



New life for food waste at Queen Victoria Market

The Queen Victoria Market has long been Melbourne's beating heart for fresh food and produce. Now, it is also home to a bold new experiment in sustainability, with the City of Melbourne launching the city's latest Circular Economy Precinct on August 8. More on page 14. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

City safety and security dominate discussions over new Council Plan

“The City of Melbourne has bolstered its focus on city safety in its draft strategic Council Plan, with some councillors calling for a crackdown on protests.”

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



At the August 19 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, the council mooted its draft plan to deliver “healthy, safe and connected communities”, and advocate for measures to be brought in that reduce disruption caused by protests.

The council called for a coordinated review across all levels of government to establish a framework that safeguards the right to protest but reduces disruption.

However, this became a point of contention at the meeting.

The portfolio head for Aboriginal Melbourne, Cr Dr Olivia Ball, said, “I am very concerned about the idea that protest cannot disrupt.”

Cr Dr Ball said that the very point of protest is to disrupt and that she could not support anything that infringed on this right.

However, the council broadly supported addressing the disruptions protests can cause.

At the meeting, the portfolio head for safety and cleaning, Cr Rafael Camillo, said, “We need stronger engagement with state and federal government to find better ways that allow us to maintain the right of people to protest in a way that minimises disruption to the city life.”

“We need to be able to ensure residents, businesses and visitors can continue to go about their daily life in a safe and secure manner,” he said.

Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell believes that there needs to be a “balancing exercise”, that protects both people's right to protest and people using the city, particularly for traders and elderly and disabled people.

“[Melbourne] has been disrupted by weekly protests for almost two years, protests that are having a real impact on businesses who are losing essentially one day of trade every week,” Cr Campbell said.

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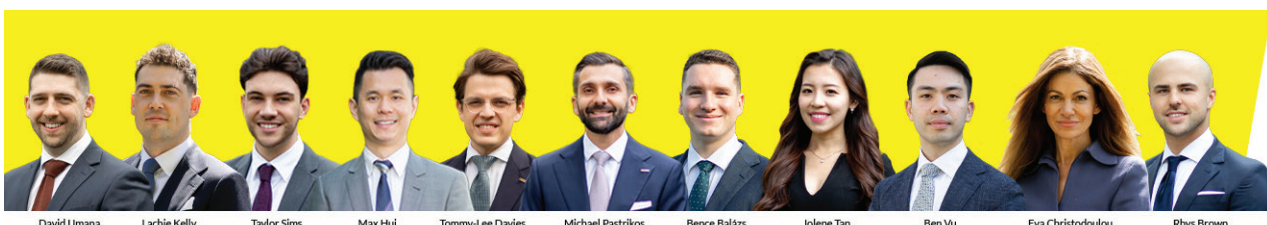
Friends of Queen Victoria Market slam Gurrova Place approval



ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 13

Now or Never is upon us as art and technology collide in the CBD

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The deadline for the October edition is September 19

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Blackbird spreads its wings in Melbourne



Tucked into 66 Flinders Lane within the Collins Place precinct, a bold new chapter of Brisbane hospitality royalty has quietly taken flight in Melbourne.



WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Blackbird Bar, Dining & Events opens its doors this month, bringing a three-level celebration of modern Australian cuisine, native ingredients and wood-fired cooking to one of the city's most storied laneways.

Already a household name north of the border, Blackbird Brisbane has long been regarded as a destination for premium beef and contemporary dining. Now, the Ghanem Group has chosen Melbourne for its first interstate venture, promising an experience that honours the brand's DNA while embracing the city's distinct character.

"Blackbird Melbourne is a true evolution of our brand," director Nehme Ghanem said. "Guests will recognise our trademark hospitality, but also discover a restaurant, bar and events space that celebrates Melbourne's energy and individuality."

Set across three strikingly presented levels by Space Cubed Design Studio, the venue offers something for every mood. At street level, a cocktail bar and lounge sets the tone with DJs and playful drinks inspired by nostalgic flavours – think a mango Weis



bar-inspired Mango & Macadamia cocktail, or a Frosty Fruit martini with rhubarb, passionfruit and pineapple sorbet.

Above, a split-level restaurant provides an opulent yet welcoming stage for one of the country's most ambitious steak and seafood menus. A dramatic chandelier cascades through the central staircase, connecting each level with a sense of theatre.

The kitchen brings together a trio of serious culinary firepower: Melbourne-born executive chef Jake Nicolson, newly appointed local executive chef Tim Menger (ex-Entrecôte), and head chef Josh Moroney (ex-Nomad). Masters of wood-fire cooking, their menu showcases premium beef from renowned producers across Australia, housed in a dry-ageing cabinet before being grilled over ironbark. Signature showpieces include a chocolate-fed Mayura Station full-blood Wagyu tomahawk weighing in at up to 2kg, and an 800g, 30-day dry-aged striploin. Native ingredients run through every section of the menu, from kangaroo

with pepperberry to wood-roasted lobster with warrigal greens.

For those seeking something more intimate, the top floor offers a dedicated events and private dining space, complete with its own bar and marble finishes.

As Mr Nicolson puts it, Blackbird Melbourne offers "the full package". Whether it's a burger and beer downstairs, a Wagyu feast in the dining room, or cocktails that nod to childhood memories, this latest arrival ensures Flinders Lane still knows how to surprise. ●



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Zero affordable homes delivered under central city uplift scheme

Almost a decade after it was introduced with the promise of delivering community benefits, the state government's central city floor area uplift (FAU) scheme has failed to produce a single affordable housing unit in Melbourne's CBD or Southbank.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



New analysis from the Community Housing Industry Association Victoria (CHIA Vic) has revealed that since 2016, when the Central City Planning Provisions were amended to include a "public benefit uplift" incentive, developers have secured approval for almost 31,000 new homes. Not one of those has been delivered as affordable housing.

Instead, the voluntary scheme has overwhelmingly favoured commercial office space as the "public benefit" of choice. As reported by this masthead in early 2018, within just a year of its introduction more than 54,000 square metres of office floorspace had been awarded to applicants under the FAU mechanism, while no uplift had been granted for social housing, libraries, kindergartens or other community facilities that were also originally contemplated.

The result, according to CHIA Vic chief executive Sarah Toohey, is proof that voluntary approaches do not work.

"The voluntary developer contribution scheme for the Melbourne CBD and Southbank has not delivered a single affordable home since it was introduced nearly a decade ago," she said.

"What we've seen instead is developers opting for office space and other benefits

that serve their own interests, while communities continue to miss out on the affordable homes they desperately need."

The issue is back in the spotlight with the Suburban Rail Loop East planning documents now proposing a similar voluntary uplift framework around new station precincts. CHIA Vic has warned that without mandatory requirements, there is little chance of affordable housing being supplied in these high-demand areas either.

"The Suburban Rail Loop will add tens of thousands of new homes around station precincts but right now it's not clear if any of them will be social or affordable housing," Ms Toohey said. "We can't leave the delivery of social housing in these precincts up to a voluntary scheme that we know from experience won't work."

By contrast, Sydney's long-standing mandatory affordable housing contributions scheme has already provided more than 1500 homes since 1996, with a further 1950 projected by 2036.

CHIA Vic argues that the Victorian Government should learn from Sydney's approach and introduce enforceable requirements for developers to contribute to social and affordable housing in all major rezoning and urban renewal projects. "The rezoning of these precincts will

create massive windfall gains to landowners in the area," Ms Toohey said. "It is reasonable to share these windfall gains across the community by requiring all new developments to include or contribute to social and affordable housing. Voluntary schemes do not work. The only way to deliver the social housing we need in these communities is for private developers to contribute."

While the government continues to list increasing social and affordable housing as an objective in planning documents, critics say the absence of mandatory developer requirements, clear targets or direct public investment leaves delivery up to chance.

For residents of the central city, it is a familiar story. When Planning Scheme Amendment C270 was first conceived in 2016, consultants SGS Economics and Planning recommended the FAU scheme be used to secure lasting community assets such as libraries, childcare centres, open space and affordable housing. But by the time the controls were gazetted, "community benefit" had been diluted to "public benefit" and commercial office space had been added to the list. Developers, unsurprisingly, have overwhelmingly chosen that option.

City of Melbourne planning chair Cr Nick Reece acknowledged at the time that while more office accommodation was needed in the city, the trend risked undermining the original intent of the policy.

The then deputy planning chair Cr Rohan Leppert was more blunt, saying then that "floor area uplift regimes are never going to reliably and predictably deliver core community infrastructure" and that Melbourne should follow Sydney and Brisbane in requiring all new high-rise residential apartments to co-fund affordable housing.

Six years on, the numbers speak for themselves. Out of tens of thousands of new apartments approved across the CBD and Southbank, not even one has been set aside as affordable housing under the uplift regime. ●

City safety and security dominate Council Plan discussions

Continued from page 1.

The focus on city safety within the strategic plan saw a fault line re-emerge over the council's approach, with Cr Dr Ball questioning whether the investment in security cameras and security guards was an appropriate use of council funds.

"Council has promised \$2.1 million for new CCTV cameras and \$2 million for more boots on the ground in this year alone," she said. "This is a shocking misuse of public money."

However, Cr Philip Le Liu disputed Cr Dr Ball's critique and said that the investment in city safety was of paramount importance.

"If people cannot walk into the city safely, if people do not feel safe ... we have failed a fundamental job that the city should be doing," he said.

Despite the division over city safety and protests, the draft strategic plan was widely supported, with all councillors in favour apart from Cr Owen Guest who abstained from voting.

The Council Plan is one of the City of Melbourne's key strategic documents that outlines its commitment to the community, what the council seeks to achieve and how it proposes to achieve the plan's objectives.

As a part of the plan, the council has committed to six strategic priorities: "governing for our future", "healthy, safe and connected communities", "living sustainably", "vibrant and creative Melbourne", "leveraging our economic strengths" and "building a city for people".

The draft plan will now undergo community consultation before the final plan is voted on at the October 21 FMC meeting. ●

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Construction begins on \$200m redevelopment of historic Hotel Lindrum

“

A new chapter has begun for one of Melbourne's most iconic heritage sites, with construction officially commencing on the \$200 million redevelopment of the historic Hotel Lindrum on Flinders St.

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Diversified property developer Time & Place marked the milestone with a ground-breaking ceremony on-site in August, attended by Lord Mayor Nick Reece, alongside representatives from builder Kapitol, architects fjstudio and project consultants. The event celebrated the beginning of a significant transformation that will see the landmark heritage building reimaged into a 27-storey office tower.

The project will preserve the hotel's heritage façade while introducing a modern office tower offering exclusive full-floor premium-grade office suites. Occupants



will enjoy sweeping views across the Yarra River, the Royal Botanic Gardens, the MCG and Melbourne's arts and sporting precincts.

The Lord Mayor welcomed the redevelopment, noting the project's importance in maintaining Melbourne's heritage while driving investment into the city.

Time & Place founder and director Tim Price said redeveloping the Lindrum came



with a sense of responsibility.

"This eastern pocket of the CBD stands head and shoulders above the rest of Melbourne's office market," he said. "We see Lindrum as a 'unicorn' – an opportunity for high-net-worth occupiers and investors to own an exclusive piece of Melbourne's most premium office real estate. It will deliver uncompromised views and unrivalled

connection to icons like Flinders Street Station and the Arts Centre."

Beyond premium office space, the development will include a lively ground-floor event space, club-style end-of-trip facilities and laneway connections into Flinders Lane's dining precinct.

Time & Place has already pre-committed a third of the building's floors to family offices and businesses from its private network, underscoring demand for high-quality commercial real estate in the CBD.

Construction partner Kapitol will lead delivery of the complex project, with a strong focus on preserving the heritage façade while integrating advanced construction methodologies.

Co-founder Andrew Deveson said the build had been meticulously mapped using 3D digital modelling and real-time data.

"Every detail, from neighbouring tram movements to crane logistics, has been planned to mitigate challenges before they arise," he said. "That's critical on a project like Lindrum, where modern construction must integrate seamlessly with a heritage landmark."

The redevelopment will increase the size of the Theatres Building by 16 per cent that aligns with Time & Place's ethos of creating design-led, heritage-conscious developments that also respond to Melbourne's future needs.

Completion of the Lindrum redevelopment is anticipated by mid-2027, with an exclusive expression of interest process for prospective owners expected to launch later this year. ●

Council seeks to make community consultation more transparent

Council has welcomed the development of new guidelines aimed at improving transparency during community consultation periods.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Victorian councils are required to undertake community consultation on certain documents and decisions.

However, the City of Melbourne is looking to enhance this process by moving away from seeking public support for projects when they are open for consultation.

At the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on August 19, it was requested that the current review of the consultation



process consider introducing new guidelines to support meaningful and informed public feedback.

The proposed guidelines aim to explain and clarify council documents and proposals in an objective and neutral manner.

Cr Dr Olivia Ball said that while community consultation was an important democratic process, there was room for improvement.

"I'm asking our media professionals to seek not to convince the public that council's ideas are great when they are subject to public engagement, but to go that little bit further and think about the task a little differently," she said.

Cr Dr Ball believes the council should communicate in a way that takes into account the public's viewpoint by presenting new proposals in an objective and impartial way.

She emphasised that community engagement should not be about gaining public support for council proposals but rather

about gathering genuine, informed feedback so the community can form its own views.

While the creation of new guidelines was unanimously supported, a number of councillors raised concerns about the feasibility of the changes.

The head of the Innovation Portfolio, Cr Andrew Rowse, said he had concerns about practicality, but noted that council officers would be the best people to explain any issues or implications of the proposed changes.

He added that he supported the potential changes due to their goal of ensuring that the public was well-informed and actively providing feedback on council policies and initiatives.

Cr Mark Scott also raised concerns, particularly regarding how "objective" communication would be interpreted in practice. He noted that it would be interesting to see how this concept was applied moving forward. ●



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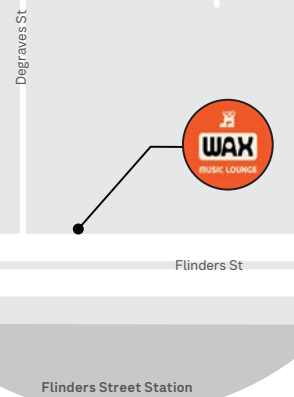
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Fixing a broken system: How Inner Owners' Corporation is bringing integrity to strata management

“

When Michael Cimino first set out to build a career, he was determined not to follow in the family footsteps. While his father Joe had carved out a reputation in real estate, Michael instead pursued accounting, spending nearly a decade in the finance sector.

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



“I was the black sheep of the family,” he laughed. “I finished school and said, ‘I’m not getting into real estate’. So, I became an accountant.”

But as is often the case in family businesses, the call eventually came. In 2016, with Inner Real Estate reaching a size that needed more operational rigour, his father asked him to step in. Initially it was to tighten the numbers, improve systems, and give the business structure.

Soon enough, Michael found himself immersed in property management, applying the same methodical instincts that had guided him in finance: “I like to fix things,” he told CBD News.

It was in that process of working with multi-dwelling properties that Michael first encountered the world of owners’ corporations (OCs). What he found left him stunned.

He remembers attending his first AGM and asking straightforward financial questions that the manager simply could not answer.

“It just didn’t sit right with me,” Michael said. “There were managers impossible to get hold of, providing little information, yet they were pocketing commissions and hidden fees. I thought – there has to be a better way.”

That frustration became a turning point. In 2019, with encouragement from a client who was chair of an OC, Michael registered as a manager and took on Inner Real Estate’s first building in Footscray.

From the outset, he made integrity and transparency non-negotiable. While most in the industry relied on undisclosed insurance commissions, Inner Owners Corporation refused to take them. The decision raised



eyebrows – even the sector’s main body at the time would not accept them as members unless they agreed to commissions – but Michael held his ground.

“I wanted to be the manager that people looked to and said, ‘they’re the ones doing it properly,’” he said. “When clients call, we answer. When they email, we respond. And when it comes to money, it’s all above board. No commissions, no hidden fees.”

The approach resonated. What began with a single building quickly multiplied. Within a year, Inner Owners Corporation was managing more than a dozen plans. Today, it looks after 150 owners’ corporation schemes and around 5000 lots across Melbourne, contributing a third of the company’s annual turnover.

Remarkably, that growth has been achieved without marketing – fuelled entirely by word of mouth.

“It’s all referrals,” Michael said. “That tells me the team is doing something right.”

It has not gone unnoticed in wider circles. The OC industry has faced increasing scrutiny, particularly after an ABC Four Corners investigation last year uncovered systemic misconduct – from inflated fees to opaque insurance deals. The exposé accelerated long overdue reform, with the Victorian Government now reviewing the *Owners Corporation Act*.

For Michael, who had already been

pushing for higher standards, the inquiry was a vindication.

“We actually welcomed it,” he said. “We’ve been operating with transparency since day one, so any move to lift regulation only helps the sector. At the end of the day, this is about people’s homes and investments. They deserve managers who are accountable.”

What sets Inner Owners Corporation apart is not only its ethical stance but also its comprehensive service. The team facilitates AGMs and regular committee sessions, handles budgets, levies and financial reporting, and supports sustainability initiatives such as EV chargers and solar conversions. Through an online portal, committee members can access live financials and transaction details, giving them confidence and control over their building’s affairs.

For many, the shift from their previous managers has been transformative. Michael frequently fields calls from committee chairs who had grown used to silence or delay. “The biggest feedback is how much easier it is to deal with us,” he said. “They know who they’re talking to, they get consistency of staff, and responses are fast. But more than that, they’re given information and guidance to make informed decisions. That sense of collaboration is crucial.”

Michael describes the relationship in corporate terms. The lot owners are the

shareholders, the committee is the board, and Inner Owners Corporation acts as senior management – executing decisions while providing advice. “It’s about empowering committees. Not just dumping information on them but giving them the tools and recommendations to make the best calls for their buildings,” he said.

As the sector braces for reform, Michael is optimistic. He has already made a formal submission to the state government’s review, and he believes stronger compliance and oversight are on the horizon.

“The barriers to entry are too low. We’re managing millions of dollars in trust accounts with little oversight. That has to change. Any step towards better regulation is a step in the right direction.”

Looking back, the accountant who was initially reluctant to get into the property sector admits he has found his calling in an unexpected place. From one building in Footscray, Inner Owners Corporation has grown into a force reshaping strata management across inner Melbourne. And for Michael, the measure of success is simple.

“Clients trust us,” he said. “They know we’ll pick up the phone, give them straight answers, and manage their money with integrity. That’s all we set out to do, and that’s what we’ll keep doing.”

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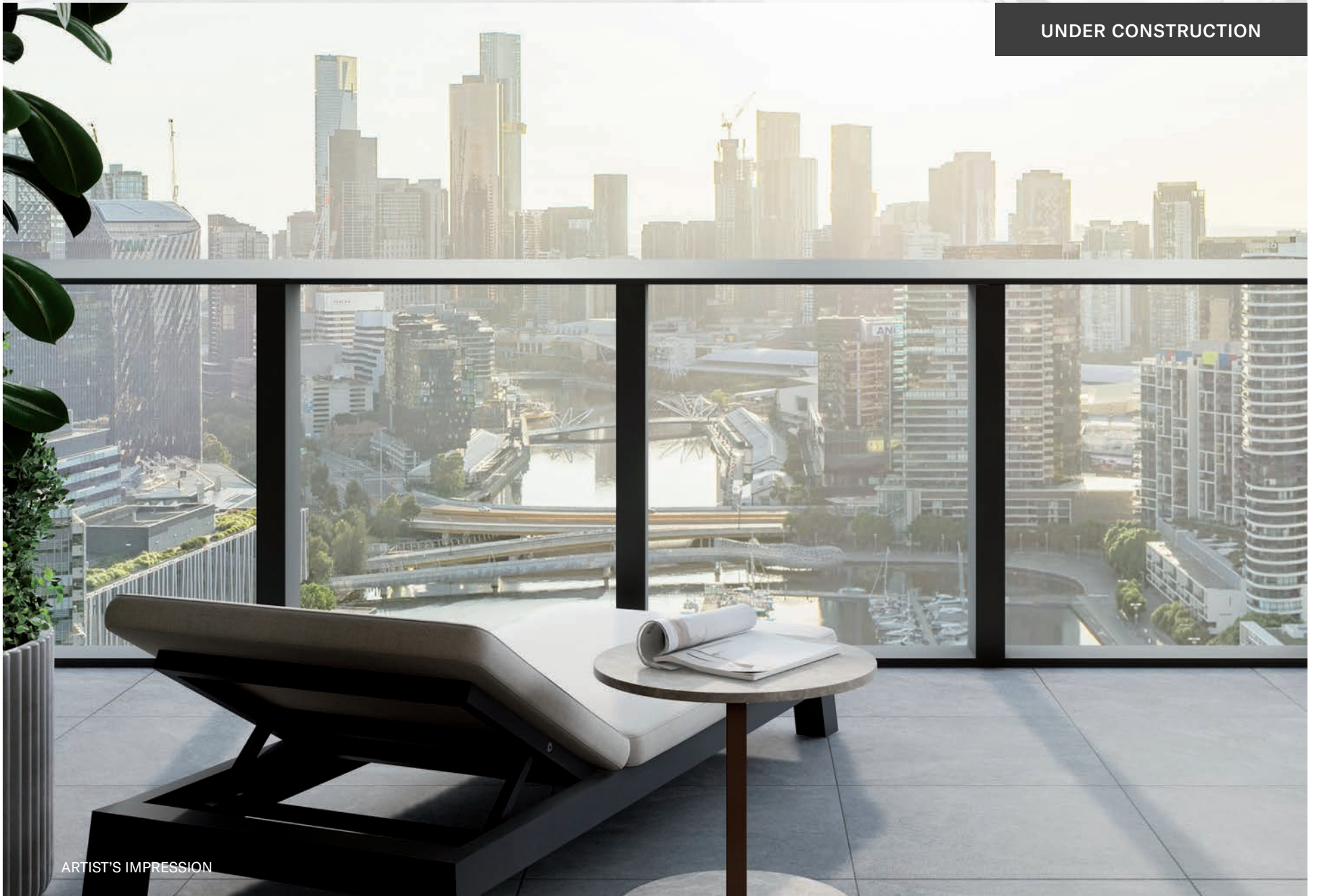
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Cohealth celebrates major milestone

Not-for-profit community health organisation Cohealth has reached a major milestone, with its team delivering half-a-million service occasions to clients over the past year.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



In August, Cohealth released its FY25 Impact Report, which revealed that its team of more than 900 staff delivered a significant 526,500 service occasions to clients during the past 12 months.

Cohealth's chief executive Nicole Bartholomeusz said, "We're proud to have delivered more than half-a-million service occasions in this past financial year, while also continuing to champion the systemic change needed to improve health and well-being across our communities."

"Innovation and partnership have been at the heart of our work in FY25, and our Impact Report showcases what we've achieved," she said.

Cohealth provides low-cost and free local services – including medical, dental, allied health, mental health, aged care and counselling, as well as many other specialist services – to marginalised and vulnerable

communities in Melbourne's CBD, inner-north and inner-west, and on the east coast of Tasmania.

Over the past year, Cohealth has continued to grow, including opening a new health clinic at 69 Bourke St, offering low-barrier, integrated care to people in Melbourne's CBD, in partnership with The Salvation Army.

It has also expanded outreach services in Melbourne's CBD and western suburbs, and introduced the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) at the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct.

The VVED is delivered in partnership with Northern Health and has meant that 66 per cent of young people needing medical treatment have avoided unnecessary ambulance callouts and emergency department visits.

"Our achievements in the past year

reflect what's possible when innovation meets strong, purpose-driven partnerships," Ms Bartholomeusz said.

These partnerships have enabled Cohealth's services to grow and reach more clients. One such example, according to Ms Bartholomeusz, is the delivery of 2090 occasions of health and social care at Make Room – an initiative supporting people to transition from homelessness to a secure, sustainable home. It is delivered in partnership with Unison Housing, the City of Melbourne, and Ngwala Willumbong Aboriginal Corporation, and is supported by the Victorian Government and philanthropists.

Cohealth has also just released its 10-year strategy, which aspires to create healthier communities where everyone – regardless of background or geography – can access quality care and experience better health and social outcomes.

The strategy focuses on building on the existing strengths of Cohealth's workforce, ensuring a skilled, resilient, diverse, capable, and engaged team.

It also aims to champion innovation by providing a clear vision, resources, and support for creative and bold initiatives that will further the organisation's mission.

"This is a strategy that will see us be bold and innovative, as we strive to reimagine Australia's health and social systems to ensure no one is left behind," Ms Bartholomeusz said. ●

EastEnders hosts first-of-a-kind community health consultation

In August, EastEnders held a community information session to help connect residents with local health and social support services.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The event was the first of its kind, allowing residents to speak directly with representatives from Cohealth and The Salvation Army about the services they offer.

"EastEnders has now participated in three events to enable these opportunities for discussion with interested citizens – something that neither the City of Melbourne nor the state government has been prepared to do," EastEnders president Stan Capp said.

The session focused on The Salvation Army's new central city health clinic at 69 Bourke St, which offers wraparound care to Melbourne's most vulnerable.

However, some residents raised concerns about the clinic's impact on city safety.

"There was some community concern expressed about the challenges in Bourke St and Westwood Place, where attendees of the Salvos occasionally congregate," Dr Capp said, but added that he believed that, overall, the clinic had been met with support and appreciation.

"EastEnders has provided advice on how these challenges can be addressed through a memorandum of understanding developed by key stakeholders," he said. "We call on the council and the state government to work with local citizens, to join us, show leadership, and find a sensible solution."

At the meeting, the head of the council's city safety portfolio, Cr Rafael Camillo, attended and questioned the effectiveness of Cohealth's and The Salvo's services.

Cr Camillo, who declared he wasn't appearing at the session in his role as a councillor, but rather his ongoing position as president of the Residents 3000 residents' group, expressed concern over staffing levels at the health services and the effect they may have on city safety.

This comes after Cohealth's FY25 Impact Report revealed that their team had delivered 526,500 service occasions to clients over the past 12 months.

Despite the criticism from Cr Camillo and several residents, Dr Stan Capp said that healthy debate was essential.

"The aggressive and negative statements made by some participants – directed at our friends at Cohealth and The Salvation Army – did nothing to resolve the issue, but they do highlight the need for more interaction and information sharing," he said. ●

Coroner's report finds fatal overdoses are on the rise

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation is calling for the Victorian Government to implement a long-term, strategic approach to drug harm reduction, following new data showing fatal overdoses in Victoria are now at their highest level in a decade.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The Victorian Overdose Deaths 2015–2024 report, released by the Coroners Court of Victoria, revealed that 584 Victorians died from overdose in 2024 – up from 547 in 2023.

According to the report, 74.5 per cent of deaths across the decade were accidental or unintentional, with heroin, diazepam, methamphetamine and alcohol the most common substances involved.

It also found that people aged between 35 and 54 are most at risk of dying from

overdose, with men on average twice as likely as women to die from one.

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation's CEO Dr Erin Lalor said the number of overdose deaths in Victoria was unacceptably high.

"Overdose deaths have a ripple effect, with loved ones and whole communities impacted. Our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by these deaths," she said.

The Victorian Government has committed to harm reduction through its Statewide Action Plan, investing \$95.1 million in a health-led approach. The plan responds to all the recommendations of the Lay Report and provides increased support for services across the CBD, suburbs and regions.

This includes expanding access to pharmacotherapy, naloxone vending machines, Australia's first "Never Use Alone" helpline, and a Community Health Hub at 244 Flinders St. However, Dr Lalor believes more can be done.

"While the Victorian Government is progressing, some great initiatives announced through the Statewide Action Plan, our state is lacking a long-term alcohol and drug strategy," she said. "This strategy

needs a strong focus on preventing harms from occurring in the first place, with a dedicated budget alongside it."

Dr Lalor believes drug-related harm is a public health challenge that requires coordinated action across multiple government portfolios – including health, justice, families and education.

Last year, consultation took place between the State Government and the alcohol and other drug sector regarding a dedicated alcohol and drug strategy. However, this strategy is yet to be released.

Dr Lalor said that, in addition to implementing important services such as pill testing in Victoria, further measures are needed to prevent and reduce drug-related harm.

This includes stronger investment in community-led, place-based prevention programs, targeted education and awareness campaigns for those at greater risk of overdose and tackling alcohol and other drug-related stigma.

"We need stronger investments to reduce stigma, because stigma can stop people seeking help and support, negatively impacting their health, wellbeing, employment and social outcomes," Dr Lalor said. ●

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Evan MULHOLLAND MP

Liberal Member for Northern Metropolitan Region

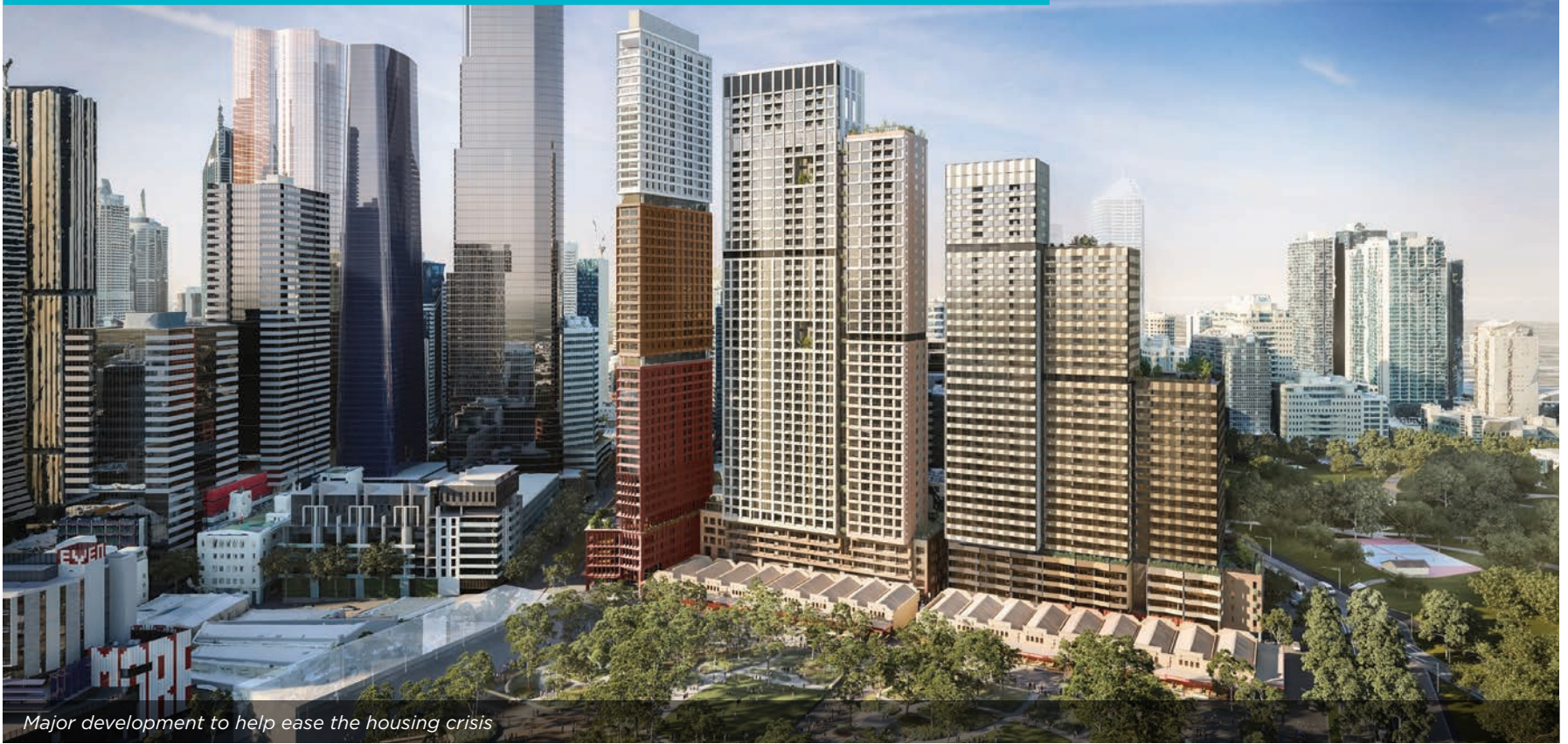
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GREEN LIGHT FOR GURROWA PLACE



Major development to help ease the housing crisis

The groundbreaking transformation of Melbourne's iconic Queen Victoria Market is one step closer, with the new precinct Gurrowa Place granted federal approval in August.

In Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung language, the word 'Gurrowa' means a place of exchange and interchange.

This \$1.7 billion development, managed by Lendlease, will include a mix of build-to-rent, student accommodation and affordable housing across three towers.

The 3.2 hectare site will sit at the southern edge of the Queen Victoria Market, and will be the largest ever urban renewal development delivered for the City of Melbourne.

Site works are expected to start next year.

As part of the development, the City of Melbourne will partner with Lendlease to deliver a new public park.

Market Square will transform the city's north with 1.8 hectares of open space – the largest addition of green open space to the central city in decades.

Gurrowa Place will also include a new underground car park – with more parking available for customers on weekdays.



Historic renewal of Queen Vic Market gets the green light



DISHING UP A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Change is on the menu at the Queen Victoria Market, with sustainability being baked into everyday experiences.

The City of Melbourne is teaming up with not-for-profit STREAT to deliver its second Circular Economy Precinct, transforming the Vic Market into an industry-leader in sustainability.

As part of a three-month pilot, vendors have single-use food packaging in their sights, with many making the switch to reusable crockery.

The Circular Economy Precinct has **three main goals** during the pilot:

- reduce the use of disposable packaging
- tackle food waste by giving unsold food to students in need
- host events to show the community how to reduce waste.

VIC MARKET CIRCULAR ECONOMY FUN FACTS:

- more than 16,000 single-use items kept out of landfill so far
- volunteers wash up to 200 dishes an hour
- 20 vendors have signed up to reduce their single-use packaging
- QVM has 800 tonnes of unsold or overripe produce annually.

Visit the Purpose Precinct at Queen Victoria Market to see the reuse pilot in action.

Read the full story at melbourne.vic.gov.au/news

Scan here to find out more about the Queen Victoria Market Circular Economy Precinct



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Friends of Queen Victoria Market slam Gurrowa Place approval

Some traders and marketgoers have taken a stand against the federal government's environmental approval of the Gurrowa Place redevelopment at Queen Victoria Market.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



It has been ruled that the \$1.7 billion development would meet national heritage protections under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act*.

In light of the decision, Federal Environment and Water Minister Murray Watt said the project had been designed to respect the market's heritage while meeting critical housing needs.

"Through thoughtful design, this project will provide new and much-needed housing while ensuring this Melbourne icon can be enjoyed for many years to come," Minister Watt said.

However, this has left some traders and marketgoers concerned about the impact it will have on the market.

In a letter sent to Minister Watt, the president of Friends of Queen Victoria Market Mary-Lou Howie expressed her disapproval of the decision.

"We are appalled by your decision in approving Gurrowa Place at Queen Victoria Market. It reeks of opportunism," she wrote.

"This decision makes a mockery of Australia's protection of its National Heritage," she added. "Can we expect to see the Sydney Harbour Bridge as Australia's Ponte Vecchio and imagine the commercial opportunity on the Sydney Opera House forecourt?"

Ms Howie argues that many aspects of the ruling neglect important criteria embedded in the EPBC Act.

In addition, she believes the decision has ignored how this development will immobilise traffic around the market for six to eight years during construction.

"The consequences will be dire for customer access and the viability of traders.

Poor stewardship by the [City of Melbourne] council has already led to a diminished market, which is known internationally as the heartbeat of Melbourne," Ms Howie said.

As reported earlier by CBD News, Lord Mayor Nick Reece welcomed the decision and is confident the development does not impact the heritage of the market.

"Lendlease and the City of Melbourne can now confidently move forward with groundbreaking plans to transform the precinct – attracting thousands of new residents, workers and visitors, while boosting business for traders," he said.

"This development will also make a major dent in the housing crisis – delivering new homes, including affordable housing, which the city desperately needs."

The approval paves the way for the delivery of more than 2200 new residences, including 1100 apartments and 1150 student accommodation rooms.

However, long-time CBD resident Sean Kelly, who has lived in the area for more than 30 years, questioned the impact the project will have on the housing crisis.

"We're told this is a win for housing, for affordability, for 'revitalisation', but peel back the layers, and you'll find a blueprint not for homes – but for exclusion," he said.

"Gurrowa Place promises 2250 new residences – 1100 apartments and 1150 student rooms – with just 130 flagged as low-cost," he said.

"In truth, this isn't about homes. It's about yield per square metre. It's about slicing the human experience into floor plans optimised for developer profit, with just enough greenery and heritage paint to get past the planners." ●



State Library Victoria's largest-ever free exhibition of artists' creative journeys

The State Library Victoria (SLV) has launched its largest free exhibition on August 15, taking viewers behind the scenes of the artists' creations, featuring nearly 600 items.

WORDS BY
XIANGHAN MENG



Creative Acts: Artists and Their Inspirations invites visitors to explore the creators' inspirations and processes behind their works. From earlier ideas and drafts to final works, the audience can enjoy material rarely exposed to the public.

SLV CEO Paul Duldig said the exhibition showed rarely-seen sketches, drafts, photos and correspondence, offering visitors "intimate insights into the inspirational practices of artists, writers, dancers and creators."

As part of the exhibition, the Library Up Late program returns on August 22 from 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm, with a special event as part of the City of Melbourne's *Now or Never* festival for collective creative expression.

Visitors will not just observe but actively participate in workshops and performances



as artists themselves. Tickets are \$34 for general admission, \$29 for paid members, concession holders and under-30s, and \$25 for First Nations visitors. Bookings are required.

The highlighting collection includes items never seen from the archive of bohemian icon Vali Myers. The State Library has also invited five leading Victorian artists to create new works inspired by the State Collection.

The commissioned works include Peter Carey's reflection on *True History of the Kelly Gang*, Dr Chandrabhanu OAM's classical Odissi dance, Dr Deanne Gilson's painting sharing her Wadawurrung ancestors' Creation story, Barry William Hale's nine-metre automatic drawing, and Bundit Puangthong's vivid mural of childhood and culture.

According to Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks, this exhibition celebrates this extraordinary treasure trove, Victoria's great artists' works and their creative processes. ●

City of Melbourne commemorates atomic bombings, but questions of overreach re-emerge

The City of Melbourne has once again found itself the subject of criticism for veering into foreign policy territory, after councillors spent nearly 40 minutes debating nuclear disarmament at the close of their August 5 meeting.

WORDS BY
ALEXANDRA RANDALL



The motion – which commemorated the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – was brought forward by Greens councillor Dr Olivia Ball and included a request for the Lord Mayor and CEO to write to federal leaders urging Australia to sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

While introducing the motion, Cr Dr Bell pointed out that in 2018, the City of Melbourne was the first of nearly 50 local governments worldwide to "express its deep concern at the grave threat nuclear weapons pose."

"The City of Melbourne welcomed the adoption in 2018 of the Treaty on the

Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the United Nations, and tonight I propose we reiterate our call on our national government to sign and ratify the treaty without further delay," Cr Dr Ball said.

While the symbolic gesture was widely supported in sentiment, some councillors questioned whether lobbying the federal government on international treaties was the best use of local government time and resources.

Cr Gladys Liu sought to amend the motion by removing the request to write to federal ministers, arguing the issue was outside the council's remit as it held "no direct relevance to the people of Melbourne."

"Why don't we let the federal representatives do what they are elected to do, and we focus 100 per cent on our people in the City of Melbourne," Cr Liu said.

Cr Owen Guest seconded this amendment, saying the council had made a commitment to "get back to the basics," and felt "pestering" federal representatives was not achieving this.

"The sentiment is valid, no one is arguing otherwise, but I do feel we should stick to what we need to do here in the City of Melbourne and focus on that wholeheartedly," Cr Guest said.

Cr Liu's amendment was ultimately defeated, with several councillors

defending the city's long history of nuclear disarmament advocacy and Melbourne's role as a "global city".

This included references to Melbourne-born organisation ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its successful advocacy for the UN treaty – a treaty that Australia has still not ratified.

In arguing against Cr Liu's amendment, Cr Davydd Griffiths pointed to many precedents of the council's "open and deliberate engagements with advocacy to other level of governments" in the past.

Cr Dr Ball, who put forward the initial motion, stressed that she had "no illusions about the proper role of each government, but believes "it is a mistake to think local government shouldn't have a stance on the actions of other levels of government."

"We frequently advocate to other levels of government, all the time, and I didn't hear any objections to that kind of pestering at the time," Cr Dr Ball said.

However, Cr Rafael Camillo, who also supported Cr Liu's amendment, argued that continuing to allow federal issues to encroach on council business would contribute to the "division" over the City of Melbourne's role in the community.

Speaking in support of the motion, the

man dubbed by the Lord Mayor as an "honorary councillor" Chris Thrum and prominent disarmament advocate Dr Tillman Ruff described the horror of the 1945 bombings and the enduring threat of nuclear weapons.

Both directly called on the council to advocate for the federal government to ratify the treaty, with Dr Ruff addressing the concern of council overreach by arguing a nuclear detonation would prevent council from serving its residents, justifying its consideration on a local government level.

"The first responsibility of every level of government is to protect its citizens," he said, adding "the council is responsible for many services that would be impossible following nuclear detonation."

In the end, the motion passed, however Cr Guest abstained from the final vote.

The debate echoes last year's controversial four-hour standoff at council over the war in Gaza, where hundreds rallied outside Town Hall as councillors debated foreign affairs well into the night.

While Melbourne rightly embraces its role as a global and multicultural city, these episodes continue to raise important questions about what issues local government should spend its time and resources debating – and how best to exercise that influence in ways that genuinely serve its ratepayers. ●



Makiko Ryujin – Ephemeral Blue.
Photo: Claire Armstrong.

In The Making

9 Aug – 20 Sep 2025

Four women artists explore ideas shaped through process.

Emma Davies
Noriko Nakamura
Michaela Pegum
Makiko Ryujin

New Craft Victoria exhibition celebrates the beauty of process



Craft Victoria's latest exhibition, *In The Making*, invites audiences to explore the transformative power of process and material.



WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Running from August 9 to September 20 in the gallery's main space, the exhibition brings together four contemporary artists – Emma Davies, Noriko Nakamura, Makiko Ryujin and Michaela Pegum – whose works examine the intimate, often unseen relationships between artist, method and



Noriko Nakamura. Photo: Claire Armstrong.

medium.

Positioned at the intersection of concept and craft, *In The Making* presents a series of sculptural works that highlight how the act of making itself can be a site of reflection, discovery and connection.

From electroplated textiles and hand-carved limestone to scorched wooden vessels and sensory wearable art, the exhibition reveals the unique dialogues each artist develops with their materials.

For Japanese-born sculptor Noriko Nakamura, whose delicate limestone forms are shaped entirely by hand in her Castlemaine studio, the process is deeply personal.

"By carving with my hands, only using my own bodily forces, my process became much more difficult and slower," Nakamura said. "Through this attention to the stone's inherent qualities, the relationship with the stone became more intimate ... like caring for a baby."

Fellow Japanese-Australian artist Makiko Ryujin shares a similar reverence for material, using traditional woodturning techniques to shape sacred vessel forms before

subjecting them to the unpredictable forces of fire.

"Support from Craft definitely helps us being able to enjoy the process of creation," she said. "It helps to know that someone really cares about what we do."

Emma Davies, known for transforming industrial materials into flowing, organic forms, uses experimentation and curiosity to guide her sculptural practice. By removing materials like packaging twine from their functional contexts, she creates intricate works that challenge perceptions of beauty and utility.

Michaela Pegum's contribution draws from her background in dance and somatics, exploring how felt experience precedes language.

"We experience the world in wordless ways before we language it," she said. "It is in this pre-discursive realm ... that I create my work."

Together, their work offers an immersive meditation on the artistry of making – and the unseen forces that shape every object into being.

craft.org.au ●

Aunty Connie Hart's legacy celebrated in *One Stitch at a Time*

The Koorie Heritage Trust is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year with a significant weaving commission by Sandra Aitken, Gilgar Gunditj Elder and niece of the late Gunditjmara Elder and master weaver Aunty Connie Hart.

WORDS BY
ALEXANDRA RANDALL



One Stitch at A Time brings 50 unique woven items from the Koorie Heritage Trust's (KHT's) Collections of Victorian First Peoples Art and Cultural Belongings.

Everything from fish and eel traps, to baskets, bags and baby carriers will be on display, accompanied by oral history recordings and photographs. Buffering

KHT's own extensive collection are significant loaned works from major galleries and museums across Australia.

Weaving is a key part of First Nations cultural practice across southeastern Australia, with this shared skill bridging cultural and language groups throughout Australia. This exhibition honours the enduring survival of the practice, specifically celebrating one woman who refused to let the skill be lost – the late Gunditjmara Elder, Aunty Constance Hart.

Throughout her life, she was a strong advocate for sharing cultural knowledge and ensuring cultural practises were kept alive, even in the face of colonisation's effects of dispossession, disruption and fragmentation. Her weavings are not just examples of outstanding craftsmanship but they also tell a story of survival and resilience in a world that was doing its best to erase a culture.

In the words of the late Aunty Connie, "no-one taught me to make my baskets.

My mum told me we were coming into the white people's way of living. So, she wouldn't teach us. That is why we lost a lot of culture. But I tricked her. I watched her and I watched those old people, and I sneaked a stitch or two."

Now, her work – important not just as pieces of beauty, but for the message of survival and resistance they embody – are being displayed in the first-ever solo retrospective exhibition in the Birrarung Building at Federation Square.

Alongside her work will be new weaving from Aunty Connie's niece, Sandra Aitken, commissioned by KHT.

KHT itself is marking four decades of cultural growth, resilience, and deep connection to the First Peoples of Victoria.

As an organisation that works to ensure the rich cultural heritage, history and knowledge systems of Victorian First Peoples are valued, celebrated and an active part of society, while also encouraging the next generation to engage with



Photo: Christian Capurro

these vital traditions, Aunty Connie's legacy serves as an inspiration for preserving and celebrating cultural practise.

Connie Hart: One Stitch at a Time runs until November 23, 2025, at KHT, Birrarung Building, Fed Square. ●

Now or Never is upon us as art and technology collide in the CBD

“
Now or Never, Melbourne’s newest and most colourful festival, returns at the end of August, bringing with it a slew of exciting events and installations to the streets of the CBD.
 ”



WORDS BY
 ALEXANDRA RANDALL



Beginning on August 31, the program that mixes music, sound, art and new ideas will transform the CBD, with both free and ticketed events to choose from.

According to Elise Peyronnet, artistic director of *Now or Never*, this festival “is different from any other Australian festival, with a unique artistic direction that offers glimpses into possible futures,” focusing specifically on artists who use technology in their practice.

Among a program rich with exciting and unexpected events, highlights within the CBD include local and international works and performances.

In *Einder*, Melbourne Town Hall will become the setting for a thunderstorm, created by Dutch artist Boris Acket on the building’s towering organ – the biggest pipe organ in the Southern Hemisphere.

As the storm grows, matures and decays, audiences can also enjoy a one-of-a-kind dining experience. In a special one-night event, chef Julia Busuttill Nishimura will

present a unique Mediterranean menu that mirrors the changing beauty of the storm.

Across town, the Royal Exhibition Building will be overtaken by a translucent pink bubble. Presented by Barcelona-based collective Penique Productions, *MATRIA* will morph the historic building into a warm immersive tunnel, filled with ambience.

Local voices are also highlighted within the program, with Dr Christian Thompson AO returning with his sonic installation *Burdi Burdi*. The usually bustling Evan Walker Bridge becomes a fiery, golden space, blending Southern Chinese and Bidjara cultures. Pedestrians are encouraged to slow down and reflect, lingering on sound, language, and memory.

Also on offer are thought-provoking discussions about what path new and emerging technology may lead humanity down, and how this will shape and change understandings of ourselves.

Australia’s first astronaut, Katherine Bennell-Pegg, will consider humanity’s next venture into space, and who will get to decide what stories shape the places we build in *Future of Space*.

There will also be a talk with Jessica



Russ-Smith and Michelle D. Lazarus on artificial intelligence, and how First Nations ways of knowing could guide this technology in *Charting the Future*.

These are just a few events in a rich and extensive program, with the 2025 festival expected to attract 400,000 people over 11 days.

Everything is on offer, from space

exploration, genre-bending performance art, hypnotic sound and even a foray into immortality.

As Peyronnet puts it, *Now or Never* “asks us to imagine new realities,” querying what the future holds, and how will technology shape and twist this all delivered through exciting performances and colourful events all over the city. ●

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QVM TRADER PROFILE

Coming up at Brick Lane Market: A Fijian dining pop-up and porchetta rolls

“This September, enjoy a curated dining experience by Fijian chef Arnott Olssen at this two-storey Queen Victoria Market hub.”

WORDS BY
SABRINA CAIRES



Along with its core range of beers, Brick Lane Market offers a rotating selection of limited release brews as well as non-alcoholic options – it’s all served with a sizeable menu that features market fresh ceviche with the day’s catch, poached lobster rolls, coconut-crumbed prawns and barbecue lemon myrtle octopus.

This September, Brick Lane Market is partnering with chef and former My Kitchen Rules contestant Arnott Olssen for Kana Club, a Fijian dining experience unfolding over three nights from September 18 to September 20.

Using fresh produce from QVM, the night will feature a four-course meal and panel discussion between Arnott, QVM traders and Brick Lane with a focus on how to make the most of seasonal fresh produce.

Andy says visitors should expect, “A fusion of really old-fashioned, good hospitality



and service from a group of individuals who all love hospitality, and Arnott who’s just got this beautiful nature about him.”

“Some of the finest produce which we know in Victoria comes from the Queen Victoria Market. So just a fusion of great hospitality, incredible flavours and really, really amazing produce.”

And on Sunday, September 7, Brick Lane Market will host its Father’s Day roast lunch.

“What we wanted to do for Father’s Day, we didn’t want you to have to lock into a set menu or anything like that. We just wanted to put on our favourite dish, our most popular special from the last six months, which has been this incredible porchetta roll that we’ve done. We’ve got a special beer coming up for the day,” Andy said. ●

STATE MP



Now is the opportunity for us to improve apartment living standards

In my time as the Member for Melbourne I’ve heard from many residents who, despite loving living in an apartment building, know that better living is possible.

The past few decades have seen the construction of apartment buildings surge in our city. Many people tell me they love living in an apartment – no commute, close to work and study, and with great access to everything wonderful our city offers.

However, apartment living isn’t without its challenges.

I’ve been contacted by so many residents who tell me horror stories about being forced to pay extraordinary amounts of money to replace flammable cladding on their buildings – even though it was government regulation failures that led to the problem. Others have been unable to put solar on their buildings, or electrify and get off gas. Others have been locked into long predatory strata or energy contracts, signed by developers but bad for residents.

On top of this, community planning has not kept up with development, with residents crying out for new schools and parkland near where they live, but governments and developers getting away with not providing them.

Consecutive state governments have allowed this situation to happen because they simply haven’t thought carefully about what apartment residents want and need. And frankly, residents are fed up.

It’s time for change. The June announcement of a review of owners’ corporation laws is a good first step, but we need to make sure this leads to genuine reform.

The government also needs to go further. For example, legislation like the *Docklands Act* and *City of Melbourne Act* are outdated, and dodgy laws are still providing tax loopholes for developers, meaning many don’t contribute to community facilities and open space like they should.

As your local member I am fighting for better rights for apartment residents.

I will be hosting a community forum at RMIT’s Storey Hall at 6pm on September 16 with my Greens colleagues Tim Read and Gabrielle de Vietri. Please come along! More info at ellensandell.com/apartments-forum.

Please also fill in my survey about your experiences of apartment living at vicgreensmps.typeform.com/apartments.

Together we can work together to improve our laws to make apartment living better for all residents. ●

Ellen Sandell

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM



New life to food waste at Queen Victoria Market

The Queen Victoria Market has long been Melbourne’s beating heart for fresh food and produce. Now, it is also home to a bold new experiment in sustainability, with the launch of the city’s latest Circular Economy Precinct.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Opened on August 8, the precinct is designed to give market leftovers a second life while supporting jobs, social enterprise and community education. A collaboration between the City of Melbourne, local businesses, and social enterprise STREAT, the project aims to showcase how food that might otherwise be wasted can be transformed into something valuable.

At the heart of the precinct is the Moving Feast Kitchen, which recovers unsold food from traders and turns it into fresh meals and products. These creations are sold next door at the Moving Feast Pantry, alongside ethically sourced goods from local producers. A STREAT café rounds out the offering, creating what Lord Mayor Nick Reece described as “a mini circular economy in action.”

“Melbourne traders are already thinking about ways to reduce waste – because it’s good for the community, good for the environment, and ultimately good for their bottom line,” Cr Reece said.

“Each year in Australia, we throw away nearly \$37 billion in food. By creating precincts where businesses can collaborate and learn from each other, we’re giving

some of that food a second life – and turning waste into value.”

The initiative builds on the success of a similar project in Kensington in 2024, which diverted more than 18 tonnes of waste from landfill. At Queen Victoria Market, where more than 800 tonnes of food waste are generated each year, the potential impact is far greater.

Rebecca Scott, co-founder and CEO of STREAT, said the project was about “taste not waste”.

“Social enterprises are passionate about creating goodness for people, places and the planet,” she said. “Right now, the market has more than 800 tonnes of food waste every year, and we’re proud to be ensuring that it remains valued for its nutrition and deliciousness.”

The new precinct also serves as a testing ground for innovation. Three projects will be trialled over the coming months, including a packaging reuse pilot led by B-Alternative to reduce single-use takeaway items, a partnership with Moving Feast Kitchen to provide meals for university students experiencing food insecurity, and a



program of events such as cooking classes and repair workshops to engage the wider community.

The council’s environment portfolio chair Cr Davydd Griffiths said the city was aiming to divert 90 per cent of waste from landfill.

“This new precinct is a melting pot of ideas and innovation – from turning vegies destined for the bin into nutritious meals, to replacing single-use products with smarter options and running hands-on cooking classes,” he said.

Queen Victoria Market CEO Matt Elliott added that the program complemented the market’s own work to cut waste.

“These projects are critical to test and trial different approaches to best inform how we can potentially scale these initiatives across the whole of the market and gain important feedback from our community,” he said. ●

Campbell Arcade reopens after years-long Metro Tunnel closure

Melbourne's iconic Campbell Arcade has reopened to the public, bringing new life to the beloved underground thoroughfare after more than three years of closure for Metro Tunnel construction works.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Transport Infrastructure Gabrielle Williams officially reopened the heritage-listed arcade on July 28, marking a major milestone in the delivery of the state's flagship public transport project.

The 70-year-old arcade, which first opened in 1955 and was Melbourne's first major public infrastructure project post-WWII, had been closed since 2022 to allow for the construction of a pedestrian link between Flinders Street Station and the new Town Hall Station, which is due to open later this year.

As part of the restoration, Campbell Arcade's distinctive 1950s pink-tiled walls, curved Art Deco shopfronts, and granite columns have all been preserved and upgraded, with new lighting and ceiling works enhancing the space.

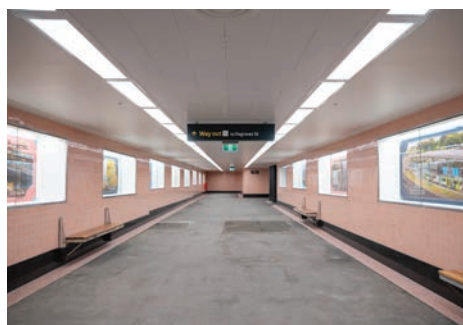
"Campbell Arcade will soon form part of the connection between Flinders Street Station and the new Town Hall Station – transforming how people move through the city," Premier Allan said.

Minister Williams added the revamped arcade offered "a unique passageway" that celebrated heritage while enabling modern transit connections.

Once fully operational, commuters will be able to access the arcade via Degraves St, Flinders Street Station and the Metro Tunnel's Town Hall Station – forming a vital link beneath the CBD.

The reopening is a welcome moment for many Melburnians who fondly remember the arcade as a hub of small independent businesses, art and culture.

In 2022, long-time tenants were forced to vacate as the arcade closed, including record store Wax Museum, café Cup of Truth, print studio Tree Paper Gallery and electronics store Sublink. While many found new homes nearby, the closure marked the



end of an era.

At the time, Cup of Truth owner Courtney Joel told *CBD News*, "I'm attached to my business and my customers – they're still going to be friends, and if we do another shop, they'll still come."

The arcade's eight shopfronts are expected to reopen later in 2025, with tenancy applications under way. The state government said it worked closely with former tenants during the closure, including rent-free periods and assistance relocating.

The restoration was undertaken in consultation with Heritage Victoria to ensure the site's historical significance was respected. The arcade was officially added to the Victorian Heritage Register in 2015.

While the businesses are yet to return, the reopening of Campbell Arcade marks an exciting new chapter. With the Metro Tunnel set to open a year ahead of schedule, the arcade's return offers both practical connectivity and a nostalgic nod to Melbourne's past.

"The Metro Tunnel is the biggest transformation of Melbourne's rail network in more than 40 years," Premier Allan said. "This is just the beginning of what's to come." ●

HISTORY

A vaulted history beneath the railway

In this photograph, taken around the 1910s in Flinders St near the Queens Bridge (on the right), is the railway line into Flinders Street Station. Back then, the area was at the height of its activity.



Trains would deliver cargo and passengers from Princes Pier and across the Sandridge Bridge as it cut diagonally across the river. The south side of the Yarra was filled with factories, including Sennitt's ice works (pictured on the upper left-hand side), a popular ice-cream brand which ran its factory near the Yarra from the 1890s until the early 1960s.

Along the wharves on either side of the river, ships unloaded valuable commodities such as fish and produce into the eager hands of markets and businesses.

Beneath all of that, you may notice a series of brick and concrete stores underneath the railway. These are the viaduct buildings, or the Banana Alley Vaults.

The first train station was built at Flinders St in 1854, and Spencer Street Station followed in 1859. Neither connected until a ground-level line ran along the Spencer St intersection in 1879.

In 1884, the *Railway Construction Act* (or "Octopus Act" as it became known) was passed, authorising construction of a permanent link and other railway lines, including a viaduct between Spencer and Flinders streets. Construction of the viaduct started in 1888 and was completed by 1891, allowing trains to unload fresh fish at the new Fish Market at the corner of Spencer and Flinders streets, as well as drop off passengers at Flinders St without disrupting traffic.

Part of the project featured the Banana Alley Vaults, initially known as the Viaduct Buildings. Its first tenants were mentioned in the Sands and McDougall in 1893, which included wine merchants, customs agents, rope manufacturers and (of course) a banana merchant.

The Vaults became "Banana Alley" as the arched-ceiling rooms were used to store bananas for ripening. However, that didn't stop the usual pests of wharf life, such as vermin and insects, from lurking about and giving customers a nasty surprise.

The Herald (February 18, 1898) reported an incident where a customer at S. J. Lanceter's fruit store noticed what appeared to be a bad banana in their bunch. Just as the customer reached inside their bag, Lanceter noticed something move and stopped the customer, saving them grief

from the four-foot, seven-inch (or close to 140cm) long snake lurking inside!

In the picture you can also see customs agent T.H. Young (367 Flinders St); machinery agents Gardner, Waern and Co (369); Lime, coal and cement agents Akhurst and Co. (371); produce agent C.J. Donovan (373); and Robert Grieves, a mantelpiece manufacturer (377). One other notable merchant was Robert Smith, whose store can be seen in the photo at 375 Flinders Street, his sign proudly proclaiming him to be a "seed potato merchant". He was among the first of the merchants listed in 1893, purchased his bananas from Queensland (any mention of snakes unmentioned) and continued selling into the early 1930s. By then, *The Herald* reported the vaults would smell heavily "but not unpleasantly" (22nd March 1930, P.2) of everything from spices to Stockholm tar, but they were about to hit hard times. The depression and the opening of the Spencer Street Bridge (closing off ships to the wharves near the turning basin) made life hard for merchants, with some closing or repurposing their businesses (Grieves' business in particular carried on as a stove manufacturer, and then as a hardware store until the 1950s).

In later years, the vaults would become storerooms for the Victorian Railways refreshment branch, a distribution point for newspapers for dozens of newsboys, and the Pieteria pie shop where sloshed customers staved off a hangover with a pie. Most famously the hobby shop Hearn's Hobbies would occupy one of the buildings during the 1950s before moving to its Flinders St home in the 1960s.

By the 1980s, the vaults were neglected, and an attempt was made by the Cain government to revitalise them with a wine-themed tourism project and an art expedition that featured models of rural Australia, but these would be short lived.

Since then, the vaults have recovered and are currently occupied by a gym, a ferry service and, at Robert's old store, a night club. ●

Hill of Content's former home on Bourke St hits the market

The historic Bourke St premises long occupied by Hill of Content bookshop has officially been listed for lease, marking a new chapter for one of Melbourne's most culturally significant sites.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The heritage building at 86 Bourke St was home to Hill of Content for more than 100 years before the much-loved store relocated earlier this year to a new premises just up the street.

In July, hundreds of Melburnians formed a "human book chain" to help move thousands of titles 120 metres to the new store at 36 Bourke St – a show of loyalty that

underscored the shop's place in the city's heart.

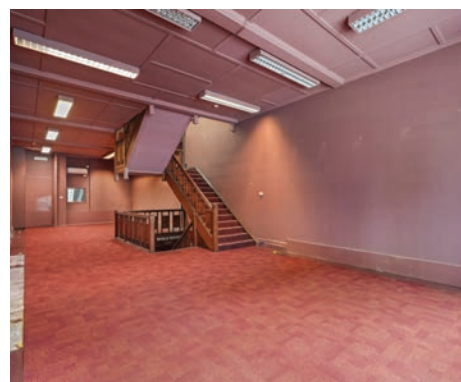
Now, the three-level, 425-square-metre property is being offered for lease by Jones Real Estate, presenting what it describes as a "rare opportunity" in the prestigious Bourke Hill precinct.

Benny Goh, senior property manager at Jones Real Estate, said the landmark address offered both history and versatility.

"86 Bourke St is a landmark property with a legacy of more than a century as a cultural destination," he said.

"It now provides an extraordinary platform for a new tenant to establish themselves in one of Melbourne's most prestigious city precincts, with all the charm of its heritage character and the flexibility of a modern fit-out."

The site features a 5.64-metre frontage to Bourke St, dual rear access via Mornane Place, and sits among some of Melbourne's most recognised theatres, restaurants, hotels and retail offerings. Just 120 metres from a tram stop and a short walk to



Parliament Station, it boasts strong connectivity and brand exposure.

While Hill of Content's relocation has secured its future as Melbourne's oldest surviving bookshop, the fate of its original home now lies in the hands of a new tenant, with potential uses spanning flagship retail, hospitality, or creative industries.

For leasing details, visit jonesrealestate.com.au ●



Who are Residents 3000?

For those who are new to city living, here is a short refresher about Residents 3000 Inc.

History

Residents 3000 was set up unofficially in 1992 when a group of people came together at Mietta's restaurant to plan how to best represent the interests of CBD residents.

Mietta O'Donnell and Tony Knox who operated Mietta's in Alfred Place, facilitated the establishment of the CBD residents' group and provided the original meeting place for the association.

This coincided with Melbourne City Council's "Postcode 3000 Program" jointly launched by the Minister for Planning and the Lord Mayor on December 8, 1992. The program was developed as an action plan for city living and aimed to encourage more people to live in the CBD of Melbourne. In those days there was virtually no residential areas in the CBD, Docklands or Southbank. There were no big supermarket complexes or shops catering for residents' needs after work hours.

Later Residents 3000 became an incorporated association on March 16, 1993. It brought together a number of businesspeople, residents, councillors, council staff and people interested in the city, to create a body that would best represent the needs of residents. Elly Feldman, a city resident, was the first president, and the association has grown and prospered since then.

Has Residents 3000 purposes changed in 32 years?

The last census showed 54,941 residents living in the CBD, representing 29 per cent of the broader City of Melbourne. This number is probably more than our predecessors thought possible.

Now it might be more appropriate to look at the term "central city", meaning those living in postcode 3000 as well as Southbank and Docklands. Each have their own residents' groups.

The full list of purposes can be found under the tab "About" on the groups' website, residents3000.com.au. The list is long and broad, encompassing all walks of life



in the city. On examining the list, 32 years later, nothing has really changed. In fact, it is worth a re-read from time to time to keep in mind the vision that our forebears had for this organisation.

In a nutshell, the aim is to: **Connect – Support – Inform**

Connect residents via events and communication. Support our members' needs by advocating to relevant authorities. Inform residents about the status of our city, about our heritage and the vision for the future.

What's news?

Lord Mayor Nick Reece recently addressed East Enders and the Presidents of Residents Groups Town Hall event. Just a few highlights follow.

- The city's retail shop vacancy rate is now 5.5 per cent, a reduction from 30 per cent during the pandemic. This is the lowest rate for all capital cities in Australia.
- International tourism is showing a 30 increase with 2.6m visitors so far this year. Domestic tourism is also close to pre-pandemic levels. Six million visitors to date.
- The campaign "Only in the City" is drawing people back into the city.
- Safe City Cameras program is under way. The effort is yielding results with a reduction in crime rates. The expanding camera network links Victoria Police

- with City of Melbourne plus emergency and other services.
 - Community Safety Officers (11 have been recruited) are being trained and will be starting in October – on duty seven days per week.
 - Yes, the Metro Tunnel project is on schedule to open in early November. City of Melbourne is liaising with the state government to coordinate the roll out (and celebrations?).
 - Graffiti removal – the target of 72 hours is being achieved. Political/racist graffiti has a removal target of 1 hour. The removal rate is up by 18 per cent compared to last year. The message to residents is "please report graffiti". This is the way to reduce the problem. City of Melbourne is offering removal services to private properties who often have owners who are not easily contactable and maybe disinterested in removal. Many building owners are glad to have the problem taken care of.
 - QVM redevelopment has passed the heritage hurdle and looks like going ahead. The project will provide 2200 new dwellings, a large public square and more car parking than before but located underground (some residents are not happy with the location and design of the towers nor the car parking arrangements).
 - Melbourne's hotel market is experiencing growth and recovery, with record room sales in March 2025 and a significant increase in new rooms added since 2019. Just one event, the British and Lions rugby match on Saturday, July 26, caused a record of 25,089 hotel rooms to be booked in the CBD for that one event.
- Next Forum 3000 – Greening our city**
The Residents 3000 committee are working hard on our next event for Thursday, September 4 – 6pm at the Kelvin Club. Speakers will be David Callow, director parks and city greening and Luke Flanagan, acting director city projects to discuss City of Melbourne plans for greening, linear parks and the Greenline project. We should hear about 28 new parks, green roofs and other initiatives.

Refer to residents3000.com.au and follow us on social media for more details closer to the time.

Melbourne used to be known as the Garden City. We should aim to be known as that again.

Coming up: AGM October 2

Every year at the AGM, a new committee of up to 12 persons is voted to run the association. This year a few positions are expected to become vacant. If you have skills in the typical roles required of a community association and would like to contribute your time, to helping invigorate our organisation adding new ideas and fun activities for our current and new members, we will soon be asking for applications. Being a committee member is a good way to get involved closely with the vibrant community the contributes to the wellbeing of the Central City residents.

Typical sub-committees

- Membership and sponsors
- Communications
- Events organisation
- News hounds

On top of the formal processes that occur at an association AGM, Residents 3000 makes its AGM an event not to be missed. According to long standing tradition, we welcome the Lord Mayor Nick Reece who will bring members and guest up-to-date with progress being made at Town Hall. In addition, we usually have some entertainment. After all Melbourne is famous for that!

More info will be forthcoming via our website and this venue. In the meantime, think about your contribution to making things even better for residents of Melbourne, postcode 3000, whether it be on the committee or as a member. ●

Dr Sue Saunders
VICE PRESIDENT



METRO TUNNEL

New Metro Tunnel artwork raises awareness of threatened species

If you take a peek down Scott Alley off Degraves St as you go about your day in the CBD, you might notice a colourful – and wild – addition.

To coincide with Threatened Species Day on September 7, the Metro Tunnel Creative Program has unveiled a new artwork in Scott Alley – *A Fleeting Sense Of* – by artists Gracia Haby and Louise Jennison.

The digital collage seeks to raise awareness of threatened species in this work, which includes a pair of swift parrots, a southern greater glider, a brush-tailed rock wallaby, a family of eastern barred bandicoots and an "inspection" of Poolika (New Holland mouse). It includes images from the National Gallery and State Library collections, along with beautiful foil detail that can be seen from any part of the alley due to its UV reflection.

"We wanted to make the work (centred on) Threatened Species Day and around certain species – how different species might perceive the world. The foil is a playful interpretation of what it might be like to see UV light in the way parrots and various other birds can," Haby said.



"It's at the end of the alley, so we wanted a nice visual, an enticement that might draw you down the lane."

Today more than 2000 species of plant, animal and ecological communities including more than 590 animals are officially listed as threatened.

It's a subject matter both Haby and

Jennison deeply care about, as both artists and wildlife carers who run a wildlife shelter together. The two have been collaborating since 1999.

"The shelter is also our studio, and we see (making art and caring for wildlife) as one and the same," Jennison said.

"So, we're trying to make work that's

about what all our individual roles are in reciprocating with nature, and that's about the fact that we're all interconnected in our responsibility to each other – non-human as well as human."

"The different animals that we look after, they've taught us about seeing the world through their eyes ... how to think about what plants they need to eat, and what shelter they need and how much water they need ... all these sorts of connections ... and we try to put all that into our work."

"Hopefully we inspire people to think about what their role in a solution would be."

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program curates artworks and events to enhance Melbourne city life alongside the construction of the city-shaping project.

The focus of the program is to encourage community interaction with construction sites and support local businesses at the coalface between where site work and city life begins.

The Metro Tunnel is the biggest transformation of Melbourne's rail network in more than 40 years and will free up capacity in the City Loop to run more trains more often across more lines.

Check out *A Fleeting Sense Of* in Scott Alley now. ●



Blackbird在墨尔本展翅高飞

位于弗林德斯巷66号、柯林斯广场片区内，来自布里斯班的高端餐饮品牌悄然在墨尔本展开了崭新篇章。

Sean Car

Blackbird酒吧、餐厅与活动空间本月正式开业，三层空间将现代澳洲美食、本土食材与柴火烹饪艺术带入这座城市最具历史韵味的巷弄之一。

在布里斯班早已家喻户晓的Blackbird，以优质牛排和现代餐饮体验著称。而今，Ghanem集团选择墨尔本作为其首次州际扩张之地，承诺将在延续品牌基因的同时，融入墨尔本独特的城市气质。

“Blackbird墨尔本代表着我们品牌的真正进化，”总监Nehme Ghanem说，“客人将熟悉我们一贯的热情好客，同时也会发现一个充分展现墨尔本活力与个性的餐厅、酒吧和活动场所。”

该场地由Space Cubed设计事务所打造，共三层，各具风格与氛围。一楼的鸡尾酒吧与休息区营造轻松基调，配有DJ和灵感来自童年回忆的创意饮品——如受芒果Weis雪糕启发的“芒果坚果鸡尾酒”，或以大黄、百香果和菠萝雪酪调制的“水果冰棒马提尼”。

上方的分层餐厅华丽而不失亲切感，为全国最具野心的牛排与海鲜菜单提供完美舞台。中央楼梯上方的华丽吊灯贯穿三层，营造出戏剧性的视觉效果。

厨房团队堪称梦幻组合：墨尔本本地出生的行政总厨Jake Nicolson，新上任的本地行政总厨Tim Menger（前Entrecôte），以及主厨Josh Moroney（前Nomad）。他们擅长柴火料理，菜单上的优质牛肉来自澳洲多家知名供应商，经过干式熟成储存在展示柜中，再以铁木柴烧烤。代表菜品包括：重达2公斤、以巧克力喂养的Mayura Station纯种和牛战斧牛排，以及一块800克、熟成30天的西冷牛排。

菜单的每一部分都融入了本土食材，从胡椒浆袋鼠肉到柴火烤龙虾配海滨野菜（warrigal greens），尽显澳洲风味。

城市安全主导新市议会计划的讨论

墨尔本市在其战略性草案《市议会计划》中加强了对城市安全的关注，一些市议员呼吁打击抗议活动。

Jon Fleetwood

在8月19日举行的未来墨尔本委员会（FMC）会议上，市议会提出了其草案计划，旨在打造“健康、安全、互联的社区”，并倡导采取措施减少抗议所带来的干扰。

市议会呼吁在各级政府之间进行协调审查，建立一个既保障抗议权利又减少干扰的框架。然而，这在会议上引发了争议。

原住民事务负责人**奥利维亚·鲍尔博士（Cr Dr Olivia Ball）**表示：“我非常

担心这种‘抗议不能造成干扰’的观点。”

鲍尔博士表示，抗议的目的本就是制造干扰，她无法支持任何侵犯这一权利的举措。

然而，议会普遍支持应对抗议可能造成的干扰。

会议上，安全与清洁事务负责人**拉斐尔·卡米洛议员（Cr Rafael Camillo）**表示：“我们需要与州政府和联邦政府进行更强有力的合作，找到更好的方法，既保障人们的抗议权利，又最大限度地减少对城市生活的干扰。”

他说：“我们需要确保居民、企业和游客能够在安全和有保障的环境中继续他们的日常生活。”

副市长**罗希娜·坎贝尔（Roshena Campbell）**认为，需要进行一种“平衡”，既保护人们的抗议权利，也保护城市使用者的权益，特别是商家、老年人和残障人士。

“（墨尔本）近两年来几乎每周都有抗议活动，这些抗议对企业造成了真正的影响——每周基本损失一天的营业时间。”坎贝尔议员说。

该战略计划中对城市安全的关注，再次暴露出市议会在应对方式上的分歧，鲍尔博士质疑，将资金投入监控摄像头和安保人员是否属于合理使用公共资金。



坎贝尔拱廊在地铁隧道关闭多年后重新开放

墨尔本标志性的**坎贝尔拱廊（Campbell Arcade）**重新向公众开放，在因地铁隧道施工关闭三年多后，这条深受喜爱的地下通道重新焕发生机。

Sean Car

州长Jacinta Allan和交通基础设施部长Gabrielle Williams于7月28日正式为这处受保护的历史拱廊揭幕，为维州旗舰公共交通项目的推进标志着一个重要里程碑。

这条已有70年历史的拱廊，最早于1955年开放，是墨尔本在二战后首个大型公共基础设施项目，自2022年起关闭，以便建设一条连接弗林德斯街车站与即将开放的新**市政厅车站（Town Hall Station）**的行人通道。

作为修复工程的一部分，拱廊标志性的1950年代粉红色瓷砖墙面、弯曲的装饰艺术风格店面以及花岗岩柱子都得到了保留和升级，并配以新的灯光与天花板设计，进一

步提升空间体验。

“坎贝尔拱廊将很快成为弗林德斯街车站与新市政厅车站之间的重要连接点——彻底改变人们穿行城市的方式。”州长Allan表示。

部长Williams补充道，改造后的拱廊提供了“一条独特的通道”，在尊重历史的同时实现现代交通连接。

项目全面启用后，通勤者可将Degraes街、弗林德斯街车站及地铁隧道市政厅车站进入拱廊——在CBD地下形成重要交通枢纽。

此次重启对许多墨尔本人而言意义重大，他们记得拱廊曾是小型独立商铺、艺术与文化的聚集地。

在2022年关闭期间，长期租户被迫搬离，包括唱片店Wax Museum、咖啡店Cup of Truth、印刷工作室Tree Paper Gallery以及电子产品店Sublink。尽管不少商家在附近找到了新址，这次关闭仍象征着时代的终结。

当时，Cup of Truth的老板Courtney Joel曾对《CBD News》表示：“我对我的店铺和顾客都有感情——他们仍然是朋友，如果我们开了新店，他们还会来。”

维多利亚州立图书馆举办史上最大规模免费展览 展示艺术家的创作之旅

维多利亚州立图书馆（State Library Victoria, SLV）于8月15日启动其历史上最大规模的免费展览，带领观众深入艺术创作幕后，展出近600件展品。

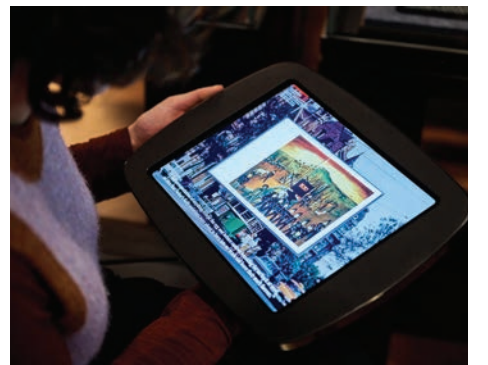
Xianghan Meng

本次展览名为**《创意行动：艺术家与他们的灵感》（Creative Acts: Artists and Their Inspirations）**，邀请观众探索艺术家作品背后的灵感与创作过程。从最初的构想到草图再到最终成品，许多展品是首次对公众开放，极为罕见。

图书馆首席执行官Paul Duldig表示，此次展览展出了罕见的素描、草稿、照片和信件，为观众提供了“艺术家、作家、舞者和创作者灵感实践的亲密洞察”。

作为展览的一部分，Library Up Late夜间特别活动将于8月22日晚上7:30至10:30举行，活动为墨尔本市“此时或永不”（Now or Never）艺术节的一部分，鼓励集体艺术表达。

观众不仅是旁观者，也可以亲身参与工作坊和表演，成为艺术创作的一部分。门票价格为：普通票34澳元，会员、优惠票持有者及30岁以下29澳元，原住民访客25澳元。需提前预订。



本次展览的亮点之一是波西米亚艺术偶像Vali Myers的私人档案资料，许多从未公开展出。

此外，州立图书馆还邀请了五位维州知名艺术家，以图书馆馆藏为灵感创作全新作品：

Peter Carey：反思其作品《凯利帮的真实历史》（True History of the Kelly Gang）；

Chandrabhanu博士 OAM：演绎印度古典奥迪西（Odissi）舞蹈；

Deanne Gilson博士：以画作讲述其Wadawurrung祖先的创世神话；

Barry William Hale：创作长达九米的“自动绘画”；

Bundit Puangthong：创作反映童年与文化的生动壁画。

维州创意产业部长Colin Brooks表示，此次展览不仅庆祝维多利亚丰富的文化宝藏，更致敬了伟大艺术家的作品及其创作过程。

WHAT'S ON September



Melbourne is warming up in September, with exciting events offering something for everyone to enjoy.



RESET: A FREE FESTIVAL FOR GREENER LIVING

RESET is a free festival with workshops, art, cinema, and events like Planting Party, promoting sustainability, community, and green living.

Fed Square

1 SEP – 6 OCT, 8AM – 8PM



MJ THE MUSICAL

MJ the Musical, explores Michael Jackson's artistry and 1992 tour, showcases his genius and legacy. Created by award-winners, it opens in Melbourne this September.

Her Majesty's Theatre

9 SEP – 14 DEC, 7PM – 10PM



SEEN AND HEARD

Seen and Heard lets kids lead a creative workshop, making music and sharing wisdom on parenting topics, helping shape a new artistic project. Suitable for ages 8–12.

ArtPlay, Russell Street Melbourne

23 – 27 SEPTEMBER, 10.30AM – 12.30PM

**INTERNATIONAL
Organ Series**
THE SCOTS' CHURCH

23 AUGUST TO 20 SEPTEMBER
SATURDAYS 3 PM AND WEDNESDAYS 1 PM
scotschurch.com/music-events

ORGAN SERIES

Join Scots' Church every Saturday at 3pm and Wednesday at 1pm from August 23 to September 20 for our annual Organ Series, featuring world-class organists. Admission is free!

Scots' Church – Cnr Collins/Russell St

23 AUGUST – 20 SEPTEMBER



RISING: SWINGERS – THE ART OF MINI GOLF

Flinders Street Station transforms into a rebellious mini-golf art exhibition, blending playful design, feminist history, & drinks for creative & competitive minds.

Flinders Street Station, Level 3

UNTIL 21 SEPTEMBER, 11AM – 9.30PM



QUEEN VIC MARKET FLAVOURS OF GREECE TOUR

Explore Greek flavours at Queen Victoria Market with a specialist guide, enjoying tastings of charcuterie, seafood, feta, olives, plus a Market shopping bag.

Queen Victoria Market

SAT 6 SEPTEMBER, 10AM – 12PM



FATHER'S DAY STOMPERS

Join us for stories and songs and stay to make a special gift for your special person. Suitable for ages 18 months+.

narm ngarrgu Library and Family Services, 141 Therry St

FRI 5 SEPTEMBER, 10.30AM – 11.15AM

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