s architect, Joseph Reed, Reed House marks the first joint venture for seasoned front-of-house professional Rebecca Baker (Capitano, Anchovy, Bar Americano, The Everleigh) and chef Mark Hannell (Three Blue Ducks, Vue de Monde, McConnell Group, Bar Liberty). Inspired by British brasseries, Reed House describes itself as “modern Australian with a British twist”, and is housed in the iconic bluestone of The Manse Building, across the courtyard from award-winning local favourite, Caretakers Cottage.

“We’d been looking at venues for about a year, then our business partner Michael Bascetta told us he’d come across this place,” Rebecca said.

“Mark and I had always said that we’d do something a little bit smaller to start. But we saw it and thought, ‘we can’t really say no.’”

Reed House seats around 80 guests across two intimate dining rooms and two outdoor spaces, creating an atmosphere that invites you to “feel as if you were coming into our house”.

“I’ve worked at a lot of places that focused on really warm service, and that’s something we want to have here. Where you can come in and feel like we know what we’re talking about, but we’re not talking down to you,” Rebecca said.

First meeting when they worked together at Yotam Ottolenghi’s Nopi in London, the couple share a passion for creating bold flavours both in food and drink, reflected in Reed House’s produce-driven opening menu. From ramen scotch eggs with mushroom ketchup, to roast chicken with saltbush za’atar and bread sauce; Mark presents a contemporary spin on old-school British favourites “that I grew up with”.

“There’s a lot of different influences,” Rebecca said. “Mark is obviously English but there’s a lot of Ottolenghi in there. If you’ve eaten at an Ottolenghi, people go,

‘oh, I get it.’”

Rebecca’s approach to the drinks for the debut menu is equally impressive. Among the selection is the Builders Tea Punch, a playful reinterpretation on the classic cup of tea, alongside a few personal favourites that the pair couldn’t resist including.

“There’s a restaurant that we really like in London called Black Axe Mangal, and on their menu there’s always a pickleback. Essentially, it’s just a shot of whatever your choice is, and pickle brine,” Rebecca told CBD News.

“I was writing the menu one day and went to go do something, and Mark had snuck in and wrote picklebacks on the menu and then ran away. He has a cumquat pickle that goes on our capocollo dish, so we take that and use it as our pickle brine. It goes really well with whiskey and has been really popular.”

Rebecca and Mark also have plans to host rolling Sunday lunches starring Mark’s signature sourdough Yorkshire pudding, along with collaborations featuring guest chefs and winemakers.

“We just wanted to find a way to fit seamlessly with what they’ve created here, Caretakers in particular have done such a good job and really pushed this part of the city,” Rebecca said.

“They’ve been a great support to us, they’re such lovely boys and it feels really nice to be a part of that city vibe.”

After years of hard work, Rebecca and Mark’s shared dream has finally come to fruition in Reed House – a beautiful culmination of the places they’ve worked and the things they love.

And don’t forget to ask them what’s in the duck ... you might find a delightful surprise waiting for you! ●

Nick Reece for Melbourne Mayor

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Ballot Paper

Election of the Leadership Team of the Melbourne City Council
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10	KIM, Eylem POON, Bruce	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	
7	HAKIM, Jamal ANATOLITIS, Esther	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	
1	REECE, Nick CAMPBELL, Roshena	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	Team Nick Reece
2	MORGAN, Gary GE, Liz	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	
3	KOUTOUFIDES, Anthony KHAN, Intaj	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	
5	RIZA, Mariam MARTIN, Luke	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	
9	WOOD, Arron DEERING, Erin	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	
6	INGLETON, Roxane McRAE McLEOD, Marley	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	
8	BISINELLA, Greg STEVENSON, Megan	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	
4	REED, Phil WILLS, Virginia	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	



Authorised by Nicholas Reece, PO Box 1163, Carlton 3053

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Authorised by Nicholas Reece, PO Box 1163, Carlton 3053

Team Reece says it's ready to "get good done" for Melbourne

Incumbent Lord Mayor Nick Reece has revealed the full list of names of those he's taking to the City of Melbourne elections, who he said had "the experience and energy" required to serve the people of Melbourne.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



With caretaker mode now officially kicked in at Melbourne Town Hall, Cr Reece is now free to focus solely on his team's election campaign under the catchphrase "Gets Good Done".

Topping the Team Reece leadership ticket is his candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor, Liberal Party member, and fellow councillor, Roshena Campbell, who had already announced her candidacy back in July.

Cr Campbell served alongside Cr Reece as a councillor during the last term at the City of Melbourne as part of team of former Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who she opposed on a range of different issues.

While Cr Reece, a Labor Party member who is running as an independent at this election, also has differing views to Cr Campbell on several key issues, he has formed an unlikely alliance under a "unity ticket" at this election.

At the top of the team's council ticket will be veteran councillor Kevin Louey whose influence within Melbourne's Chinese business diaspora has seen him receive the number one spot under former Lord Mayors Robert Doyle and Sally Capp.

Regardless of whether Nick Reece wins the Lord Mayoralty, you can lock in Cr Louey to be returned for what would be a staggering fifth consecutive term since first being elected in 2008 – two decades as a councillor to be exact.

Team Reece's all-important second councillor spot will be taken by Queen Victoria Market (QVM) trader and entrepreneur Mark Scott, who previously served as the market's manager up until 2017.

Making up the rest of the team are digital entrepreneur and marketing expert Lisa Teh, who has switched allegiances having previously ran as Arron Wood's candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor in the 2020 elections.

Beneath Ms Teh in the number four spot is renowned Southbank resident and founding member of residents' group Southbank3006 Jannine Pattison, followed by Carlton Public Housing Estates Residents' Association leader Hamdi Ali.

Rounding off the Team Reece council ticket are Docklands resident and decorated athlete Sue Stanley, and passionate Kensington resident Simone Hartley-Keane, who will assume the sixth and seventh positions, respectively.

Cr Reece said he was "so proud" of the team that had been assembled, stating it was "chock full of experience, diversity and a deep commitment to serving the people of Melbourne".

"Each member of the team brings unique strengths and perspectives, and a dedication to work hard every day to make the best city in the world even better and even fairer," Cr Reece said.

Cr Campbell added that the team was "ready to work hard and help ensure Melbourne continues to thrive."

"Team Reece is focused on delivering real results that benefit every Melburnian, from supporting local businesses and easing the cost of living, to helping address the housing crisis and making our city safer and cleaner," Cr Campbell said.

Since officially announcing his candidacy for Lord Mayor back in July, Cr Reece has announced a significant number of policies for the city, many of which directly impact the CBD.

Perhaps most notably, he has pledged



to do everything in the council's power to "turbo charge" the conversion of city offices to affordable homes with a series of practical changes, including slashing council rates for successful conversions.

In October last year, a "housing statement" released by the state government vowed to explore turning unused commercial space into "around 10,000 to 12,000 apartments and mixed-use properties".

An audit of the CBD conducted by the Property Council of Australia identified nearly 80 buildings that it considered appropriate for conversion, however the government has yet to make any further announcements.

Cr Reece said the City of Melbourne would "help facilitate the creation of thousands of new homes with planning incentives, technical support and financial assistance to help convert existing office buildings into new apartments".

These proposed measures include, but not limited to, refunding permit application fees for any conversion project creating more than 100 new apartments, slashing council rates, and establishing an Office Conversions Working Group with the state

government.

As reported in this edition of *CBD News*, Cr Reece also made headlines in September by announcing he would sell the council's 51 per cent stake in the Regent Theatre on Collins St to help fund new creative spaces and establish a Melbourne Arts Future Fund.

Team Reece has also announced a suite of policies aimed at improving city safety and cleanliness, supporting small business and investment into the city and establishing Australia's largest ever renewable energy purchasing plan.

Having served his apprenticeship as a councillor since 2016, as well as Deputy Lord Mayor under his predecessor Sally Capp since 2020, Cr Reece believes he's well and truly up for the challenge of a full term in the City of Melbourne's top job.

"Melbourne is the best and fairest city in the world, but we can't rest on our laurels. We know other cities are stepping up their efforts and we need to do the same," Cr Reece said. "As Lord Mayor, I want to bring our city's people together and work closely with our leaders so we can seize every opportunity for Melbourne in the years and decades ahead." ●

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Celebrating 30 years of Melbourne fashion

Melbourne Fashion Week (M/FW) is set to return from October 21 to 27, marking its 30th anniversary by spotlighting the city's vibrant fashion community.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



This year's theme, *You're Invited*, celebrates the distinctive characteristics that define Melbourne's fashion landscape: individuality, community, and self-expression.

Adding to the enthusiasm, internationally acclaimed Melbourne-born artist G Flip has been named the 2024 ambassador, closing the festivities with a performance at Melbourne Town Hall as part of the Closing Showcase.

"I'm so excited to be part of M/FW this year. Melbourne is my home and I'm very honoured to be celebrating our city's incredible local fashion and creative talent," G Flip said.

"Fashion has played a huge role in my life, especially when it came to exploring and finding my sexuality and gender identity."

Fashion enthusiasts can look forward to the return of beloved M/FW venues for its seven premium runway shows, including

the Queen Victoria Market, Little Bourke Street, THE LUME Melbourne, Melbourne Town Hall, and the Melbourne Museum.

The program will also feature more than 300 designers and retailers, with more than 100 events and sessions planned for throughout the week.

"What started back in 1995 as just four runways, has evolved into an unmissable week of fashion – a staple in the events calendar of fashion-lovers everywhere," Lord Mayor Nick Reece said.

"We're expecting more than 100,000 people to join us at this year's milestone Melbourne Fashion Week – driving the local economy through its runway-to-retail focus."

This year's lineup of featured designers at Melbourne Fashion Week includes Aje, ALPHA60, Bec + Bridge, Clothing the Gaps, Erik Yvon, Grace Lillian Lee, INJURY, J'Aton, MAARA Collective, Mariam Seddiq, nevenka, Ngali, Orotan, Rebecca Vallance, and Reignier, among others.

In addition to showcasing established brands, the 2024 M/FW program also shines a spotlight on emerging and independent designers, continuing to promote sustainability, inclusivity, and the celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, alongside other diverse influences within Australia's fashion scene.

"This year's program is a culmination of everything there is to love about Melbourne's fashion and retail scene – with more than 100 showstopping free and ticketed events and sessions – and everyone's invited," Cr Reece said. ●

Future of Chinatown Lunar New Year Festival secured

The City of Melbourne's officially endorsed business precinct association for Chinatown has secured the rights to host the Lunar New Year Festival following years of changing hands.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The Melbourne Chinatown Business Association (MCBA) led by president Christina Zhao received formal confirmation from the council in September that it had been successful in its bid to host the festival in 2025.

The news represents a win for Chinatown, which has undergone significant change in representation since 2021 following the demise of the Chinatown Precinct Association (CPA) after more than two decades.

The CPA was initially replaced by the newly formed Melbourne Chinatown Association (MCA), however the new group only lasted one year as the council's preferred trader group for the precinct.

Despite the MCBA having since taken over leadership of Chinatown, this year's Lunar New Year Festival held in February was organised by the MCA after it had secured hosting rights during 2023.

The MCBA's successful bid to host next year's festival means the event is back under the auspices of the council's officially endorsed precinct association, which has gone from strength to strength since taking over in 2023.

The 2025 event is also expected to receive a financial boost from the state government after former Premier Dan Andrews committed to providing \$400,000 towards it as part of a 2022 election pledge.

With businesses in Chinatown having made continued calls for renewal in the precinct amid the ongoing impacts to trade since the pandemic and increases in graffiti and rough sleeping, a re-elected Lord Mayor Nick Reece has pledged big money.

As part of his election platform, Team Reece has committed \$12.6 million to be invested on a "Chinatown Revitalisation" package, largely made up of \$10 million for dedicated community-led infrastructure upgrades.

A further \$1.6 million would be allocated to the Museum of Chinese Australian



History to support the expansion and modernisation of its exhibitions, while a further \$1 million will be spent over four years to support cultural festivals, such as Lunar New Year celebrations.

Cr Reece said if re-elected, he would work "hand-in-glove" with the Chinese community to "not only preserve Chinatown's rich heritage but also inject new life into the precinct".

"Melbourne wouldn't be the city it is today without the contributions of its Chinese and Indian communities. This package is about more than just infrastructure; it's about celebrating and strengthening the cultural ties that make our city unique," Cr Reece said.

"Melbourne has the oldest Chinatown in the Western world dating back to the 1850s and this investment will ensure it continues to be a vibrant, bustling, Chinese precinct for decades to come." ●

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Former councillor Cathy Oke joins Arron Wood’s team for Melbourne

Former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood has revealed his team to challenge incumbent Lord Mayor Nick Reece at October’s City of Melbourne election, which sees the surprise return of a former long-term councillor.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Having already announced his candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor in swimwear entrepreneur Erin Deering back in August, Mr Wood has now revealed his full team with current councillor Phil Le Liu at the top of the council ticket.

“Philip’s work in local government exemplifies his passion for making Melbourne a more inclusive and dynamic city,” Mr Wood said. “His leadership and experience will be invaluable as we work together to make Melbourne better for all residents and businesses.”

Many had tipped Cr Le Liu, a long-term CBD resident and former Liberal Party member who led the council’s finance portfolio during the last term, to fill the number one spot on the Team Wood ticket. However, it’s the name filling the second position who looks set to be making a shock return to Town Hall.

That is former Greens councillor and Kensington local Dr Cathy Oke, who served on the council for 12 years between 2008 and 2020 and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her service to local government and the environment in 2023.

Dr Oke was a valuable contributor to the City of Melbourne during her time as



a councillor, largely working across the transport and environment portfolios, and currently she leads the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Cities.

The addition of Dr Oke provides strong balance to the Team Wood ticket, which, if successful, could very well see her re-elected for a fourth term. However, even if Mr Wood isn’t successful in winning Lord Mayoralty, Dr Oke still has a chance of being elected depending on how preferences flow.

Despite serving on the council in different teams in the past, Dr Oke previously worked for Mr Wood’s environmental not-for-profit Kids Teaching Kids for 10 years before being elected in 2008.

Mr Wood said Dr Oke had a “deep understanding of the intersection between social equity and environmental sustainability complements our vision for a greener, fairer

Melbourne”, adding that “her expertise will help guide our city toward a more inclusive, sustainable future.”

Filling the number three and four spots on the Team Wood ticket respectively, are lawyer and former City of Melbourne councillor Nicolas Zervos, and proud Carlton resident and community leader Hala Nur.

Following them in fifth position is Michael Caiafa, who very briefly served as a councillor following the 2016 election before being removed due to a recount triggered by disqualified candidate Brook Wandin.

Mr Caiafa is a second-generation trader and one of the most recognised and respected figures in the Dairy Hall of the Queen Victoria Market. His family business, M & G Caiafa – The Corner Bread Shop, sits at the heart of the market, where Michael

has been working alongside his parents since the age of 13.

The final two positions on the Team Wood council ticket will be taken by Docklands resident and businesswoman Hope Wei, and strategic communications expert and Labor Party member Steve Michelson.

Mr Wood said he believed his team was “uniquely qualified to lead Melbourne into a connected and prosperous future”, and was comprised of experienced councillors, local leaders, business owners and residents who bring a range of expertise.

“Melbourne is a city built of forward thinking, hard work, innovation and a strong sense of community,” Mr Wood said.

“Our team reflects these values, with each member bringing a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to serving all of the city’s residents and businesses.” ●

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ARRON WOOD

CANDIDATE FOR
LORD MAYOR



ERIN DEERING

CANDIDATE FOR
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

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Regards,
Arron Wood & Erin Deering
Candidates for Lord Mayor
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AUTHORISED BY A. WOOD, P O BOX 6 9 2 NORTH MELBOURNE VIC

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Franklin St transformation final design revealed

The designs for the Franklin St transformation have been given the tick of approval by the City of Melbourne and are expected to make the city streetscape the “envy” of people outside the precinct.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



In the final concept design that was unanimously endorsed at the September 3 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, the council revealed how it plans to enhance the Franklin streetscape to better connect the State Library Metro Station to Queen Victoria Market.

The new high-quality city corridor that Lord Mayor Nick Reece said was going to be “world-class”, will include upgraded footpaths, new bike lanes, street greening and a number of gathering spaces.

The project is being co-funded as a part of

the West Gate Tunnel Project’s “Transport and Amenity Program” (TAP) – a \$100 million fund aimed at mitigating the new road project’s impacts on North and West Melbourne and Docklands.

While the Franklin St project in the CBD sits outside of what many believed TAP was established for, both the Department of Transport and Planning and the council have each contributed more than \$15 million towards it.

It’s a major investment for the city according to Cr Reece, who said that the \$30 million project was essential to create the streetscapes needed to accommodate the city’s growing population.

The Lord Mayor said that there would be an extra 150,000 people in the central city once the Metro Tunnel Project was completed in 2025.

The council’s outgoing planning portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert believes the Franklin St project was an “exciting opportunity”.

Cr Leppert said that in conjunction with the opening of State Library Metro Station, the Franklin St transformation would piece together the northern east-to-west route into the city.

“It will provide the densest part of Victoria



and the residents, current and future, with a level of amenity that is very high and will be the envy of people outside the precinct,” he said.

Speaking at the September 3 meeting, Cr Philip Le Liu raised his concerns over the utilities that are within the roadway and whether or not future works would repeatedly disrupt or damage the corridor once it’s completed.

But the council’s general manager of infrastructure and amenity Rick Kwasick said, “as a part of the design process we consider what utilities are within the roadway and what works are likely to occur.”

“We make whatever efforts we can to ensure that any upgrades that are required, occur prior to any improvement works undertaken by the City of Melbourne.” ●

Greens and Team Hakim candidates withdraw from City of election race

First-time Greens candidate Karl Hessian and Team Hakim candidate Bebe Oliver, who was vying to become the first-ever Indigenous councillor elected to the City of Melbourne, have both been forced to withdraw from October’s election.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Mr Hessian, who was originally running in the Greens’ second councillor position, was forced to pull out of the race for Town Hall because he hadn’t received his Australian citizenship in time to nominate.

Mr Hessian, a New Zealand citizen who has been living in Melbourne since 1997, was expected to run alongside current councillor Dr Olivia Ball, who is running in the number one spot.

With the Greens being historically successful in contributing two councillors to the City of Melbourne, Mr Hessian was a strong chance to be elected and replace three-term outgoing Cr Rohan Leppert.

However, in a note on its website, the Greens stated that while all of its candidates had nominated for council on Thursday, September 12, Mr Hessian “hadn’t received

his Australian citizenship by that time so he couldn’t nominate”.

It means Parkville Gardens resident and orthoptist Aaron Moon has been elevated into the party’s second councillor position, and North Melbourne public housing resident and youth leader Barry Berih moves up to third.

Mr Hessian, a resident of West Melbourne who works in IT in the early childhood education and care sector, said that while he was “devastated” not to be able to run, the party would now move forward with its contingency plan.

Admittedly having lived as an “interloper” in Australia since 1997, he said he had never addressed the fact he wasn’t a citizen until making the decision to run for the City of Melbourne.

The Greens leadership ticket is still being led by candidate for Lord Mayor in North Melbourne resident and midwife Roxane Ingleton and its candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor – mental health peer support worker Marley McRae McLeod.

Meanwhile, Team Hakim’s number one councillor pick Bebe Oliver, who was strongly tipped to become the first Aboriginal councillor elected in the City of Melbourne’s history, was forced to withdraw because he was overseas at the time of nominations.

A statement from Team Hakim stated that “award-winning writer Bebe Oliver has reluctantly withdrawn as a candidate for the Melbourne City local government



Karl Hessian



Bebe Oliver

elections as he couldn’t be in Melbourne to register his nomination”.

As per Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) rules, candidates need to appear in person at the time of registering their nominations.

The error has opened the door for North Melbourne resident and Carlton-based architect Michael Smith to fill the number one position on the Team Hakim ticket, who was originally running as an independent under the name “Melbourne by Design”.

As reported in sibling publication North West City News, Mr Smith is hoping to fill the void left by the departure of 12-year councillor Rohan Leppert, who played a leading role in the city’s planning portfolio.

Mr Smith said he was excited to join Mr Hakim’s team as his “passion for architectural practice was rooted in creating spaces that serve the community”.

With the municipality’s population set to double in twenty years, now is the time to plan responsibly and ambitiously for the Melbourne of the future,” Mr Smith said.

“This is so important to me that I have been running my own campaign, but having deepened my relationships with [Cr] Jamal [Hakim] and Team Hakim, I’m thrilled to have joined the people with the most relevant, compelling and ethical platform for a better Melbourne.” ●



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THE MILLION DOLLAR PODCAST

By Ramneek Wayne



EP. 01 SUSANNE NEWTON *Mayor of Darebin*

In this episode of *The Million Dollar Podcast*, host Ramneek Wayne sits down with Susanne Newton, the Mayor of Darebin, to explore her inspiring journey from a world traveller working with the United Nations to a trailblazing political leader. Susanne shares her unexpected path into politics, the challenges she's faced as a woman in leadership, and the "million-dollar value" of finding your voice and making a difference—whether on a local or global scale. With valuable insights for young people on taking risks, overcoming setbacks, and leading with passion, this conversation is a must-listen for anyone ready to make their mark in the world.

Ramneek Wayne: Susanne, welcome to The Million Dollar Podcast! It's fantastic to have you here today.

Susanne Newton: Thanks, Ramneek! It's wonderful to be here.

Ramneek: You've done so much in the community and globally, and the work you're doing is truly inspiring. But let's start from the beginning. You're the Mayor of Darebin now, but how did you first get interested in politics?

Susanne: "You know, it was a pretty windy road! I wasn't one of those people who thought about politics from an early age.

Even in my twenties, I didn't imagine myself as a politician, despite studying politics at university. It wasn't until my thirties, after working in Uganda with the United Nations, that I saw the real impact women leaders were making. It lit something in me. They had quotas for women in politics, and that's when I thought, 'Why not me?' So I threw my hat in the ring."

Ramneek: It's incredible how your experience in Uganda shaped your political path. What challenges did you face jumping into this world, especially since it wasn't your initial plan?

| Why not me?

Susanne: "Oh, there were many! I was in my early thirties, and I remember thinking, 'What do I know about politics?' Even when I first ran for council, I didn't expect to get elected. But what surprised me was how much I enjoyed campaigning and meeting people in the community. When they voted for me, I realised, 'Oh, I can do this!'"

"Even after getting elected, there's this power dynamic. I was younger than most of my colleagues and, being a woman, sometimes I wasn't taken seriously. There's a learning curve, and I had to find my voice. I used to write down my speeches word for word because I was so nervous. Now, I can speak comfortably off the cuff, but that took time."

Ramneek: I love that you said, "Why not me?" That's something we need to hear more often. So, what advice would you give young people who might be interested in politics but think it's too far out of reach?

Susanne: "I'd say don't wait until you feel 'ready.' We're never completely ready for the things that challenge us the most. If politics is something you're even remotely interested in, go for it! Start small—get involved in your community, volunteer, join a campaign. You'll learn so much on the way, and you never know where it might lead you."

| We're never completely ready for the things that challenge us the most.

Ramneek: Passion really does fuel everything. Speaking of passion, you've been a strong advocate for climate action. Darebin was the first city in the world to declare a climate emergency. That's massive! Can you tell us how that happened?

Susanne: "It was an amazing moment for us. In 2016, not long after I got elected, we had strong local climate action groups that pushed for bold moves. We were the first to declare a climate emergency, and it snowballed from there. Now, more than a third of the world's governments have declared similar emergencies."

"What's important is that it started on a community level. People often think global change needs to come from the top, but this shows how local action can spark global movements. It's about listening to your community and taking action, even if it seems daunting at first."

Ramneek: That's a "million-dollar value" right there—local action can have a global impact! Speaking of challenges, you mentioned earlier that finding your voice took time. What about dealing with setbacks or negative feedback? How do you handle that?

Susanne: "Oh, the setbacks are real, trust me! When you're in politics, especially as a woman, you have to deal with criticism, sometimes personal attacks. It's tough, but I've learned to not take it personally. I think about why people behave that way, often it's more about them than about me."

"I've also built a strong support network. When things get hard, having people in your corner—whether they're colleagues, friends, or mentors—makes all the difference. And it's important to remember that you can't change everything overnight. You have to stay focused on the long game."

Ramneek: That's solid advice. Now, a bit of a fun question: When you were 20, did you ever imagine you'd be a mayor? What did "20-year-old Susanne" think about politicians?

Susanne: [Laughs] "Oh my gosh, not at all! When I was 20, I didn't even think I could be a politician. Back then, politics felt like something other people did, not me. It wasn't until I saw women leading in Uganda that I realised politics could be for someone like me. So, 20-year-old me? She had no idea what was coming!"

Ramneek: That's amazing. So, to wrap things up, if you could give one piece of advice to young people listening to this podcast, what would it be?

Susanne: "I'd say don't be afraid to take risks. Whether it's in politics, business, or something else entirely, go for what excites you. You might not feel ready, but you'll grow along the way. And don't do it alone—find people who will support you and keep pushing you forward. The journey isn't always easy, but it's absolutely worth it."

Ramneek: I couldn't agree more. Susanne, you've given us some real gems today. Thank you for being here on *The Million Dollar Podcast*. I'm sure our listeners are walking away inspired!

Susanne: "Thanks, Ramneek. It's been a pleasure!"

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Melbourne officially welcomes Koreatown

Healeys Lane has officially become Melbourne's own Koreatown, following a unanimous City of Melbourne vote at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on September 3 to "put a ring on it".

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Already home to nearly 25 Korean businesses, Healeys Lane – stretching from Lonsdale St to Little Lonsdale St – has existed as an "unofficial" Koreatown for many years.

With the council's approval, Melbourne now proudly joins the likes of other major cities including New York, Toronto, Sydney and Los Angeles with an official Korean precinct.

"Healeys Lane has been synonymous with all things Korean for many years, and this formal endorsement is a win for the dedicated small business owners in the area," the council's business and global opportunities portfolio lead Cr Kevin Louey said.

"I can't wait to see Melbourne's Koreatown flourish – from culinary sensations like kimchi and bibimbap in some of our hottest restaurants to a thriving entertainment scene, Koreatown will invigorate the senses."

Koreans represent the ninth largest diaspora in the City of Melbourne, with more

than 2500 Koreans calling the municipality home.

As part of the establishment of a Koreatown, four authentic jangseung (traditional Korean totem pole) will be installed on either end of Healeys Lane.

Jangseung are traditionally found at the edge of villages in Korea, standing as a symbol to protect against evil spirits.

The three-metre-high poles will mark the entrances to the precinct, elevating "a sense of arrival and occasion" for visitors to the city.

While the four jangseung will be funded by the Consulate-General of the Republic of Korea in Melbourne, council will oversee its installation.

"Koreatown is a recognition of Korean people as member of Melbourne city," Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Melbourne, Changhoon Yi said.

In collaboration with the Melbourne Korean Business Association (MKBA), the Consulate-General is aiming for an official opening ceremony in the first half of 2025.

The ceremony will kick off an exciting lineup of Korean festivities across the city, with Fed Square's annual Korea Festival following in May.

Consul General Yi also hopes to commission a mural in Healeys Lane to begin welcoming Melburnians to Koreatown.

"Melbourne is a multicultural melting pot. We're proud to have 2500 Korean-born Melburnians who call our city home and by formalising Koreatown, we hope to attract more visitors and businesses to the area," Lord Mayor Nick Reece said. ●

Lonsdale St heritage building to be turned into 22-storey office building

The building at 436-450 Lonsdale St was vacated in 2021 because it failed to meet fire safety regulations.

WORDS BY
SABRINA CAIRES



At a September 3 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, the council granted a permit for a \$135 million development that will retain only the facade of the original building.

Situated within the CBD's legal precinct near Flagstaff Gardens, the site is protected by a heritage overlay due to its architectural significance and its history as a shared building for the state and federal taxation offices.

At the time of its closure, the building was occupied by the Supreme Court.

It was originally designed in the Neoclassical style by prominent Melbourne architects Oakley and Parkes in 1929.

Chief government architect Percy Everett made additions in the 1930s, creating the "stepped" effect which gives the building its Art Deco character.

The new plans propose the demolition of the majority of the building, leaving only the sandstone facade which includes the lobby and original entrance.

Speaking at the FMC meeting, Urbis town planner Billy Rebakis said the specialist court facilities housed in the building made adequate renovation difficult.

Typically, heritage regulations stipulate that new works should be set back at least eight to 10 metres from a preserved heritage facade.

However, this permit application has been lodged under certain provisions of the Melbourne Planning Scheme, which allow the Minister to vary these mandatory setbacks at their discretion, when a proposed work is projected to deliver significant contributions to the state's economy.

Instead, this proposal states that development will be set back five metres from the building's south boundary and 18 metres from its east boundary.

Heritage practitioner Peter Lovell advised that this exception should be made because it suited the design of this particular building.

Mr Lovell noted that when looking from the southern face of the building, there was

a distinct change in architecture after the first five metres of the building.

While the first five metres feature sandstone and Art Deco design elements, Mr Lovell described the rear of the building as a "very pragmatic functional box of a building, with no articulation, no heritage itself."

On August 24, a petition was launched by heritage building advocacy group Demolishing Melbourne, calling for the total preservation of the building.

"When thinking about historic buildings, it is critical that we consider the building to be more than just a façade," petition organiser Louis Wyatt told CBD News.

"A city of historic façades attached to tall, contemporary, towers provide only a limited understanding of the historic importance of any individual building, and drastically diminishes any legibility of the broader urban environment."

"As a government-led project, it would have been good to see a more sensitive design which showed greater consideration of the existing building. The project will only further entrench the precedent of facadism across Melbourne."

Lord Mayor Nick Reece said he was pleased to see development proposals emerging around the legal precinct.

"I think it's a really outstanding development proposal that's before us here, and it should be, because the old taxation office is an Art Deco-Moderne classic of Melbourne," Cr Reece said.

"So, anything that comes along to replace it needs to be absolutely first-rate so that in 100 years from now when people are looking at this site, they are still referring to it in glowing terms as we can about the old tax office." ●

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TEAM KOUTA

VOTE 1



Intaj Khan

DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
CANDIDATE

Anthony Koutoufides

LORD MAYOR
CANDIDATE

Dear Residents,

I'm Anthony Koutoufides, a proud Melburnian and former captain of the Carlton Football Club. Over the years, I've seen our city change, and not always for the better. Businesses are closing, safety concerns are rising, and the vibrant streets of our CBD are often empty.

As your candidate for Lord Mayor, I'm committed to restoring Melbourne's greatness. My team and I will work tirelessly to revitalize our economy, address cost-of-living pressures, and make our city a better place for everyone. Thank you for your support. Together, we can build a bright future for Melbourne.

Sincerely,
Anthony Koutoufides (Kouta)

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Emma Carney
COUNCILLOR III
CANDIDATE

Intaj Khan
DEPUTY LAYOR MAYOR
CANDIDATE

Anthony Koutoufides
LAYOR MAYOR
CANDIDATE

Gladys Liu
COUNCILLOR I
CANDIDATE

Zaim Ramani
COUNCILLOR II
CANDIDATE

Jamal Hakim reveals “Future Postcode 3000” policy

Lord Mayoral hopeful Cr Jamal Hakim has launched his team’s plan to revitalise Melbourne’s CBD through a suite of policies that revive the city’s creative sector and “tactical” greening initiatives.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



With office vacancy rates in the CBD currently at their highest levels since the 1990s recession, Cr Hakim said it was during that last “deep economic downturn” that the council at the time responded with “an adventurous approach”.

Ahead of October’s City of Melbourne’s elections, Cr Hakim said it was “time for a Future Postcode 3000”, which drew similar lessons from “the ambitious Postcode 3000 strategy” of the ‘90s.

The original Postcode 3000 policy led by the council’s former head of city design Prof. Rob Adams helped revitalise the city through a range of landlord and developer incentives, subsidised tenancies for artists, and laneway revivals.

Cr Hakim said that Team Hakim would offer a similar suite of incentives to facilitate creative and community tenancies in office buildings and seek to replicate the Nicholas Building model, which he argued had been jeopardised since its recent sale.

He added that rising rents were pushing community and care economy organisations out of the CBD, despite the city’s social needs continuing to grow.

“Melbourne is at risk of losing its arts capital status. Our city can’t afford to see creative and non-profit organisations priced out of the communities they exist to serve,” Cr Hakim said.



“That’s why my arts policy is also a nation-leading urban culture policy.”

As part of his policy, Cr Hakim has pledged to activate vacant office spaces through a host of incentives, provide \$2 million every year to “supercharge” the council’s Creative Spaces program, and funds to support the Nicholas Building Association.

He also wants to double the council’s contestable arts funding programs for local artists, provide \$10 million for multi-cultural festivals and events, and support office-to-housing retrofitting “where it is viable”.

He said the city needed artists living and working in the municipality.

“We need their innovation, and we need

their energy. We also know that community services are best delivered with community,” Cr Hakim said.

“We need their dedication, and we need their care. Locals know local business best, and Team Hakim is committed to supporting their work.”

Cr Hakim’s candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor and renowned arts leader Esther Anatolitis said supporting artists in the city could “catapult our thinking”.

“Artists in vertical precincts like the Nicholas Building make extraordinary work that welcomes people from all over Australia, driving their local economies,” she said. “We can’t afford to keep losing our finest creative talent. Let’s strengthen what’s unique

about Melbourne before it’s lost forever.”

Carlton-based architect Michael Smith, who recently joined Team Hakim as its number one councillor candidate, said empty office space was a “valuable opportunity” to welcome arts and community groups and support the local businesses they love.

“We need practical options for low grade office buildings where conversion to residential use is not financially viable,” Mr Smith said.

“The City of Melbourne cannot afford to tip millions of dollars into each and every one of these projects in order to make them viable. Simply waiving permit fees will not get some of these office-to-housing conversions across the line.”

As part of the team’s broader Postcode 3000 initiative, it has also developed a \$25 million “tactical urbanism greening policy” designed to shape the city’s future through testing and trialling new public spaces.

Cr Hakim said key high streets and boulevards, such as Harbour Esplanade, St Kilda Rd, and Collins, Lygon and Errol streets would be revitalised under the program with new placemaking ideas, including fairy lights, greening, arts trails and interactive spaces.

He also wants to “democratise public land” by beautifying the entry to people’s home and apartment buildings by creating licences with owners’ corporations for unused land in front of their properties.

“As we double our population, every square metre of public space becomes crucial in creating a city that is liveable, sustainable, and inclusive,” Cr Hakim said.

“For too long, Melbourne has been over-regulated. It’s time to embrace a city where people and businesses have a democratic right to access and shape public spaces.”

“Through this policy, we’ll build a Melbourne where community and civic pride are at the forefront, creating an environment where people feel ownership over their surroundings.” ●

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Authorised by Philip Reed: Locked Bag 3240, Melbourne VIC 3001

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Who's who in the 2024 City of Melbourne election



Team Hakim

Leadership: Jamal Hakim (Lord Mayor), Esther Anatolitis (Deputy Lord Mayor)

Councillor ticket: Michael Smith, Lawrence Lam, Judy Gao

Major policies: Future Postcode 3000 policy, "tactical urbanism" greening and placemaking initiatives, equal parenting revolution to boost maternal and child health services and more public toilets for the city.

Team Reece

Leadership: Nick Reece (Lord Mayor), Roshena Campbell (Deputy Lord Mayor)

Councillor ticket: Kevin Louey, Mark Scott, Lisa Teh, Jannine Pattison, Hamdi Ali, Sue Stanley, Simone Hartley-Keane.

Major policies: Sell the Regent Theatre to fund the arts, office to apartment conversions in the CBD, 28 new parks for the city, establishing a new Little India, new 24/7 city safety officers for the city.

CBD News says: Still theirs to lose! No matter if Cr Reece is elected Lord Mayor or not, lock in the return of Cr Kevin Louey for a fifth consecutive term on council and expect Mark Scott to be elected as well.



Team Wood

Leadership: Arron Wood (Lord Mayor) Erin Deering (Deputy Lord Mayor)

Councillor ticket: Phil Le Liu, Cathy Oke, Nicolas Zervos, Hala Nur, Michael Caiafa, Hope Wei, Steve Michelson.

Major policies: Scrapping Greenline to fund new parks across the city, rates freeze and cost-of-living relief, program to tackle graffiti, community sports package and making Melbourne Australia's "Christmas Capital".

CBD News says: Sitting in a great position on leadership ticket with some favourable preferences. Regardless of the outcome, lock in the return of Cr Phil Le Liu for a third consecutive term, as well as a likely comeback for former Greens councillor Cathy Oke.



Animal Justice Party

Leadership: Kim Eylem (Lord Mayor), Bruce Poon (Deputy Lord Mayor)

Councillor ticket: Aashna Katyal, Rabin Bangaar

Major policies: Putting an end to all forms of animal cruelty in Melbourne.

CBD News says: A single-issue campaign aimed at raising awareness more than anything. Don't expect to anyone above to feature on the next council.

Team Morgan

Leadership: Gary Morgan (Lord Mayor), Liz Ge (Deputy Lord Mayor)

Councillor ticket: Rafael Camillo, William Caldwell

Major policies: Deploying Protective Services Officers (PSOs) to local streets, expanding Melbourne to take in the Cities of Yarra and Port Phillip, listening posts for residents and businesses, "zero homelessness".

CBD News says: A serial Lord Mayoral contender who is driving preferences to Nick Reece at this election. Current Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo is an outside chance of being elected, thanks to preference flows from the conservative tickets.

Voices for Melbourne

Leadership: Greg Bisinella (Lord Mayor), Megan Stevenson (Deputy Lord Mayor)

Councillor ticket: Mary Masters, James Vasilev-Roberston

Major policies: Tourism campaign to leverage Metro Tunnel openings, local business support, creating more green spaces, advocating for City of Melbourne electoral reform.

CBD News says: A strong team made up of highly regarded community advocates. Strong preference negotiator Mary Masters is a chance of being elected as a councillor depending how the chips fall.

Team Kouta

Leadership: Anthony Koutafides (Lord Mayor), Intaj Khan (Deputy Lord Mayor)

Councillor ticket: Gladys Liu, Zaim Ramani, Emma Carney, Olivia Tjandramulia

Major policies: \$5000 grants for 1000 small businesses who fill empty leases, free coffee to entice workers back to the city, free kindergarten, two-year rate freeze and the first-ever "Melbourne Superbowl Event".

CBD News says: The surprise packet of this election. Given the profile of its Lord Mayoral candidate, could either tank or spike in the primary vote count. Liberal Gladys Liu is a strong likelihood of being elected as a councillor.

Liberals for Melbourne City

Leadership: Mariam Riza (Lord Mayor), Luke Martin (Deputy Lord Mayor)

Councillor ticket: Owen Guest, You Li Liston

Major policies: Bike lane removal as part of city transport review, getting Melbourne "back in business".

CBD News says: First official presence in a Melbourne election and will be interesting to see the turnout on election day. Should do well among businesses, but conservative vote might be split with Team Kouta. Owen Guest is a strong chance of becoming a councillor.

Labor for Melbourne

Leadership: Phil Reed (Lord Mayor), Virginia Willis (Deputy Lord Mayor)

Councillor ticket: Davydd Griffiths, Sainab Abdi Sheikh, Michael Aleisi

Major policies: Transparent decision making, increasing housing options, strengthening (and not privatising) council assets and services, do away with the Lord Mayor robes.

CBD News says: Should poll something close to 10 per cent on primaries as per its last campaign in 2020 but will be interesting to see whether changing attitudes towards Spring St have any bearing on its vote. Again, lock in the return of Cr Davydd Griffiths for another term.

The rest ...



There are three councillor-only tickets to keep an eye out for, each of which possesses an outside chance of contributing the ninth and final councillor position, depending how final preferences land. They are:

Innovate Melbourne: Andrew Rowse, Jesse Greenwood

Team Elvis Martin: Elvis Martin, Sophy Galbally, Mavi Mujral, Jing Lin, Paul James Moore, Melissa Rymer, James Cullen, Carole Kenny-Sarasa

Team Participate: Asako Saito, Sam Janda.

For a full list of the entire field:



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Authorised by M. Shield, The Greens, 1.05/50 Queen St, Melbourne VIC 3000

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The Melbourne City Council elections



To vote in the elections, you will receive a ballot pack from the Victorian Electoral Commission anytime from Monday October 7.

How do I vote in the Melbourne City Council elections?

You will receive two ballot papers:

1. Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor

- Put the number 1 in the box next to the team you want to see elected, then number all the other boxes in order of your choice.
- You must number every box and only use each number once.

2. Councillors - for the nine councillors.

You can vote in one of two ways:

- Vote for a group by putting the number 1 in a box above the line, and your preferences will follow the group voting ticket.
- Or vote for individual candidates by numbering all boxes below the line, in the order of your choice.

If you vote below the line, you must number every box and only use each number once.

Once you have completed your ballot papers, put them in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration on the back of the envelope, then post the pack to the VEC using the reply-paid envelope provided.

Can I vote in the Melbourne City Council elections in person?

This is a postal election. However, you can drop off your completed ballot papers by 6pm 25 October at the:

**Melbourne City Council elections office
at the Drill Hall, 51-57 Victoria Street,
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Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

There will be additional opening hours for the elections office on Thursday 24 October until 8pm and Friday 25 October until 6pm.

If you will be away during the voting period, you can vote in person at the election office.

If you haven't received your ballot pack by Tuesday 15 October, please get in touch with the Victorian Electoral Commission.



Online: www.vec.vic.gov.au/contact-us
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Call: 131 832 in Victoria
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Gary Morgan campaigns for a “bigger Melbourne” that includes Yarra, Port Phillip

Serial Lord Mayoral contender Gary Morgan has announced his team ahead of the City of Melbourne elections in October, with a familiar local face to the CBD running in his number one councillor spot.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



2024 marks the pollster’s eighth consecutive tilt for Lord Mayor, and he’s returned with a campaign headlined by safety, support for residents and businesses, and a push for an expanded Melbourne municipality that swallows the Cities of Yarra and Port Phillip.

Joining him this time around is candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor, local resident and financial services expert Liz Ge, and current president of CBD residents’ group Residents 3000 Rafael Camillo.

Mr Camillo, who recently celebrated 10 years with Residents 3000 and was re-elected as president at the group’s annual general meeting on September 5 for the sixth consecutive year, will be well known to many locals in the CBD.

Mr Camillo, who has since stood down as president of Residents 3000 to run for council, said after 20 years living in the CBD and 10 years of volunteering, he had decided to try to represent his community in a different way.

Joining him in Team Morgan’s number two councillor spot is another familiar face to many CBD locals in William Caldwell, who works for local real estate agency Melbourne Boutique Property and is himself a long-term Docklands resident.

Mr Morgan told CBD News that his “key policy areas” for this election were safety, ending homelessness, resident and small

business support, reviving the CBD and creating a bigger Melbourne municipality.

As reported in sibling publication Inner City News, if elected, Mr Morgan wants to work with the state government to get more Protective Safety Officers (PSOs) patrolling local neighbourhoods on a 24-hour basis.

The long-time East Melbourne resident said that Team Morgan was concerned with “drugs, thugs and vandalism” throughout the City of Melbourne and would work with the state government to resolve these important issues.

“City of Melbourne residents, workers and tourists are more concerned than ever about Melbourne safety, theft and the type of vandalism that recently took place in East Melbourne – car windows broken, and car tyres slashed; and these same problems occurring in other inner-city areas of Melbourne,” Mr Morgan said.

“Unfortunately, ‘thuggish’ behaviour is rampant in the streets surrounding Melbourne’s stations – tough action is need now to curtail ‘thugs’ once they leave inner Melbourne’s stations.”

Team Morgan also wants to establish a partnership with the federal and state governments to cater for and provide long-term solutions to drive “zero homelessness” in the City of Melbourne.

It also wants to establish regular “listening post” meetings to support residents and small businesses, as well as to revive the CBD with lower council charges, more events and greater collaboration with the private sector.

But undoubtedly Team Morgan’s boldest plan is for a bigger Melbourne local government area that brings the Cities of Port Phillip and Yarra within an expanded City of Melbourne, which Mr Morgan argued would “result in significant cost efficiencies”.

He added that the move would bring the City of Melbourne’s current population of 150,000 to a total of 360,000, compared with neighbouring cities in Sydney (250,000) and Brisbane (1.3 million). ●



The Liberals enter the race for the City of Melbourne

For the first time in its history, the Liberal Party will formally endorse a team to run in October’s City of Melbourne elections.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Led by 34-year-old CBD resident Mariam Riza and local business owner Luke Martin as its candidates for Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, respectively, the Liberals are largely out to try and get a councillor elected next month.

If successful, that will be East Melbourne resident and the Victorian Liberal Party’s former state treasurer Owen Guest, who was influential in making the party’s first formal bid for Melbourne a reality.

Mr Guest, who previously ran for the Liberals in the federal seat of Macnamara (formerly Melbourne Ports) in 2016, will be joined by Chinese language teacher and Southbank resident You Li Liston, who will fill the second spot on the councillor ticket.

Speaking with CBD News in early September, Mr Guest said the timing for the party’s first official push for Town Hall was “necessary” as Melbourne had “suffered” under its current leadership.

“We’ve had a Labor government at state level for too long with obvious bad side effects,” Mr Guest told CBD News.

“We have, right now, a Labor Lord Mayor, who works hand-in-hand with that Labor government, who has done so throughout his entire career and Melbourne suffered.”

“Nick Reece and the Labor Party cannot be given a free pass, which is what they’ve received for too long.”

“I said that it was time for us to do something about that and they [the Liberal Party]

have shown courage to promote Mariam, Luke, You Li and myself and say, ‘go for it.’”

Ms Riza has worked as a public servant focused on economic revitalisation, jobs and employment, social impact, and community strengthening, as has experience in the not-for-profit sector with Brotherhood of St Laurence.

She said when she moved to Melbourne 10 years ago, she fell in love with the city and its beauty. However, she said that in the past few years, there was now “a darkness” and a sense of “sadness” to it.

“We’re not carrying as many people as we used to, we’ve lost businesses along the way,” Ms Riza said. “It’s not as vibrant as I remember it to be, and we’ve lost sight of the residents as well.”

Mr Guest, who works in the finance industry, added that what had concerned him the most about the current state of the city and Victoria was how some had described it as “in danger of becoming a sovereign risk”.

“Who’s going to invest in Melbourne in its current state? And the answer is less and less,” he said.

“People are moving interstate, people are setting up businesses where it’s cheaper, where it is easier, where there’s less interference from your local government or your state government.”

“We can see it in the CBD too, with too many for lease signs up.”

While the Liberal team is yet to announce its full list of policies ahead of October’s election, Ms Riza said safety and amenity, accessibility and transport and supporting small businesses and investment in the city would be among its top priorities.

“My vision for the future is bringing back the buzz to the city,” she said.

“Even though this is a local government election, it interplays with the state as well. And so, we’re confident that when we win local and we win state, we’ll be able to provide for a much safer Victoria and safer Melbourne as well.” ●



Sign a petition to improve air quality at Southern Cross Station

We are local residents concerned about the danger posed by poor air quality at Southern Cross Station. According to an ABC News report from 6 March 2024:

- Air quality monitoring shows nitrogen dioxide (NO2) levels in parts of the station have regularly been more than 90 times WHO guidelines.
- Professor Lou Irving, head of the Lung Tumour Stream at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, is quoted as saying: ‘I would be concerned that this is one of the least clean air areas in Melbourne.’
- A station worker says diesel trains sometimes idle at Southern Cross for up to 4 hours.

WE NEED TO STOP THIS!

If you share our concern, please HELP by signing a petition calling for the Victorian Government to take action, including:

1. prohibiting the idling of diesel trains and buses at Southern Cross Station for any longer than five minutes
2. installing external electrical power connections for diesel trains, to be plugged in upon arrival, in order to prevent idling
3. installing extractor fans to remove harmful diesel fumes.

The petition closes soon, so please help now! Use the QR code to lend your support.

Sign the petition



Team Kouta's plan to "change the game" for Melbourne

Former Carlton premiership player Anthony Koutoufides has ditched the Sherrin for a suit and tie and is running for Lord Mayor this October.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



He is no stranger to stepping outside his comfort zone and while running for Lord Mayor has not been a longstanding dream, he is always seeking out ways to challenge himself.

Whether it was winning *Dancing with Stars* or the 1995 AFL premiership, Mr Koutoufides said "hard work, dedication and discipline" have been the words he has lived by throughout his illustrious career.

When reflecting on his time playing AFL, the Lord Mayoral candidate said he "changed the game" due to his versatility as a player and ability to play in every position despite his large build.

If sworn into Town Hall he wants to transfer his disciplined and versatile approach to the footy field to the council chambers, and he sees it as another opportunity to push himself and improve not only his character but the City of Melbourne.

Alongside the former Carlton great on the Team Kouta ticket are property developer Intaj Khan as candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor, and former federal Liberal MP Gladys Liu, and fellow commercial property developer Zaim Ramani as the two councillor candidates.

At the heart of Team Kouta's campaign is a love for Melbourne according to Mr Koutoufides who is vowing to trial a range of measures to bring people back to the CBD, tighten rules for e-scooters and even run free outdoor fitness classes.

If elected in October, Mr Koutoufides will have a strong focus on bringing people back to the CBD for the first six months of his term due to traders suffering the consequence of high office vacancy rates and people working from home.

"Small businesses are leaving the city in concerning numbers and if we don't act now, it will only get worse," he said.

"The City of Melbourne needs people back. We need action now and we need to provide incentives to get the city moving again before it is too late."

To combat this, the mayoral candidate has proposed a one-off grant of up to \$5000 to be established for up to 1000 businesses that sign a new lease in the CBD in 2025.

Additionally, to bring people into the city, Mr Koutoufides has proposed that the council works with the state government and public transport operators to deliver subsidised public transport into the CBD one day a week.

He also plans to capitalise on Melbourne's "love affair" with coffee by offering to buy workers in the city a free one, through a program similar to the voucher initiative that was offered after COVID-19 to bring people back to restaurants.

"Most Melburnians love coffee, and our cafes are renowned around the world for it. So, for those that make the effort to come into the CBD on a Monday, we'll shout you a coffee," he said.

As a part of Team Kouta's plan to "bring



life" back into the city, if he is elected tighter restrictions on e-scooters will be enforced through the implementation of designated depots.

"Similar to a bike rack, this will ensure e-scooter commuters know where to pick up and drop off their vehicles. And the technology is such that you cannot leave them outside of these designated areas without a financial penalty of up to \$100," he said.

Mr Koutoufides said there was a place for bikes and e-scooters in Melbourne, but a better balance was urgently needed to ensure businesses had adequate street parking for their customers to park for shorter periods and more cheaply.

To achieve this balance, Mr Koutoufides has also said that he would reduce the number of bike lanes as he believes that too many have been installed and taken

away valuable parking spaces.

The MCG to Town Hall may not be a path walked by many, but Koutoufides is looking to draw on his experience in the big league to make Melbourne "happy" and "healthier" through free weekly exercise sessions in open spaces across the city.

"As technology impacts our lifestyles, we all have to remain able to exercise and move our bodies so our lives will remain healthy, so providing a free incentive to get people moving again can only have a positive benefit on our city," he said.

It was only three months ago that Mr Koutoufides agreed to run for Lord Mayor after being approached last year but he is prepared to give it his all for the city that he loves.

"I want to make the most livable city in the world again and we need to bring back the vibrancy," he said. ●

"A no-brainer": council urges greater disclosure of building sustainability credentials

The City of Melbourne is pushing the federal government to expand its Commercial Building Disclosure Program further as it seeks greater transparency from property owners and tenants regarding their building's energy performance.

WORDS BY
TARA HIGHT



As part of an implementation update on its Retrofit Melbourne plan heard at the September 10 Future Melbourne Committee

meeting, the council has called on the federal government to go even further in forcing disclosure of sustainability standards.

The council has cited the need for more information on buildings' energy performances to develop effective local regulations, with older commercial buildings accounting for more than 60 per cent of the municipality's emissions.

The council's sustainable building portfolio lead Cr Elizabeth O'Sullivan-Myles said that "nowhere in Australia can we look at how to retrofit our commercial properties without the federal government making moves in this work."

"The advocacy here is absolutely essential," Cr O'Sullivan-Myles said.

"We've had bipartisan support on this for many, many years now. It's a no-brainer.

Let's get a move on with it."

Advocacy forms a key component of the council's Retrofit Melbourne plan, which aims to accelerate the upgrading of mid-tier commercial buildings to achieve the city's target of net zero emissions by 2040.

The Commonwealth's current Commercial Building Disclosure Program introduced in 2010 requires companies to disclose energy performance when they're selling, leasing or subleasing office spaces of 1000sqm or more, with some exceptions.

This involves getting a National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) energy rating and a tenancy lighting assessment through an accredited assessor. The program has led to a 35 per cent reduction in base building energy use per sqm for buildings affected by the program.

The federal government's proposed changes would expand the scheme to offices of 500sqm or more, as well as large hotels, shopping centres, public hospitals and data centres. It has also proposed minimum energy performance standards for large office buildings.

In its submission to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water's Commercial Building Disclosure Program, the council's CEO Alison Leighton said that it commended the federal government's leadership on the issue.

Ms Leighton said that while the council supported the proposed changes, it urged it to consider several recommendations, including mandating disclosures every two years, regardless of whether the building is for sale or rent. ●

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Asako Saito vies to become first Japanese councillor elected to Melbourne

North Melbourne resident and state government public servant Asako Saito is hoping to become the first Japanese councillor to serve the City of Melbourne if elected at October's elections.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Ms Saito is running in the number one position on a councillor-only ticket under the name Team Participate alongside fellow North Melbourne resident Sam Janda in the team's second spot.

The pair have set up a website participate.today which allows locals to place issue themed markers on a map of the city and add comments related to areas where they would like to see improvements made.

It's this type of direct engagement with the local community that Ms Saito told CBD News she wanted to see more of from Town Hall and was central to her motivations for seeking election.

She added that she was also running because she wanted to see more women in government, and as someone who is mixed-race and multilingual, more "representation of diverse voices".

"What we want to achieve as Team Participate is to bring you into the room where it happens. We want to recognise that good policy and governance don't just come up by chance," Ms Saito said.

"We want to increase civic participation by decoding the red tape and we want to achieve this by listening to experts and the



voices of lived and living experience by upholding the mantra, 'nothing about us, without us'."

"We want to work with local communities and precinct associations, state and federal governments, to address local issues because we believe that it takes the community to build a thriving city."

As a 15-year resident of the city, Ms Saito knows it better than most having also previously worked for the City of Melbourne as one of its redcoat tourism officers based in the CBD giving guidance to visitors.

Mr Janda is a transport professional working for the Department of Transport and Planning, who has helped to bring the next generation of trams to Melbourne and is passionate about safe and accessible transport for the city.

While Ms Saito acknowledges she faces an "uphill battle" in getting elected on a councillor-only ticket in what's an incredibly stacked 2024 election race, she said "it's fantastic to see more people putting their hat in the ring who are from the local area". ●

Voices for Melbourne targets Metro Tunnel opening to help revive city

Voices for Melbourne's Lord Mayoral candidate Greg Bisinella says a domestic tourism campaign leveraging next year's Metro Tunnel opening was needed to "bring Victorians back to the city".

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Mr Bisinella, who until recently served as president of East Melbourne residents' organisation the East Melbourne Group, said leveraging the Metro Tunnel's new stations would "help spark activity and revitalisation".

"Melbourne is buzzing beneath the surface, and with the Metro Tunnel, we'll bring that energy straight up to the streets of Melbourne," Mr Bisinella said.

"We're not mandating office returns or relying on gimmicks like free coffee; we're working to make sure people want to get onboard and inviting people to experience a Melbourne they've never seen before."

Mr Bisinella, who is running alongside candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor and Carlton resident Megan Stevenson, said connectivity was key to the city "just as it was in the 1990s" with the spread of lane-way culture and the closure of Swanston St to traffic.

He added that these were "bold initiatives taken by the council in collaboration with the state government and they worked".

Transforming Swanston St into "a vibrant pedestrian zone" is central to Voices for Melbourne's policy to leverage the

new-look precincts surrounding Town Hall and State Library Stations.

Mr Bisinella said under the plan, Swanston St trams would be slowed to 5km/h to allow the streets to be taken over with dining, markets, and live entertainment in "city-wide consultation with community, businesses and other stakeholders".

"This is about creating a full economic and cultural revival," Mr Bisinella said. "We'll get Melbourne's foot traffic roaring back by making events, festivals, and entertainment accessible to all, day and night."

A recent Walk the CBD report by Fitzroys showed that Swanston St was the "biggest improver" when it came to retail vacancies in the CBD, citing tenants taking up space "around the future Metro Tunnel station entrances".

With the Metro Tunnel to free up capacity across Melbourne's train network and the City Loop, Melburnians can expect more frequent and reliable services, which Mr Bisinella said would "spark a new era of urban excitement" in the CBD.

The Voices for Melbourne council ticket will be led by grassroots activist and West Melbourne resident Mary Masters in the number one position, while Carlton resident James Robertson will run in the number two spot. ●

Council frees up car spaces for QVM amid federal heritage review

While the construction of Lendlease's Gurrowa Place remains on hold pending the outcome of a federal heritage review, the City of Melbourne will free up more car spaces at Queen Victoria Market (QVM).

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The council recently began construction on temporary storage facilities in the open-air car park to allow for the Franklin Street Stores to be vacated for Lendlease to start

works, which were approved by the Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny in August.

However, following a self-referral to the federal government by Lendlease, the development has been declared a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*.

CBD News understands that works will not commence on Gurrowa Place while Lendlease works through the determination, a process which may take 12 months.

The council has decided to remove the temporary storage facilities to return more parking spaces in the open-air carpark, with the works expected to be completed in early October.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece said that more than 200 carparks would be unlocked for shoppers, allowing the council to focus on delivering other major renewal projects,

including the new Trader Shed and the transformation of Franklin St.

"Throughout the renewal of Queen Victoria Market, we're always adapting our work schedule to minimise disruption to customers and support our traders," he said.

"We appreciate the patience of shoppers and traders while we work to transform the precinct and bring in thousands of new visitors, which will ultimately boost business for traders and improve the market experience."

Lendlease's reimagined Franklin Street Stores will see the southern rows of the original 1930s stores survive and transformed into a new retail village.

The stores will be conserved and will benefit from extensive repair and conservation works and adaptation for new uses, through a "soft strip" of modern fittings and fixtures

and repairing the brickwork and cladding.

As a part of the development, there will be temporary removal of portions of the south and east canopy for construction and permanent removal of a portion of the south canopy.

The portions that are to be temporarily removed will be reinstated after the completion of other buildings within the Gurrowa Place development.

As a part of Lendlease's redevelopment of the QVM precinct a 29-level commercial office tower, a 47-storey apartment block that includes 81 affordable homes and a 53-storey student accommodation building managed by Scape will all be built.

The project will also include a 1.8-hectare public park to be known as Market Square, which will replace QVM's current open-air car park. ●

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“Left in the dark”: council not included in housing target discussion

With the state government’s final housing target announcement looming, the City of Melbourne has called for greater transparency and a collaborative approach to be adopted to help set an achievable target.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



Earlier this year Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny set the draft state housing targets for 2051, announcing a target of more than two million additional homes across the state and 134,000 new homes for the City of Melbourne.

As part of its submission, which was

considered at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on September 3, the council requested that further information be provided and that a greater level of engagement is needed to refine the final housing target that is expected to be announced by the end of 2024.

According to council housing data, delivery of the housing target would require an unprecedented 5000 additional houses – a scale of development akin to a new suburb every year for the next 26 years.

However, the council forecasts predict that only an additional 52,000 homes by 2051 are required to accommodate for the city’s growing population.

When announced in June, the draft targets were welcomed by the council on the provision that more information be provided and that the Victorian Government worked alongside it throughout the planning process.

The state government vowed that it would consult closely with councils to harness their local knowledge when reviewing the draft target, and that they would have the power to unlock space for more homes by proposing changes to local planning rules.

But the City of Melbourne’s planning portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert believes that this was not the way the process unfolded and slammed the state government for conducting a substandard consultation process.

The outgoing councillor said that the state government’s commitment to working closely with councils was “absolute rubbish” and that a “serious conversation” is needed to address the targets.

Within its submission, the council recommended that it works with the Victorian Government to refine the housing target.

Additionally, it has suggested that tax and regulatory structures that address housing inequity and stimulate new development should be reviewed and investigated for potential reform.

The proposed review would seek to redistribute tax incentives to improve the supply of quality housing for owner-occupiers and to explore options to increase diversity in the market.

To achieve the latter, the council suggested the state government encourage alternative delivery models and institutional investment, through not-for-profit housing

providers and superannuation-backed developments.

Speaking on September 3, Lord Mayor Nick Reece said that he was optimistic about the final housing target and that by working alongside the state government to refine it, the City of Melbourne could become “bigger and better”.

While adding that he believed reaching the target was a challenge that the city could achieve, he said that all the settings and support structures needed to be in place for it to occur.

“There is a lot of work ahead ... as we continue and engage with the Victorian Government and refine our city’s housing target,” Cr Reece said.

As a part of the submission, the council have also requested that an affordable housing target be introduced and that the option for existing buildings to be retrofitted should be explored.

Once the final housing targets are released later this year, they will help contribute to the new plan for Victoria which is set to be a blueprint to guide how Victoria grows and develops over the coming decades. ●

Melbourne’s Arts Precinct to be transformed by a new garden, Laak Boorndap

The Victorian Government has released new designs and a new name for the 18,000sqm urban garden in the centre of the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation.

The name, Laak Boorndap, has been bestowed to the garden by Traditional Owner, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Language Elder, Aunty Gail Smith to recognise and honour the beautiful place that the garden will create for everyone.

The naming of the garden is a key step in grounding visitors on Wurundjeri Country and the growing representation of First Peoples cultures across the Arts Precinct.

“It’s not just a placename, it brings Sky Country, the heavens, and everyone back together on sacred ground,” Aunty Gail Smith said.

The new urban garden is designed to flourish year-round, ensuring it is ever-changing and continually fostering biodiversity. The garden will feature a dynamic and multi-layered planting design using a mix of native and introduced species including carefully selected trees, perennials, grasses and flora.

The garden is designed by the Melbourne studio of international design practice Hassell and New York’s SO-IL, with internationally renowned horticulturalists Nigel Dunnett and James Hitchmough, who

are working closely with plant expert Jac Semmler from Melbourne company, Super Bloom.

The garden will bring expansive new green space to the heart of the Arts Precinct and will wrap around and connect the new The Fox: NGV Contemporary, NGV International, Arts Centre Melbourne’s Hamer Hall and Theatres Building under the Spire, and adjacent The Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre.

The garden will also be home to significant contemporary art including sculpture from the collections of the NGV and Arts Centre Melbourne and new artwork commissions by First Peoples.

The Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation (MAP Co) invites Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the creation of permanent public artworks within Laak Boorndap.

The two commissions – Laak Boorndap Public Art Commission and Wurundjeri Waterway Design Commission – will celebrate the rich and ongoing history of the First Peoples of this land and create a place for learning, connection, and community.

Submissions close at 3pm AEDT October 24, 2024. ●

For information about how to apply and eligibility:
artsprecinct.melbourne/commissions



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Melbourne Fringe Festival returns to the CBD



The Melbourne Fringe Festival is set to transform the city centre from October 1 to 20, with an audacious program titled *Eat Your Art Out* showcasing more than 470 arts events.

WORDS BY
LÉA CARRÉ



As one of Australia's largest multi-arts events, the festival projects an open buffet of performances from more than 2500 artists across various disciplines, including theatre, dance, circus, music, and visual arts.

This year's festival introduces the *COOKED* project, which features an architecturally designed hot plate stage and a barbecue managed by culinary group Long Prawn.

The program kicks off with *Seasoning the Grill*, merging First Nations grilling traditions with contemporary performance art.

Throughout the evenings, *COOKED: Hot Nights* will serve a mix of performances and dining experiences, like *Indecisive Cinema – STEAK & Sausages*, which pairs underground cinema with culinary delights.

On the same open-evening, Fringe's Opening Night Gala at the historic Capitol Theatre will set the tone with a vibrant showcase of festival highlights and a



"Culinary Couture" dress code, encouraging guests to wear food-themed outfits.

This event will offer a preview of the diverse range of performances and artistic expressions featured throughout the festival.

In partnership with Queen Victoria Market and Melbourne Museum, the festival will also present additional attractions such as the Fringe Flavours Night Market. Running from late September through October, this market combines food and performances in

a lively evening setting in QCV.

The Festival Hub, located at Trades Hall, will host more than 100 of these events, including Finucane & Smith's *Global Smash Club*, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Burlesque Hour with a spectacular – and disturbing – show featuring prominent local artists.

The Hub will also offer personal storytelling performances, reflecting the festival's commitment to presenting real-life narratives.

The Deadly Fringe program on the other hand is dedicated to highlight First Nations artists, features notable events such as *Digital Echoes*, an innovative project combining technology and music, and *Gikilangu Wergaia*, a performance blending Indigenous music and storytelling.

"In this moment in time, Melbourne Fringe offers both a sanctuary and a provocation – we've got mind-blowing, risk-taking art that will entertain your socks off while reflecting our world today, showcasing both seasoned and emerging artists who truly know their craft," Melbourne Fringe creative director Simon Abrahams said.

"Our festival is Melbourne's chance to express itself, inviting everyone to see the world differently, hear new perspectives, and feel something live, visceral, and urgent."

For two-and-a-half weeks each year, the Melbourne Fringe Festival continues to encourage accessibility and inclusivity, providing a platform for emerging and independent artists while celebrating Melbourne's vibrant cultural scene.

With its diverse and bold programming, the festival's events happening in the CBD invites locals and visitors alike to experience a unique taste of the arts landscape. ●

Craft Victoria announces new exhibition *Material Language*

Craft Victoria presents *Material Language* – an exhibition recognising three exceptional craft-based practitioners Joungmee Do, Nadège Desgenétez and Prue Venables from September 28 to November 9.

WORDS BY NICOLAS
THURN-VALSASSINA



The exhibition honours the artists' decorated careers, their astute material knowledge and their sheer dedication to their craft, honed over decades of practice.

The globally renowned, Australian-based artists are specialist practitioners and highly regarded in the mediums of metalwork and jewellery, ceramics and glass, respectively.

Each artist has exhibited extensively in Australia and internationally, all receiving major awards and are held by significant public and private collections.

"The three artists featured in *Material Language* have each crafted their own unique narrative over decades of dedication to a singular material," executive

director of Craft Victoria Nicole Durling told *CBD News*.

"This exhibition showcases our enduring commitment to feature exceptional and inspirational work, with a focus on leading female craft and design practitioners."

Each artist has been recognised for their works both locally and around the world, praised for their exceptional skills and creativity, and Ms Durling said their pieces blended traditional craft techniques with modern concepts.

"Clay, glass, and metal could all be considered humble materials, but in the hands of these three individuals, they are elevated beyond their elemental simplicity," she said.

"Their work inspires a sense of awe through their skill and technique, as well as their deep knowledge and relationship with the material."



The display features key works from each artist's career, including recent pieces recognising their accomplishments while also highlighting their artistic development.

Material Language is the first in a series of exhibitions presented by Craft Victoria to honour leaders and influencers in the field of craft and design, and notably in this exhibition, the outstanding achievements of women artists.

The series will feature artists who have made significant contributions to Australian craft and design, applauding lifelong practice and the power of passion, grit and perseverance.

Craft Victoria's exhibition series honouring master craft-based practitioners and artists will continue in 2025.

Material Language will be open in the Watson Place gallery from Saturday, September 28. ●



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Council calls for a “strategic reset” in City North

The Melbourne Innovation District in City North is touted to become one of the city’s most exciting precincts, but to reach its “maximum potential” the City of Melbourne has agreed that a strategic planning reset is required.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The district stretching between RMIT’s Swanston St Campus and the University of Melbourne in Parkville is home to innovative infrastructure projects and internationally lauded education and research facilities.

The vision set out within the Melbourne Innovation District’s City North Opportunities Plan in 2020 leverages emerging technologies and innovation, while building on the city’s unique characteristics to enhance education and economic outcomes.

But according to the council’s outgoing planning portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert, the state government’s strategic plan for the precinct needed to evolve to allow for it to reach its maximum potential.

Speaking at his last Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on September 10, he said that the government needed to understand how these places could evolve and what their role can be.

Councillors unanimously endorsed what was Cr Leppert’s final motion, which called for a reset of the scope of strategic planning work for the precinct, including shelving an outdated and unfinished planning scheme amendment.

Amendment C431 was initially drafted in 2021 and within the City of Melbourne’s annual plan this year it has committed to progress the amendment, in addition to working with the Victorian Government to

“progress strategic opportunities”. The basis for the amendment was a requirement for research and innovation jobs on the first four floors of every new building.

CBD News understands that the intention when proposed was to proceed to a planning scheme amendment quickly and have the amendment in place well in advance of the opening of the two new Metro Stations in City North, Parkville and State Library.

With that window now closed and no draft being presented to the FMC, Cr Leppert said the opportunity had passed for the amendment to be implemented and that it had been superseded by the Municipal Planning Strategy.

According to the amendment analysis document that was tabled on September 10, it was unclear how the “first four floors” control would work in the context of university campuses largely consisting of purpose-built single-use buildings.

It noted that based on preliminary feedback from the Department of Transport and Planning the draft amendment was unlikely to be supported.

Projects within the precinct will now be required to adhere to the Municipal Planning Strategy, which establishes the overarching strategic planning policy for the municipality.

The strategy considers the context, history, assets, strengths, attributes and influences which shape the City of Melbourne to establish the vision and strategic direction for future land use and development.

“Now is the time to not just fulfil a five-year-old action, it’s to reconsider what the most efficient thing that government can be doing,” Cr Leppert said.

The council will set out its preferred scope of any new short-term strategic planning and public realm projects for the City North Innovation District which it will deliver through partnering with the state government and key stakeholders. ●



World’s largest Leica store opens

Melbourne has welcomed the world’s largest Leica store, a four-storey space located on Little Collins St in the CBD.

WORDS BY
LÉA CARRÉ



The store, which took two years to develop, offers a unique experience for photography enthusiasts, combining retail with educational and artistic elements.


The ground floor serves as a retail space, offering a wide range of German brand Leica cameras, lenses, and sport optics, while the

second floor features a gallery that is currently showing *Colours of Antarctica*, a photographic exhibition by Stuart Robertson.

The third level, named The Akademie, provides space for photography workshops and other educational programs. The top floor includes a rooftop area, offering a quiet space for visitors.

Managing Director of Leica Ryan Williams said, “the store aims to contribute to Melbourne’s cultural and economic landscape by offering more than a conventional retail experience,” adding that the store’s opening is timely, with the upcoming Town Hall Station expected to increase foot traffic in the area.

Leica is open seven days a week and complements other Leica outlets in Australia, including locations in Chadstone and Sydney’s Queen Victoria Building. The store is located at 267 Little Collins St. ●



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WHAT'S ON DURING SENIORS FESTIVAL

As part of the **Victorian Seniors Festival**, Active Melbourne is excited to be offering an array of free 'come and try' activities. Our aim is to support and celebrate seniors (50+ years) of all backgrounds to get active and socialise during this month-long program.

Here's what's on offer

Seniors Sports Day at Carlton Baths Come and have a try at Pickleball, Walking Football, Strength and Stretch classes.	Walking Football event at Docklands Sports Courts Give it a go! If you can walk, you can participate.
Beginner Golf Clinic at Royal Park Golf Course Learn the basics of Golf and have a go!	Intergenerational Walking Football at North Melbourne Recreation Centre Bring your grandchildren for an afternoon of fun!
Resuscitate Your Mate at Carlton Baths Learn to help someone in an emergency situation. Includes Defibrillation use.	Free coffee/hot drink on weekends at Riverside Skate Park Bring your grandchildren and enjoy a freebie!
Various fitness classes across all sites, including: Reformer Pilates, Aqua, Yoga, Tai Chi, Body Balance and Low Impact Cardio.	



HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER!



CBD Residents 3000 AGM was a lively event

Thursday, September 5 saw Melbourne's Residents 3000 group hold its annual general meeting (AGM) at the Kelvin Club on Melbourne Place.

Keeping with tradition, Lord Mayor Nick Reece was invited to give an update on Town Hall's perspective on CBD health. Singer "Piano Man" Alfredo Malabello entertained the 82 members and supporters who attended.

President Rafael Camillo's report

The President's Report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting, posted on the website and read with further explanations at the meeting. The report records how Residents 3000 continued to "connect, support and inform" members during the year with a variety of topics, programs and presentations.

Rafael confirmed that the organisation remains committed to advocating issues that matter to members and supporters with the aim of contributing to residents' wellbeing and quality of life in the CBD.

Focus during the year was on seven important issues for residents:

- Homelessness
- Medical help for those sleeping rough
- Increasing police presence in the CBD
- Keeping the freeze on late night liquor licences
- Ban commercial e-scooters
- Working directly with police to increase safety in the city
- Continue to work closely with City of Melbourne to clarify and inform policies.

Our Forum 3000s during the year were diverse and relevant to city living:

- August 31, 2023 – AGM with guest speaker Lord Mayor Sally Capp AO
- October 5, 2023 – Health & Wellbeing in the CBD, update with our local GP clinics, Kieser Collins St, and the City of Melbourne Health Support Services.
- November 2, 2023 – owners' corporations update with Fawcner May and Building & Facilities Management update with CBD Facility Management.
- December 7, 2023 – Festive Season Celebrations & Residential Property update with Melbourne Boutique Property and end-of-year celebrations with City Precinct.
- February 1, 2024 – Metro Tunnel Project update.
- March 7, 2024 – Alison Leighton, CEO, City of Melbourne.
- April 4, 2024 – Waste & Recycling update – City of Melbourne.
- May 2, 2024 – Community Showcase

for local community-oriented groups and social activities, in collaboration with our City of Melbourne Neighbourhood Partner and support from City Precinct.

- June 6, 2024 – Queen Victoria Market redevelopment overview and petition with Friends of QVM group, and Mary Lou Howie.
- July 4, 2024 – Management of City Disruptions (protests) update with City of Melbourne, Victoria Police and State MP David Southwick.
- August 1, 2024 – Looking after our Mental Health with our local GP clinics and mental health professionals, Kieser Collins Street, and the City of Melbourne Health Support Services and our past committee member Dr. Arman Rashid.

Normal AGM matters followed. Twelve new committee members were elected with the executive from last year unchanged. Our treasurer reported a healthy balance sheet thanks to memberships and support from our sponsors.

At the first committee meeting, the following week, Rafael advised that he will be taking leave of absence to run as a politically independent candidate with Team Morgan, with the name "Residents United to Make Melbourne Safe". Vice president Dr Sue Saunders will be acting in the president's role until the election is over.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece's report

The Lord Mayor was able to report the clear outcomes from two surveys that were released just a few weeks earlier. He emphasised how local government in general is "closest to the people" and that residents voices were being heard. The latest action to cancel the commercial e-scooters' contracts was a win for residents.

The recent "Participate Melbourne" survey attracted 4400 submissions. The top three requirements for a more liveable city were:

1. Affordable housing to relieve the homelessness problem
2. Cleaner city – graffiti removal, cleaner streets
3. More trees in the streets and parks

Cr Reece then informed the audience about current actions being taken by the council, to satisfy the three items.

Almost at the same time, the Annual Victoria Police Community Sentiment Survey 2024 results were released.

- Residents' top five safety concerns were:
1. Safety in public places
 2. Safety of my property and possessions
 3. Drugs and alcohol abuse and consequences
 4. Road safety and the need to ensure driver responsibility
 5. Serious and organised crime

Residents 3000 has developed an excellent rapport with Victoria Police who now



provide a policing status update at each of our monthly meetings.

Safety is a recurring theme in many of the neighbourhoods and is associated with other priorities including cleanliness, better roads and paths, sense of community, support for people experiencing homelessness, and the need for better and greener open spaces.

Next event – Meet the Candidates for Lord Mayor

This special event only comes around once every four years. With such a wide and diverse list of candidates this time, it promises to be interesting, informative, entertaining, and not to be missed.

It is an opportunity for residents to be well informed before deciding how to vote.

The date for the event is Thursday, October 3 – 6pm at the Kelvin Club – Melbourne Place. Details are posted on the website residents3000.org.au and reminders will be sent to members and subscribers by email.

Russel Howcroft will be our special guest compère for the presentations and Q&A with the candidates. Russel is a resident of East Melbourne and is thrilled to collaborate with the Residents 3000 community for this important night. Over a long career in media and marketing, Russel has been one of the most prominent voices on the cultural and economic importance of advertising, particularly through his role as a panellist on the ABC TV series *Gruen*, and is currently host of 3AW Breakfast with Ross & Russel,

the #1 breakfast radio show in Melbourne.

This will be a golden opportunity to hear the candidates for Lord Mayor explain their views on important issues for residents of our city, answer questions, take part in discussions, and to meet them afterwards.

The following declared candidates are being invited –

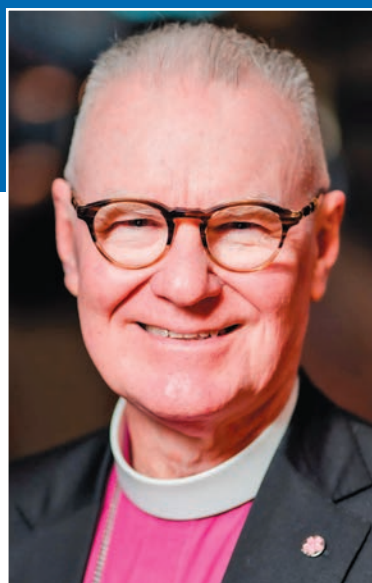
- Arron Wood (Team Wood)
- Gary Morgan (Team Morgan Make Melbourne Safe)
- Greg Bisinella (Voice for Melbourne)
- Mariam Riza (Liberals for Melbourne City)
- Jamal Hakim (Team Hakim)
- Phil Reed (Labor for Melbourne)
- Nicholas Reece (Team Nick Reece)
- Eylem Kim (Animal Justice Party)
- Anthony Koutoufides (Team Kouta)
- Roxane Ingleton (The Greens)

Additional candidates will be invited to join the event as the organisers become aware of their nominations.

Residents 3000 is looking forward to another year where we can play our part in making Melbourne (again) the most liveable city in the world. ●

Dr Sue Saunders

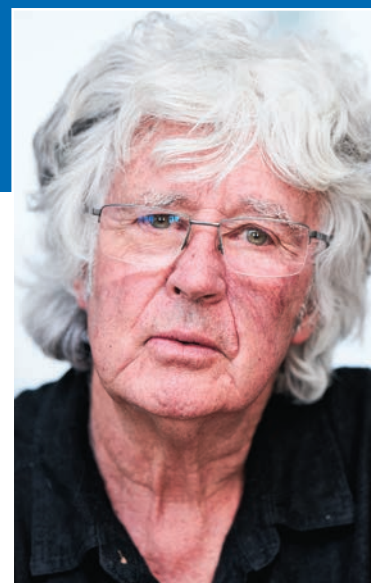
VICE PRESIDENT



Is our society allergic to God? Why are we reluctant to discuss spiritual matters?

Join cartoonist **Michael Leunig** in conversation with Anglican Archbishop **Philip Freier** at The Edge, Federation Square, **Wednesday 2 October, 8.30am-10am.**

This is a free event.



Melbourne values local talent: tech expert Oskar Rutten talks about life in the Hoddle Grid

Oskar Rutten has lived and worked in England, the Netherlands, New Zealand and across Australia. Here’s why he decided to call Melbourne home ...

WORDS BY
DAVID ALLEN



Ten years ago, cyber security meant buying a McAfee CD from Officeworks to block Trojan malware. In 2024, after Optus, Canva, Medibank and Medisecure, we’ve learned to know better. Cyber security and the IT services that make them tick have become vast growth industries. Oskar Rutten founded his startup Zuna to help try and fill the gap.

He now works on William St and lives on Collins St. The Hoddle Grid is home, and Oskar says he is thriving.

“I love living in the city; for starters it’s an easy commute,” Oskar told *CBD News*.

“The bounce back after COVID has been fantastic. Over the summer it was great to walk through the city and see the hustle and bustle.”

Oskar has travelled globally over the years. He interned at Parliament House on Spring St before studying in the US and working in Europe.

Settling again in Melbourne, he built his cyber security startup, Zuna.

“Melbourne has an amazing start up scene with some great opportunities,” Oskar said. “It is very supportive here.”

Zuna came after Oskar saw the need among small businesses for help setting up cyber security infrastructure.

Recent analysis by security firm StickmanCyber, found Australia has only one cyber security specialist for every seven companies nationwide.

“Most people who get into cyber security want to be hackers,” Oskar laughed. “Real local expertise in setting up and monitoring

cyber security services is harder to come by. That’s where we step in.”

Zuna has a wide-ranging clientele, but Oskar said 80 per cent of its work was with other Melbourne companies.

“Pre-COVID, most of our clients were from the US, but Melbourne businesses recognise the value of local talent,” Oskar said.

“It’s always easier when you can have the in-person conversation. IT setups are complex at the best of times. I think for a lot of the companies we work with; it’s reassuring to know if there’s ever a problem, they can just walk down the street and talk to us if they want to.”

Oskar moved to the CBD at the tail end of lockdowns and hasn’t looked back.

“I’ve a lot of cities where I’ve lived to offer as a comparison, but Melbourne is my favourite city,” he said.

“The cultural opportunities here, the business networks, the restaurants, the people here are fantastic. I’ve very happy to call Melbourne home.” ●



Pellegrini’s stalwart server Rocco Eliche retires after 50 years of service

The server who became emblematic of the iconic Pellegrini’s Espresso Bar has served his final round of espresso.

WORDS BY
SABRINA CAIRES



“I love Pellegrini’s because I love the customers,” Rocco told *CBD News*. “I love the place, beautiful place to work, beautiful boss. They looked after me very well.”

Rocco recently received an award from the City of Melbourne for his 50 years of service to the community. He says he treasures it, keeping it displayed in his room.

“I can look all day, all night ... that was the best present.”

“I’ve been working there six days a week, day and night, day and night,” he said. “And my boss has been good to me, especially

Sisto. Him, number one. Because he sent me to school, he said, ‘You need to go to school and learn a little bit of English.’”

At the time of speaking to *CBD News*, Rocco said he planned to go to the city the following day to see his boss, David Malaspina. He’s been enjoying his first few days of retirement by doing some gardening, and said he planned to go on holiday by the beach in Rosebud.

Next year, he hopes to spend some time visiting Puglia, the village he grew up in. He moved from Italy by himself at 20 years old, in search of work.

One of Rocco’s favourite parts of the job was telling customers his story, whether they were one of the many politicians, football players, singers or Pellegrini regulars he recalls meeting over the years.

At a party last Friday night, Pellegrini’s staff and customers came together to celebrate the warmth and heart Rocco brought to this local institution.

“I told my boss, if you need me, you need something, you go on holiday for one week, two weeks, one month, let me know, I can help you,” he said.

“When I go there, I feel like home.” ●

APARTMENT LIVING

What is a SIT test and why is it important?

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

WORDS BY
PATRICK LENNON

In this month’s column, we explain what a SIT test is, and its importance ...

A Systems Interface Test (SIT) is a comprehensive evaluation to ensure that essential systems are operating safely and efficiently within multi-level buildings. The test focuses on critical infrastructure such as fire safety systems, electrical components, and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and

air conditioning) units.

Regular SITs are crucial for maintaining safety standards, ensuring compliance with regulations, and optimising the performance of the building’s safety systems. By identifying potential issues early, SITs ensure the ongoing safety and comfort of residents.

Here are some common questions and answers that will help further your understanding of why completing SIT tests is important.

Q: What does a typical SIT test involve?

A: A typical SIT test includes a thorough inspection and functional testing of key systems such as fire alarms, sprinklers, electrical wiring, and HVAC units. The goal is to ensure these systems are operating correctly together and in compliance with safety standards and regulations.

Q: How often should SIT tests be conducted?

A: SIT tests are usually conducted annually, but the frequency can vary depending on local regulations and the specific needs

of the building. Regular testing helps to promptly identify and address potential issues.

Q: Who performs the SIT tests?

A: SIT tests are performed by your maintenance contractors (HVAC, ESM, Lift, Building Consultant) who have serviced the building throughout the year. These professionals are certified and specialised in building systems and safety regulations, ensuring that the tests are conducted thoroughly and accurately.

Q: Can Commercial Facility Services provide an example of completing a SIT recently, what happened and what was learnt from the process?

A: Commercial Facility Services recently facilitated a crucial System Interface Test (SIT) at one of our sites in Fitzroy, aimed at evaluating the performance of the facility’s fire safety and building automation systems. Conducted on August 15, 2024, the test simulated emergency conditions by activating smoke detectors and sprinkler flow switches to assess system

responses.

The SIT revealed that while the fire alarm systems effectively triggered alarms, closed fire doors, and opened smoke vents, there were notable delays in the activation of some HVAC systems, which failed to shut down promptly.

Additionally, elevators did not immediately return to the ground floor, potentially complicating evacuation efforts. The test also uncovered issues with overly-sensitive smoke detectors that led to false alarms.

These findings highlighted the need for better integration between fire alarm and HVAC systems, updates to elevator control protocols, and recalibration of smoke detectors. Addressing these issues will enhance the building’s safety measures, ensuring a more reliable emergency response and improved overall safety for occupants.

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

QVM TRADER PROFILE

Viva La Calavera brings the heart of Mexico to QVM

“ Viva La Calavera is bringing a “small piece of Mexico” to Queen Victoria Market (QVM) through its vibrant collection of colourful Mexican art and objects. ”

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Taking ownership of the store in 2020, Deni had a vision to share her Mexican culture all around Australia, launching a “100 per cent Mexican” stall within the market. Collaborating with various Mexican artists across the country, Viva La Calavera’s best-selling items are their ceramic skulls, which serve as an important symbol of Mexican culture. “They’re made of ceramic and all of them are handmade,” part-time employee at the store Mariana said. “All of the skulls have ‘made in Mexico’ on the bottom of them and also the signature of the artist, which makes them really special because customers can see that it’s really an original product.” The business also sells authentic tote bags which Mariana said were a staple used in Mexico, as well as Lucha Libre wrestling masks and wall prints. “The prints are made by a Mexican artist who now lives in the US, but we are the



only ones in Australia to have permission to import his artwork,” Mariana told CBD News. A hallmark of Mexican culture, Viva La Calavera captivates passers-by with its vibrant colours and playful spirit. The energy and passion radiating from the store are a testament to Deni’s dedication to celebrating her heritage and sharing her love for it with others. “People are really curious about the skulls and what they mean, because in some cultures a skull can be a bad or negative thing. Since ancient times in Mexico, it was really an honour to die and seen as a sacrifice to the gods,” Mariana said. One of Mexico’s most significant celebrations, the Day of the Dead on November 2, honours and revives the spirits of the deceased in a joyful tribute to their lives.



“The skull represents a double feeling. Of course, death is something to be sad about and something you mourn, but having a skull painted with so many colours and patterns makes them alive again.” To honour Day of the Dead, Viva La Calavera is planning a series of workshops and activities, inviting market-goers to immerse themselves in the festivities. “Deni is so proud to be apart of the QVM community and so happy to have the flag of Mexico here,” Mariana said. “You never get tired of what you can find at the market. Everything’s so different and so multicultural – we hope to make customers wonder about our culture and maybe empower them to travel and visit us over there.” Viva La Calavera is located at Shop 20 in String Bean Alley and is open Thursday and Friday from 9am to 3pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 4pm. ●

HISTORY

Melbourne Morgue, Princes Bridge

Melbourne was growing fast in the 1850s. No longer a colonial outpost it had boomed into one of the leading cities of the Empire.

WORDS BY
JULIE BEVAN

People flocked here, people were born here, people died here. And it was the dying that created the problem. Melbourne needed a morgue but wasn’t sure it wanted one. This was the beginning of a 150-year-journey through place, time and purpose as the morgue evolved from an unpleasant necessity to an internationally respected institution. On the rare occasions we think of a morgue the image is sterile, white, gleaming, a pastiche of Kathy Reichs, CSI and Silent Witness. Fact or fantasy this was not the 19th century idea of a morgue. Traditionally in Britain bodies of the unknown or dubiously dead were bought to public houses where they remained until an inquest could be convened. This practical approach meant the body was accessible to the community, which could aid in identification.

Unsurprisingly this practice was adopted in Melbourne but was undermined by a major problem – the heat – which encouraged decomposition and discouraged landlords from participating. During the summer of 1852, a corpse was refused entry to a number of inner-city hotels before finally being accepted by the publican of the Queen’s Arms. It remained there, decomposing rapidly, for more than two days before an inquest was performed. A new solution was needed. The need for a morgue was undisputed but where to put it and how to use it was not. The concept of a morgue was new in the 19th century and its purpose open to interpretation. The most famous morgue – the Paris morgue – was designed to display corpses to the public for the purpose of identification but became a tourist attraction. Melbourne, chasing respectability, acknowledged the need but declined the practice. The Melbourne Coroner, Dr Wilmott, was anxious to have a centrally located facility where its functions, including identification, could be undertaken with decency and efficacy. While this principle was generally accepted the location remained contentious. Proximity to the river where many corpses were found was a consideration, but this needed to be balanced against



public distaste for bodies being transported and stored in the centre of the city. The first listed morgue was at Australian Wharf, off Flinders St and beyond Spencer St. In other words, suitably invisible. This building shows Melbourne’s desire to distance itself from the morgue which was so ramshackle lunching wharries could peer through cracks in the walls and give a running commentary on the progress of the surgeon. Other temporary morgues appeared at different times at Princes Bridge, captured in our photograph, and Coles Wharf where “the dead house is so infected with rats that the bodies have to be protected from them with iron covers”. Medical and legal considerations held little sway until the creation in 1888 of a purpose-built facility in Batman Avenue where it remained until 1951. The advent of a purpose-built morgue ushered in the concepts we now associate with the institution – decency, integrity, trustworthiness and justice – predicated on scientific excellence. The Melbourne Morgue, now located on Southbank, is internationally recognised for its contribution to forensic medicine. It has been a long journey from one side of the river to the other and from disdain to excellence. ●

Benvenuto il Mercato Centrale!

After more than two years of anticipation, il Mercato Centrale officially opened its doors on September 19, marking its first location outside Italy in the heart of Melbourne’s CBD.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Building on its success in Florence, Milan, Rome, and Turin, il Mercato Centrale is now Melbourne’s latest Italian food destination, offering a delightful array of culinary experiences that transport visitors straight to Italy. Distinguishing il Mercato Centrale from other markets or food halls is its emphasis on the 23 skilled artisans who infuse the space with their unique talents and authentic products, inviting Melburnians to indulge in a truly immersive experience. “The goal has always been to create more

than just a food hub,” il Mercato Centrale’s general manager Gary Patikkis said. “We set out to build an immersive cultural destination, where people can enrich themselves in the vibrant community and Italian essence of il Mercato Centrale, and we couldn’t be more thrilled with the result.” Guests can explore the 23 diverse stalls across two levels, featuring freshly baked bread and pastries from il forno, cold cuts and aged meats from la carne e i salumi, hand-made pasta from la pasta fatta in casa, and even smash burgers from lo smash burger. The market is licensed until 3am, offering a selection of Australian, New Zealand, and Italian wines from l’enoteca, along with cocktails, spritzes, and aperitivo from the cocktail bar. “Each of our artisans brings something truly special to the table, and it’s their dedication to quality and collaboration that creates an unforgettable atmosphere,” Mr Patikkis said. Founded in 2014 in Florence by Umberto Montano, il Mercato Centrale has transformed the way we experience food,

focusing on craftsmanship and revitalising the market’s traditional role as a community gathering place. Visitors can purchase products from the various stalls to take home or enjoy them among the 800 diverse seating options available. The space will also host monthly artisan masterclasses and free community events in its purpose-built event area. “The manual skills, professionalism and dedication I encountered in the artisans that have joined il Mercato Centrale Melbourne are outstanding and inspiring. This is the common thread that connects Italy to Melbourne in a project that seeks to unite citizens, visitors, critics and enthusiasts alike through the experience of good food,” Mr Montano said. “il Mercato Centrale Melbourne will be the largest market of Italian cuisine in Australia, and Melbourne, with its cultural vibrancy and culinary scene, is undoubtedly the ideal location to launch such an ambitious project.”



il Mercato Centrale is located at 546 Collins St and is currently open Sunday to Thursday from 7am to 10pm and Friday and Saturday from 7am to 12 midnight. ●

METRO TUNNEL



Metro Tunnel celebrates third station milestone

It’s officially three down, two to go on the Metro Tunnel Project.

Major construction at Anzac Station is now complete – the third of the five new state-of-the-art underground train stations after work at Arden and Parkville finished earlier this year. Victorians will be able to access St Kilda Rd’s growing employment, education and residential precinct as well as some of Melbourne’s most important destinations, including the Shrine of Remembrance, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Albert Park via train for the first time. Trains on the Cranbourne, Pakenham and Sunbury lines will stop at the new station when it opens in 2025, with passengers on every other line able to make a single change at Melbourne Central (to State Library Stations) or Flinders Street (to Town Hall Stations) to get there. Anzac Station, 15 metres below St Kilda Rd, includes four entrances with stairs, lifts and escalators that link to a new pedestrian underpass beneath busy St Kilda Rd. It also includes a bright and colourful artwork called *Future Wall Painting* by local artist Raafat Ishak featuring abstract representations of iconic St Kilda Road landmarks. Anzac Station has been designed as a “pavilion in the park” with its signature

85-metre-long, 21-metre-wide timber canopy’s skylights filling the station with natural light, reducing reliance on artificial lighting. Over the past six years thousands of workers have built the station canopy and entrances, realigned St Kilda Rd four times, poured concrete for the station platform and pedestrian underpass and installed 12 escalators, six lifts and Victorian-first platform screen doors. The tram stop, which opened in 2022, has extra-long platforms that can fit four trams at a time for large crowds attending events such as Anzac Day and the Melbourne Grand Prix. The stop will be Melbourne’s first direct tram/train interchange, providing a seamless connection between tram and train services, while the station takes pressure off the world’s busiest tram corridor. The project also completed the final section of separated bike lanes on St Kilda Rd between Dorcas St and Toorak Rd last month with cyclists now enjoying safer travel on St Kilda Rd. Domain Rd is expected to reopen to traffic from mid-October and the Route 58 tram will continue to travel along nearby Toorak Rd. 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, giving passengers new connections and more choice. ●

STATE MP



Only the Liberals will get Melbourne back in business

For more than 150 years, we’ve all taken great pride in the nickname for our city being “Marvellous Melbourne”, a nickname that – legend has it – was coined by a visiting London journalist named George Augustus Sala.

WORDS BY
EVAN MULHOLLAND



Melburnians are right to celebrate our city as Australia’s centre of culture, sport and business. It’s what attracts tourists from all over the state, the country and the world. However, it is clear that some of that vibrancy and life has been missing from the city centre and has been for a while now. In some parts of the city, “For Lease” signs are as ubiquitous as tram bells. Data released by the Property Council of Australia in August shows that our CBD has the highest office vacancy rate in the nation, at 18 per cent. On top of this, there have been decisions made by levels of government that have made Melbourne less accessible and less safe, deterring our city’s comeback. This needs to change. In a few weeks’ time, residents and rate-payers in Melbourne will be asked to elect a new Mayor and Council. This is an opportunity for our city to refresh and to elect new leadership, with new ideas about how to restore the vibrancy and energy of Melbourne.

To do this, we need a council team that is committed to making Melbourne more accessible, safe and make it clear that the city is open for business. I am extremely pleased that, for the first time, there is a Liberal Party-endorsed Mayoral candidate and council team running in October’s elections. The Liberal team, led by candidate for Lord Mayor Miriam Riza, Deputy Lord Mayor candidate Luke Martin, and councillor candidates Owen Guest and You Li Liston, have a plan to get Melbourne back on track. The Liberal team for Melbourne City Council will get Melbourne back in business, drive investment back into our city, and rip up separated bike lanes that are slowing down movement in the CBD. Keeping our city safe is a key driver in bringing back visitors and the economic benefits they bring to the city. The Liberal team will ensure that Victoria Police has the resources and powers it needs to keep our streets safe, so you can feel secure in your neighbourhood, at work, and as you move through the city. It is time that Melbourne elected a Lord Mayor and council that will stand up to the state government, while working constructively with them, and deliver an agenda that is strongly and unapologetically about restoring our city’s culture and strength. I hope next month that the voters of Melbourne take this into consideration and vote accordingly. Only the Liberals will get Melbourne back in business.

Evan Mulholland is the Liberal Member for Northern Metropolitan Region and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Victorian Legislative Council. ●

Quiz



- 1. What year did Houndstooth Tailor open?
- 2. Which city is slated to become the new national capital of Indonesia in 2024?
- 3. How many of Melbourne’s 580 statues are of women?
- 4. Name two of the four countries with national flags primarily containing the colours orange, white and green.
- 5. Where was the world’s first McCafé located?
- 6. How many cumulative days did Melbourne spend in lockdown during the pandemic?
- 7. What 1993 Ice Cube (pictured) song describes a generic pleasant day in the rapper’s life?
- 8. The Australian honours system was established in which year?
- 9. Which country’s parliamentary building is commonly called The Beehive?
- 10. Who played Maggie in the 1984–1994 Australian sitcom *Mother and Son*, and who plays Maggie in the 2023 reboot?
- 11. Where can you find one of the CBD’s most iconic ghost signs?
- 12. Who did Jamal Hakim announce as his running mate in the upcoming election?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. 1905 2. Nusantara 3. Nine 4. Côte d'Ivoire, India, Ireland, Niger 5. Swanston St 6. 262 days 7. *It Was A Good Day* 8. 1975 9. New Zealand 10. Ruth Cracknell and Denise Scott 11. On the side of the Beehive Building at 94 Elizabeth St 12. Esther Anatolitis

5x5

No. 305

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

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SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: BOOST, ERASE, STRUM, EASES

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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October, 2024

Sudoku

No. 040

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

EASY

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HARD

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SOLUTIONS

EASY

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HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Baking

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

BISCUITS

BREAD

BROWNIES

BUTTER

CAKE

CARAMELISE

CHOCOLATE

CHOUX

CREAM

CUPCAKES

DOUGH

FLOUR

FRUIT

ICING

MUFFINS

OVEN

PASTRY

SCONES

Secret message: Follow the recipe

Crossword

No. 040

ACROSS

- 1 Bale (4)
- 3 Tenacious (10)
- 10 Grave (7)
- 11 Assay (7)
- 12 Classified (8)
- 13 Woody plants (5)
- 14 Route (4)
- 15 Head of a gang (10)
- 18 Mocking (10)
- 20 Couple (4)
- 21 Disliked intensely (5)
- 23 Pool water additive (8)
- 26 Mass (7)
- 27 – Avenue, New York (7)
- 28 Forcing (10)
- 29 Island (4)

DOWN

- 1 Station (4)
- 2 Made right (9)
- 4 Necessary (9)
- 5 Odour (5)
- 6 Frighten suddenly (7)
- 7 Exclusive (5)
- 8 Bursar (9)
- 9 Occupations (4)
- 14 Buys (9)
- 16 Nice guy (9)
- 17 Doctor’s conclusion (9)
- 19 Painkilling drug (7)
- 22 Pulsate (5)
- 23 Defraud (5)
- 24 Impolite (4)
- 25 As soon as (4)

1		2		3	4		5		6		7		8
				9									
10							11						
14					15		16				17		
18				19							20		
21		22			23				24				
													25
26							27						
28											29		

SOLUTION

B	I	S	I	D	N	I	L	O	E	R	E	N	S
O	I	B	E	V	E	N	O	E					
N	O	S	I	D	V	E	O	I	A	R	E	S	
O	O	N	E	H	E	A	V						
E	N	I	H	O	T	H	C	E	A	L	V	A	
9													
I	I	V	D										
S	I	D											
E	I												
H	E	D											
N													
S													
E	S	B	E	L	I	V	N	O	S	I	D		
V	I	H											
E	N	I	W	X	E	S	N	O	I	R	E	S	
H	T	I	W	S	R	O	O						
I	N	T	E	S	I	S	T	E	N	T			

Codeword

No. 040

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

SOLUTIONS

R	9	2	5	3	2	12	0	6	1	8	1	9	1	1
I	5	1	1	1	0	1	0	8	7	9	5	3	1	1

9-Letter

No. 040

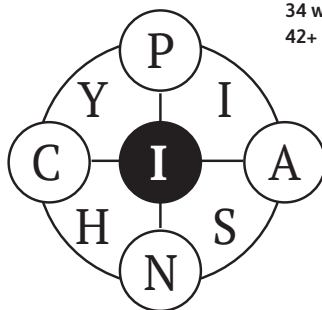
Today’s Focus:

25 words: Good

34 words: Very good

42+ words: Excellent

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



Reference:

Collins Concise English Dictionary

SOLUTIONS
actin, apish, ascl, aspic, chai, chain, chains, chian, chin, china, chip, chips, hips, inch, nashi, nipa, nisp, nisi, pachisi, pain, pains, panics, physics, PHYSICIAN, pica, pinch, pins, piscina, pish, pyn, scyph, shin, shiny, ship, ship, sinh, snip, spica, spicy, spin, spinach, spiny, yips



墨尔本唐人街春节庆典的未来得以保障

墨尔本市政府官方认可的唐人街商业区协会，经过多年更替，成功获得了举办春节庆典的权利。由会长赵克莉（Christina Zhao）领导的墨尔本唐人街商业协会（MCBA）于9月收到市议会的正式确认，确认该协会成功赢得了2025年春节庆典的举办权。

Sean Car

这一消息对唐人街来说是一个重要的胜利。自2021年起，唐人街经历了重大变革，在唐人街区协会（CPA）存在了二十多年后倒闭。CPA最初被新成立的墨尔本唐人街协会（MCA）取代，但该新组织作为市议会首选的商业团体仅存在了一年。尽管MCBA自此接管了唐人街的领导权，但今年2月的春节庆典仍由MCA组

织，因为该协会早在2023年就获得了举办权。MCBA成功竞标明年节庆的主办权意味着该活动重新回到了市议会官方认可的区域协会的管辖之下。自2023年接管以来，该协会不断壮大。

此外，前州长丹·安德鲁斯（Dan Andrews）曾在2022年的竞选承诺中，承诺为该活动提供40万澳元的财政支持，预计州政府还将为该活动提供财政支持。

由于疫情以来贸易持续受到影响，加上涂鸦和露宿问题增多，唐人街的商户们不断呼吁更新这个区域。连任市长尼克·里斯（Nick Reece）承诺提供大量资金支持。作为他的竞选平台之一，里斯团队承诺将向“唐人街振兴”项目投资1260万澳元，其中1000万澳元将用于社区主导的基础设施升级项目。

此外，政府还将为澳大利亚华人历史博物馆（Museum of Chinese Australian History）提供160万澳元，以支持其展览的扩展和现代化；另外，还将在四年内投入100万澳元用于支持包括春节在内的文化节庆活动。

墨尔本的秘密手语壁画

隐藏在墨尔本的一条小巷里，当地艺术家Jaycob Campbell（艺名Gonketa）创作了一幅引人注目的壁画，吸引了路人的注意和好奇。

Georgie Atkins

这幅壁画于2022年创作，是墨尔本市政府Flash Forward项目的一部分。Gonketa在彩虹巷（Rainbow Alley）的壁画是该项目为振兴墨尔本小巷而委托创作的80多件艺术作品之一。

Gonketa天生失聪，他的灵感来自澳大利亚手语（Auslan），并以其手势作为其色彩鲜艳作品的基础。

“我使用鲜艳的颜色和手势捕捉澳大利亚手语的精髓，邀请人们进行个人解读，同时也为不同的视角留下空间，”Gonketa在接受CBD新闻采访时说道。

“我的作品融合了聋人和听力正常（非聋人）文化的影响，让观众在其中找到属于自己的意义和灵感。”

Gonketa表示，“自从我会说话以来，我就对创作艺术很感兴趣”，每当笔和纸在手边时，他都忍不住想要表达自己。

“我每天都学到新东西，然后根据这些知识画出手势。我也喜欢探索他人的艺术



作品，甚至阅读漫画也会激发我创作的灵感，”Gonketa说道。

在COVID-19封锁期间创作这幅壁画时，Gonketa形容这一经历是“非常特殊的”。

“我做了很多草图，参加了Zoom会议，最终他们决定采用这幅作品。我一直想创作一幅带有手语手势的壁画，让人们尝试解读，但实际上，它可以意味着任何东西。”

“我只能画几天，之后就被封锁了。两周后，我才再次开始作画。整个壁画花了我几周时间才完成，实际上只需要大约五天。”

如今，Gonketa的壁画已成为墨尔本中央商务区的标志性艺术品，作为聋人社区的象征之一，为墨尔本的一条小巷注入了活力和生机。

“这段经历很有趣，尤其是在空荡荡的城市中开车。没有排队买食物，而且有了出门的许可，感觉很好。”

引入Reed House：墨尔本2024年最受期待的开业之一

墨尔本最新的餐饮体验由两位拥有丰富经验的Ottolenghi前员工倾力打造，他们在餐饮界多年后，终于兴奋地开设了自己的场所。

Georgie Atkins

Reed House以建筑师Joseph Reed的名字命名，标志着前厅经验丰富的Rebecca Baker（曾任职于Capitano、Anchovy、Bar Americano、The Everleigh）和主厨Mark Hannell（曾任职于Three Blue Ducks、Vue de Monde、McConnell Group、Bar Liberty）的首次合作项目。

受到英国小酒馆的启发，Reed House自称是“带有英式风味的现代澳大利亚风格”，位于标志性的蓝石建筑The Manse Building中，隔着庭院与当地获奖热门餐厅Caretakers Cottage相对。

“我们找场地大概找了一年，然后我们的商业伙伴Michael Bascetta告诉我们他发现了这个地方，”Rebecca说。

“Mark和我一直说我们先开一个稍微小一点的地方。但当我们看到这个地方时，觉得‘我们真的无法拒绝’。”

Reed House可以容纳约80位客人，分布在两个温馨的餐厅和两个户外区域，营造出



一种让你“仿佛走进我们家”的氛围。

“我曾在很多非常注重温暖服务的地方工作过，这也是我们想在这里实现的。你可以进来，感受到我们非常专业，但不会给你任何居高临下的感觉。”Rebecca说道。

这对夫妇在伦敦一起为Yotam Ottolenghi的餐厅Nopi工作时相识，他们共同热衷于在食物和饮品中创造大胆的味道，这也体现在Reed House的以食材为主导的开业菜单中。

从带有蘑菇番茄酱的拉面苏格兰蛋，到配有盐灌木Za’atar香料和面包酱的烤鸡；Mark将现代手法与他从小吃的传统英式经典相结合，呈现出了别样风味。

“这其中有很多不同的影响，Mark显然是英国人，但也有很多Ottolenghi的影子。如果你曾在Ottolenghi吃过饭，人们会说，‘哦，我懂了’。”



欢迎来到il Mercato Centrale！

经过两年多的期待，il Mercato Centrale于9月19日正式开业，这是该品牌在意大利之外的首个门店，位于墨尔本中央商务区的核心地带。

Georgie Atkins

继在佛罗伦萨、米兰、罗马和都灵的成功后，il Mercato Centrale现在成为墨尔本最新的意大利美食目的地，带来一系列令人愉悦的美食体验，仿佛让访客身临其境地感受到意大利的魅力。

与其他市场或美食广场不同的是，il Mercato Centrale强调23位技艺精湛的工匠，他们以独特的才能和正宗的产品为这片空间注入了灵魂，邀请墨尔本人享受一次真正沉浸式的体验。

“我们的目标不仅仅是创建一个美食中心，”il Mercato Centrale的总经理Gary Patikkis说道。“我们希望打造一个沉浸式的文化目的地，让人们可以融入到il Mercato Centrale充满活力的社区和意大利精髓中。我们对最终的结果感到非常激动。”

顾客可以在两层楼的23个不同摊位中探索，享受il forno的新鲜烘焙面包和糕点，la carne e i salumi的冷切肉类和熟成肉，la pasta fatta in casa的手工意大利面，甚至还有lo smash burger的特色汉堡。

市场营业至凌晨3点，并提供来自澳大利亚、新西兰和意大利的精选葡萄酒，可以在l’enoteca购买，或在鸡尾酒吧台品尝鸡尾酒、意式开胃酒和Spritz鸡尾酒。

“我们的每位工匠都为这里带来了真正特别的东西，是他们对品质和合作的奉献，创造了这一令人难忘的氛围，”Patikkis先生说。

il Mercato Centrale由Umberto Montano于2014年在佛罗伦萨创立，彻底改变了我们体验美食的方式，专注于工艺，并使市场重新成为社区聚集的中心。

访客可以在各个摊位购买产品带回家，或在市场内800多个座位中享用美食。该场地还将每月举办工匠大师班和免费的社区活动。

il Mercato Centrale位于Collins街546号，目前营业时间为周日至周四上午7点至晚上10点，周五和周六为上午7点至午夜12点。

WHAT'S ON October



There's something for everyone
this October in the city.



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

Now in its 27th year, MJIF is Australia's largest festival of its kind and is kicking off with three days of free jazz at Fed Square from 18 October.

melbournejazz.com

18 – 27 OCTOBER



VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL

Discover a variety of events across the city during October, including Celebration Day at Fed Square on 6 October, and Val's Rainbow Spectacular on 24 October.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/event/victorian-seniors-festival

1 – 31 OCTOBER



MELBOURNE FASHION WEEK

You're invited to celebrate 30 years of Melbourne Fashion Week this October, with city-wide runways, thought-provoking talks, exhibitions, workshops and more.

mfw.melbourne.vic.gov.au

21 – 27 OCTOBER

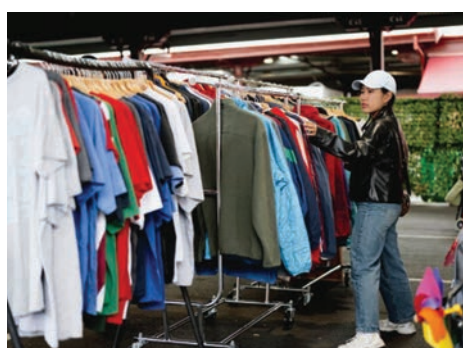


LORD MAYORAL HOUSING TOWN HALL

Learn about City of Melbourne's Lord Mayoral candidates' vision for tackling Melbourne's housing crisis. Book for free at events.humanitix.com/lord-mayoral-housing-town-hall

The Edge, Fed Square

MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER, 6PM



THE CLOTHING EXCHANGE

Bring 5 – 8 valued but unworn garments or accessories to exchange for items you'll cherish. Each piece is carefully examined before acceptance, ensuring a high-quality selection to explore.

C-D Sheds, Queen Victoria Market

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER, 12PM – 1PM



LIBRARY CINEMA AT NARRM NGARRGU

Come along for contemporary, classic and documentary films on the big screen. Feel free to stay for snacks and a chat afterwards, and bring the family. *Blinky Bill the Mischiefous Koala* is showing this month.

narrm-ngarrgu.org.au

17 OCTOBER, 4.15PM – 6.15PM



HOT SHOTS: METEOR, MAT'S, MISCHIEF, AND MARGARITAS

Brick Lane Market is spicing things up with a fiery fiesta of bold flavours and sizzling collaborations every Saturday in October.

bricklanebrewing.com

SATURDAYS, 5 – 26 OCTOBER

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403/8 Bligh Place, Melbourne



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"We recently purchased a property through Gina Donazzan at Melbourne Boutique Property, and the experience was outstanding. Gina worked incredibly fast, organizing everything within days and even negotiating the inclusion of all the furniture, which was a huge bonus for us.

Her professionalism and efficiency made the entire process smooth and stress-free. Gina was always available to answer our questions, and her dedication truly set her apart. We highly recommend Gina Donazzan and Melbourne Boutique Property to anyone looking for a seamless real estate experience."

Chloe, Purchaser

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