



Fashion Week is upon us

Melbourne is preparing for a week-long celebration of style, creativity and community as Melbourne Fashion Week (M/FW) returns from October 20 to 26. With the theme *Come As You Are*, this year's program promises bold runways, thought-provoking conversations, exhibitions and pop-up events across the city. More on page 10.

Residents 3000 “not imploding” despite claim of a “political takeover”

“
City of Melbourne councillor Rafael Camillo is at the centre of a bitter dispute engulfing residents' group Residents 3000, with a committee member accusing him of politicising the organisation and using it to advance his personal agenda.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



In a fiery September 11 email to Residents 3000 members and subscribers, long-time secretary Merle Willis declared the group had been “subjected to a political takeover” by Cr Camillo, vice-president Sue Saunders, and their supporters. She said the organisation had

become “unacceptably hostile” in recent months and was no longer operating in the best interests of the post-code 3000 community.

“Residents 3000 is a resident representative community group for postcode 3000. However, it has become too dominated, controlled, and directed for the personal and political purposes of Cr Rafael Camillo and his supporters on the committee,” Ms Willis wrote.

She called for Cr Camillo to resign as president, arguing his leadership of the group conflicted with his position on council. She also urged Ms Saunders to “retire gracefully” as vice-president and allow the association to “refresh its direction”.

On September 15, Ms Saunders responded with her own email to members titled “Residents 3000 not imploding”, accusing Ms Willis of “wrongfully” seizing control of the group's social media accounts by changing passwords so only she could post.

“She, in breach of her then duties under the Act and Model Rules, refused and has since waged a one-woman war of attrition against the president Rafael Camillo, Sue Saunders and members of the committee,” Ms Saunders said.

“These views are Merle's alone and do not reflect the views or sentiment of Residents 3000 committee.”

Continued on page 3.

HIDDEN SECRETS, PAGE 2

The hidden history of Milton House

EDUCATION, PAGE 7

Exploring the impacts of “ghost colleges” in the CBD

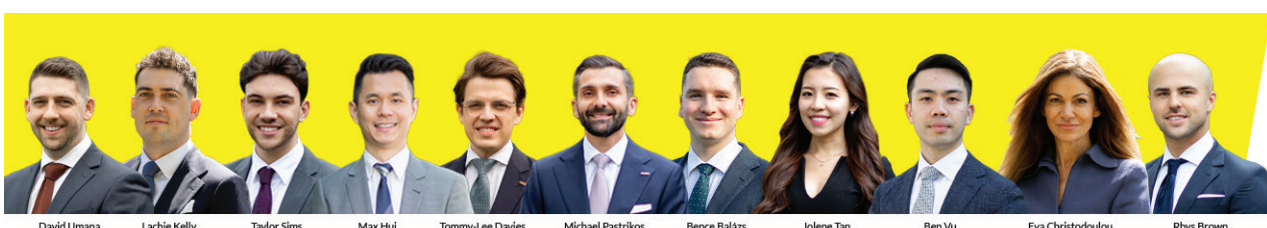
COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 9

Councillor speaks out against security crackdown



Heritage reborn: 42-storey tower unveiled at 623 Collins St

A striking new 42-storey tower is set to rise above Collins St, blending modern residential living with one of Melbourne's most historic addresses.



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**The deadline for the November
edition is October 24**

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Hidden history of Milton House

“
The state heritage-listed
building that now faces
partial demolition and
renovations as part of
the redevelopment of the
neighbouring Shell House
on Flinders Lane, Milton
House was first built as a
private hospital in 1901.
”

WORDS BY
SABRINA CAIRES



It was the private practice of surgeon William Moore who in 1885 became the first graduate of the Master of Surgery at The University of Melbourne.

Moore was a prominent surgeon of his time who also worked at Royal Melbourne Hospital (known then as simply the Melbourne Hospital) and St Vincent's Hospital.

He specialised in plastic surgery and skin diseases and was the author of the first English textbook on plastic surgery.

The building then became a rooming house before it was purchased by the state government in 1950 to be used as the headquarters for the tuberculosis branch of the Victorian Health Commission.

The building housed tuberculosis patient records and X-ray machines, which were used for follow-ups with patients.

At the time, tuberculosis was the leading cause of death for Australians, with one in three Australians aged between 20 and 40 dying of tuberculosis by the year 1946.

The building's unique architecture is thought to be the work of architects Sydney Wigham Smith and Charles Alfred Ogg, with the Art Nouveau detailing likely the work of their frequent collaborator Robert Haddon.

The ornamental wrought iron above the building's entryway, the decorative terracotta details around the archway and the distinctive brickwork on the building's facade are characteristic of Haddon's designs and Art Nouveau more broadly.

The three-storey building also exhibits influences from English Baroque, Romanesque and Georgian architectural styles.

As previously reported by *CBD News*, Milton House faces partial demolition and interior remodelling to provide retail floorspace as part of the Shell House redevelopment next door, despite the Victorian Heritage Council's efforts to oppose the redevelopment. ●



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Est. 2019

Residents 3000 “not imploding” despite claim of a “political takeover”

Continued from page 1.

But Ms Willis claims that several committee members want to resign, but that “they’re too afraid to speak up because they could become the next target”.

“Susan Saunders is writing as if the committee members are united but that is not correct,” Ms Willis said.

“Some committee members are talking of resigning, and others are not intending to re-nominate for re-election. This is just more of the same cycle of chasing out good people from the committee so there are never any viable contenders to replace Rafael or Susan.”

CBD News understands that a former committee member resigned in April alleging that she was bullied by Cr Camillo, who has vigorously denied the claims.

However, several committee sources told CBD News the group was united in opposing Ms Willis’s sole control of its communications, with a resolution passed in July requiring shared access across multiple committee members.

Despite this, the accounts have not been returned, but Ms Willis maintains that it was always intended that this be actioned “once things settled down and the committee was functioning properly”.

However the conflict has reignited long-standing questions about Cr Camillo’s dual roles.

One committee member, who asked not to be named, said Residents 3000 had a cultural problem that pre-dated the current dispute, with perceptions that agendas and invitations were tightly controlled, and that dissenting views, particularly on issues relating to city safety, health and homelessness, struggled to get airtime.

“No-one doubts there’s no personal financial gain here, but the line between ‘Raf the councillor’ and ‘Raf the Residents 3000 president’ is often blurred – and that’s a



real problem of optics and trust. Members deserve clarity about which hat is being worn in any given forum,” the committee member told CBD News.

Another committee member, who also requested anonymity, said the group had faced wider policy tensions for years, which had escalated over the debate regarding the state government’s now scrapped plans for a supervised injecting facility in the CBD.

Another committee member told CBD News they agreed Cr Camillo was conflicted as president of the group and that Residents 3000 was part of his identity. However, they added that they believed his “intentions were good”.

Cr Camillo, who leads the council’s safety and cleaning portfolio, rejected the allegations about a conflict of interest and said he would not step down.

“I have carefully considered this role alongside my duties as a City of Melbourne councillor,” he said. “As the president, I do

not have a material conflict of interest as I do not receive a salary from the organisation. My decisions as president reflect my personal views, not the priorities of council.”

Lord Mayor Nick Reece and City of Melbourne CEO Alison Leighton were contacted for comment, but they didn’t respond.

But the City of Melbourne said it was the responsibility of councillors to identify and disclose conflicts of interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* and its Governance Rules.

The council provides Residents 3000, along with several other not-for-profit residents’ group across the municipality, with funding through its operational support grants program. Ms Willis argues this funding is compromised so long as the group is “influenced, controlled, or directed by just one of the 11 councillors”.

“What are new or existing residents to the city supposed to think when they are sent to the residents’ group for the city, but they

find it being run by one of the 11 councillors, but they voted for other councillors and not him?” Ms Willis said.

Ms Saunders has claimed that Ms Willis was removed as secretary in August after missing three consecutive meetings without leave, though some committee members told CBD News they were not aware of the change.

Ms Willis has alleged that Ms Saunders ran a series of “quickly called ultra vires committee meetings which weren’t properly notified, conducted, nor minuted in line with the rules of the association”.

“There is no clear evidence that I have been legally removed as the secretary,” Ms Willis said.

“Other committee members were not available to attend, and there was mostly no provision for online attendance. Those meetings supposedly contain resolutions to remove me as secretary and supposedly appoint Susan Saunders as the acting secretary.”

The feud is also understood to have been fuelled by policy disagreements, particularly over the group’s approach to city safety, homelessness and health services.

Ms Willis accused Cr Camillo of using Residents 3000 to attack local providers, pointing to his criticism of staffing levels at Cohealth and The Salvation Army during a recent EastEnders meeting.

“It seems to us that he is obsessed with using Residents 3000 as a vehicle to pursue his own personal and political agendas,” she said.

Ms Saunders said that she and Cr Camillo, “who have the support of the committee, are seeking legal advice in respect of her [Ms Willis’s] false and defamatory allegations.”

Residents 3000 will hold its annual general meeting on October 2 at 6pm for a 6.30pm start at the Kelvin Club, where members will decide whether to back the current leadership or push for change. ●

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COME AS YOU ARE: FASHION WEEK TAKES OVER MELBOURNE!

With more than 100 events over seven days, M/FW 2025 is going to be one for the ages.

Ready to strike a pose? Melbourne Fashion Week (20–26 October) is nearly here, and as always, the city is going all out.

Think runways in iconic locations, pop-up stores and markets, in-store retail events, leatherwork bag-making over dinner, open studios, artistic projections – the list goes on.

The festivities will kick off on Monday 20 October at 1 Hotel Melbourne with the Opening Night: ganbu marra Runway – spotlighting our fiercely creative and chic First Nations talent. This year's theme, Come As You Are, is about championing individuality, something M/FW has long celebrated.



More is always more at M/FW



M/FW: fashionably fierce, as always!

If you're a fan of Wicked (and isn't everyone?!), the Wicked Wardrobes exhibition at Fed Square will spotlight Oscar-winning designer Paul Tazewell's costumes for Elphaba and Glinda in the global phenomenon Wicked: Part 1 and the soon-to-be-released sequel Wicked: For Good.

Elsewhere in the city, there are four new runways and two returning favourites, meaning every corner of Melbourne will serve. We'll also see five fresh Fashion Capsules – installations showcasing Melbourne's best designers – as well as an up-close look at some of the most iconic outfits as seen on RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under.

With more than 100 fashion events and sessions taking over the city, M/FW 2025 might just be the best vintage yet. Strap yourselves in, Melbourne.

Tickets on sale now – visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/mfw

GET FIT AND SWIM LOCAL IN KENSINGTON

On your marks, get set, go! From 29 September, residents can dive into fitness, fun and community at the newly reopened Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

Featuring a huge range of new facilities, Centre Manager Nathan Prosser said community input was central to the project's success: "We've been out visiting local community groups and getting to know their needs and wants. The key to a successful centre is knowing the community."

Kensington Rec is just one example of the City of Melbourne's work to give all residents access to high-quality, accessible health and fitness facilities.

Opening in time for spring, the centre is ready to support your health and fitness goals – so grab your bathers, lace up your sneakers, and roll out the yoga mat – it's time to get summer-ready!



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- A learn-to-swim pool to help build essential swimming skills
- A children's water play area with spouts and fountains
- Three full-sized multipurpose courts
- A community meeting room
- A café, open seven days a week.

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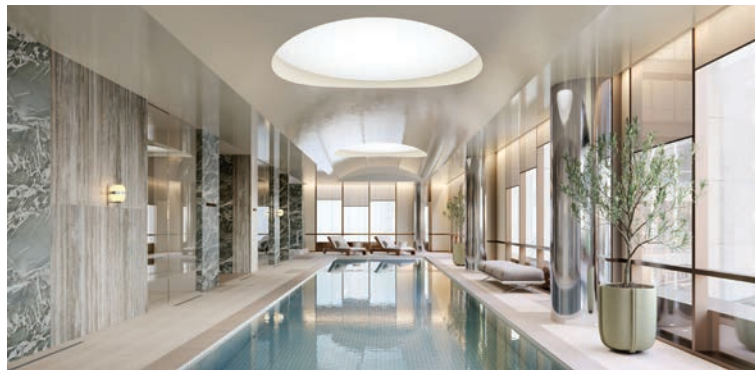


CITY OF MELBOURNE

Heritage reborn: 42-storey tower unveiled at 623 Collins St

A striking new 42-storey tower is set to rise above Collins St, blending modern residential living with one of Melbourne's most historic addresses.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Developer Sterling Global has officially unveiled plans for 623 Collins, a \$590 million mixed-use project designed by Plus Studio that will transform the former State Savings Bank of Victoria site.

The development will deliver 320 apartments across four collections – Heirloom, Signature, The Reserve and The Penthouse – with half of the residences configured as two-bedroom homes.

At the heart of the project, which was officially launched on September 11, is a commitment to heritage preservation. Two heritage-listed buildings – the 1924 State Savings Bank of Victoria and the neighbouring Batman's Hill Hotel – will be retained, restored and integrated into the tower. The bank's original chamber will be reimagined as a restaurant, continuing the site's civic and cultural legacy.

Beyond its residences, 623 Collins will offer more than 2700sqm of office space and 900sqm of retail and hospitality

outlets fronting Collins and Spencer streets. Residents will enjoy more than 800sqm of shared amenities on level six, including a pool, outdoor terrace, library, games room, gym, yoga studio and The Bathhouse – a wellness retreat complete with sauna, steam room, spa and cold plunge. Those living in the Reserve and Penthouse collections will also have exclusive access to a whisky bar, lounge and a terrace entertaining area on level 38.

The interiors, including the dramatic ground-floor lobby, have been crafted by acclaimed designer Fiona Lynch, whose contemporary aesthetic will shape the material palette throughout the tower.

Sterling Global development director Brandon Yeoh said the project represented a rare opportunity to fuse heritage with modern living.

"Melbourne is at a pivotal point in its growth; demand for inner-city living continues to outpace supply," Mr Yeoh said.

"At 623 Collins, we've taken a

heritage building that has been part of Melbourne's story for a century and reimagined it for modern living. Towers will continue to rise across the CBD, but genuine heritage fabric is rare – and that carries lasting value for residents and the city itself."

Plus Studio director Ian Briggs said the architecture aimed to respect both history and the city's future growth.

"Our design approach has been to connect the building closely with its context – a podium that contributes to the streetscape, planted terraces that mediate between heritage and new, and a tower that joins the skyline with clarity and restraint," he said.

Sterling Global acquired the 2000sqm amalgamated site in 2023 and secured an amended planning permit last month. With a development pipeline exceeding \$1.6 billion across Melbourne, the firm has positioned 623 Collins as one of its flagship projects.

Registrations of interest are now open ahead of the project's global launch. ●



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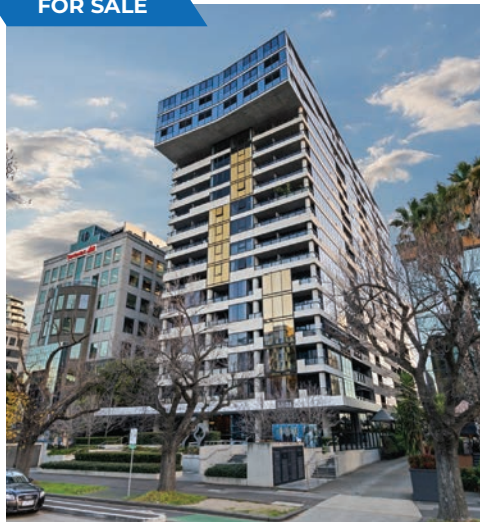
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Council aims to double the number of houses in the city by 2051

The City of Melbourne aims to double the number of homes within the municipality over the next 25 years. However, councillors have raised concerns about the feasibility of this goal.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



By 2051, the City of Melbourne aims to have delivered 119,500 homes, doubling the current housing stock, which has taken more than 150 years to build.

According to a council report tabled at the September 16 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, all scenarios tested to date demonstrate that the Melbourne Planning Scheme has the capacity to meet the Victorian Government's housing target.

While the council believes this target is achievable, planning portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell argued at the meeting that state-level reform was needed to accelerate the number of homes being built in the city.

"We know that there are 17,000 dwellings in this municipality that have been approved but haven't been built," Cr Campbell said.

Cr Campbell noted that based on discussions with developers, high taxes have stymied development and created a challenging

environment for building.

"I certainly hope that the state government will have a long and hard look at that, because it is not the case that councils ... are the blocker on housing supply."

In September 2023, the Victorian Government released Victoria's Housing Statement and identified the need for 2.24 million new homes by 2051.

To achieve this, the Victorian Government set targets for different areas across the state and established areas with looser planning restrictions known as activity centres, including two located in the inner city within the City of Melbourne and the City of Yarra.

The focus of these activity centres is to unlock more development around train and tram corridors, rezone strategic sites, apply newly developed planning controls, and fast-track specific site developments.

However, at the September 16 meeting, the council requested that Lord Mayor Nick Reece write to the Victorian Government seeking clarity on the activity centres and associated housing targets.

The council also requested confirmation regarding the timing and delivery of the future heavy rail connection between Docklands and Fishermans Bend, which was announced in June 2024.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) has proposed that commuters will travel from the soon-to-open Parkville Station to Docklands, before continuing to new stations at Sandridge (Fennell St) and the employment precinct



(Salmon St) in Fishermans Bend.

Cr Davydd Griffiths said progress on public transport in Fishermans Bend was a vital part of Melbourne accommodating hundreds of thousands of new residents and visitors.

He added that the housing targets and advocacy for improved public transport were part of a broader suite of initiatives the City of Melbourne was pursuing to prepare the city for the future, noting that the Council Plan was currently in its final stages of development.

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.

"We're starting to think about what it really means to plan for Melbourne's future, the needs of residents, businesses, workers and visitors, and how we deal with the significantly expanded population we can expect to have," Cr Griffiths said. ●

Niagara House sells for \$9.95m at packed CBD auction

A landmark CBD property, Niagara House at 370 Little Bourke St, has sold for \$9.95 million at a highly competitive auction that drew a huge crowd during the AFL Finals series.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Mr Talbot said the result reflected renewed confidence in the CBD.

"Investors from around Australia and overseas have recognised the rebound of Melbourne's CBD. Confidence in the CBD is back, and impressive, well-presented properties are in demand," he said.

While the campaign generated strong national and international interest, Mr Waddell noted that offshore and interstate parties "couldn't compete with local capital".

Niagara House sits on a unique triple-fronted, Capital City 1-zoned site of 329 sqms, bordered by Niagara Lane and Warburton Alley, just metres from the popular Hardware Lane dining precinct and the 24/7 Bourke Square car park.

Mr Waddell said the building's location was a major drawcard.

"This part of the city generates pedestrian traffic day and night from workers, residents and tourists, with Hardware Lane offering one of the CBD's best dining and nightlife experiences. Melbourne's CBD is seeing a hospitality resurgence, and this property is ideally placed to capture the buzzing crowds that have returned to the city," he said. ●

The six-level freehold, fully leased and anchored by outdoor retailer MacPac, was offered to the market for the first time in 27 years. The campaign, led by Fitzroys' Lewis Waddell, Mark Talbot and Ben Liu, attracted more than 100 enquiries from Melbourne, interstate and overseas.

Bidding on auction day came down to six parties, but it was ultimately a local investor who secured the prized asset.

The 1330 sqm building includes MacPac, a subsidiary of ASX-listed Super Retail Group, across the ground floor and basement, with four levels of offices above. The sale price reflected a sharp net yield of 3.9 per cent – among the tightest recorded in Melbourne this year – and a land rate of \$30,243 per square metre, significantly higher than the previous Little Bourke St benchmark of around \$21,000 per square metre.

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“Ghost colleges”: a reflection of Australia’s relationship with migrant work

“

Melbourne is home to more than 230,000 international students from around 175 different countries. It is an international hub of innovation, artistry and community that makes it a drawcard for so many.

”

WORDS BY
DERMOT O'BRIEN



However, outside of the major universities, there are a significant number of vocational skills providers many of whose sole purposes appear to be to exploit the current student visa loophole in Australia.

In Melbourne’s CBD alone there are more than 50 colleges, institutions or academies that operate just out of plain view, in buildings you never frequent and in classrooms that are empty.

These are what are known as “ghost colleges” – spaces that present as legitimate vocational institutions, yet their cohort is all online, attendance is rarely checked, and the bulk of their studies are taught via Word documents.

They are found across all major cities in Australia, and their prominence marks a far more sinister reflection of Australia’s relationship with migrant work.

The number of international student enrolments in vocational education programs rose from 116,651 in 2016 to 262,955 in 2025.

These providers offer a range of accreditations such as diplomas and certificates and all cost in the range of thousands. The Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students cites 573 institutions operating in Victoria alone.

Yet the value of these accreditations and their place in Australian society are brought into question.

Dr Salvatore Babones, Associate Professor in sociology and criminology at the University of Sydney, explained the exploitative relationship between these vocational providers and migrant work.

“If there was value in these types of degrees and these education providers, we would see a larger number of students from relatively rich non-English speaking countries. Large numbers of Japanese, Korean, Middle Eastern, Thai. But we don’t,” Dr Babones said.



Former Lord Mayor Sally Capp launches the return of The Couch program at The Salvation Army in 2021.

“The overwhelming flow of students are from some of the poorest countries in the world.”

He added that as a nation we “have the pretence that Australia doesn’t do a guest-worker economy. Yet in effect that’s what Australia does.”

This reflection of Australia’s relationship with migrant work is stark. Dr Babones argues that the pretence of the system we have creates multiple financial hurdles purely for someone to be able to access Australia’s labour market.

Conversely, Singapore operates a guest-worker system with a roughly 1.5 million migrant workers all successfully allowed to access the labour market through a visa process.

Access to the labour market under the Australian system is slightly different. First, one must apply as a student to a vocational education provider, normally through an “education agent” receiving commission ranging from 30 to 40 per cent of the student’s tuition fees, then apply for the appropriate student visa (\$2000) then enrol at the vocational institute (courses range from \$3000 to \$35,000).

“It’s highly exploitative. It puts all the risk on the poor person, and the poor person has to pay for a degree they’re never going to use and usually a succession of degrees,

just so they are able to access the labour market,” Dr Babones said.

The revenue for vocational institutions in Australia was \$13.3bn in 2025.

With these hurdles and cost for entry and work in Australia, many international students and migrants feel unsupported and unheard, with social services having to pick up the slack left by successive government inaction.

The Couch, a program run by The Salvation Army, offers international students “an opportunity to connect with support services and information on a range of issues including housing, employment, counselling, student services, legal support and representation”.

The Couch has been running since 2013 and “provides a safe space for international students to create meaningful connections with each other and the city around them,” according to the program’s coordinator Elle Phan.

Since COVID, she said that “international students have been struggling, with minimal support from the government.”

“We want to create a community that supports these students to achieve their potential in Australia,” Ms Phan said.

Major Brendan Nottle from The Salvation Army discussed the issue as well highlighting the “obligation” felt by social services.

“We feel an obligation to provide support to not just that particular affected group of people but any international student that is looking for an opportunity for connection,” Major Nottle said.

“We leave that to the regulators to deal with, however as a result of some of that behaviour we do see the victims of it present at places like The Salvation Army at Bourke St.”

The City of Melbourne provides support through such initiatives as the Study Melbourne Hub and the Lord Mayor’s student welcome, which provides international students with access to student services, advice and support. This distinctly highlights the impact of the current international student system on local and social services.

The council’s innovation and education portfolio lead Cr Andrew Rowse reiterated its support for international students “through programs and services”, “while the regulation of vocational institutes sits within state and federal jurisdictions”.

“The City of Melbourne is focused on ensuring all our international visitors, especially students, have the best and safest experience in the city,” Cr Rowse said.

The federal government has “cracked down” on ghost colleges since 2020, with current Minister for Skills and Training Andrew Giles MP “calling time on these dodgy providers”.

In August 2024, Minister Giles said that the government had “weeded out and shut down over 150 dormant operators” issuing warnings to “140 others”.

However, it’s inherently difficult for government regulators to ascertain what colleges are legitimate due to some institutions falsifying student records and attendance, with “around 3800 registered training organisations in Australia”.

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) is the main regulatory body that oversees vocational education and training (VET) providers. Since October 2023 it has established a “Tip-Off” line for “illicit or unethical activities within the sector” and has received “more than 3200 tip-offs with around 60 per cent of information leading to actionable intelligence”.

But Dr Babones isn’t hopeful that we will see effective and long-lasting change.

“It’s very pleasant for the professional class. I can get cheap food delivery; I can get cheap rides everywhere. I can get cheap services. It benefits the well-off in society.”

Minister Giles was contacted for comment, but his office referred the matter to the Australian Skills Quality Authority. It did not respond to *CBD News* before deadline.

Major Nottle believes that as a community, “we all have a responsibility to build a safety net at the top of the cliff”.

“[That’s] far better than parking an ambulance or worse, a hearse, at the bottom.” ●



JELLIS CRAIG PORT PHILLIP

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“From Indian Farms to Melbourne’s Tables: A Social Venture Bringing Fair Pay and Fresh Spices to Australia”

Melbourne



Pic credit- Melbourne Diwali

We’re excited to share that **Aunty Jenny Spices**, a Melbourne-born startup, launched with a bold promise to bring **farm-direct, geo-tagged spices** from India straight to Australian tables.

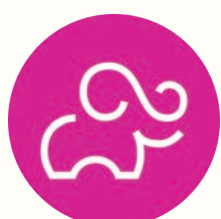
Founded by **Ramneek Wayne** and **Evangeline Tee**, Aunty Jenny works directly with farmers to ensure fair pay while delivering spices that are **fresh from the farm and contain no nasties**, no additives, no fillers, no preservatives.

While many brands talk about being “no nasties,” consumers are often left guessing about the bigger questions: Where were these spices grown? When were they harvested? That’s where Aunty Jenny brings the change. **Every pack is geo-tagged, harvest-dated, and fully traceable back to its source farm, a first-of-its-kind model in Australia.**

“If you can trace your coffee or olive oil, why not your spices? We believe every pinch should carry both flavour and fairness,” says co-founder Evangeline Tee.

Launching with six carefully curated blend’s—including turmeric, Butter chicken Blend, Garam Masala, Mild Curry Powder, Peri Peri Tandoori and Red Chilli blends—Aunty Jenny is redefining how Australians experience everyday cooking.

Available online and the brand will soon roll out into independent grocery stores across Australia.



www.auntyjenny.au

Councillor speaks out against city's security crackdown

City of Melbourne councillor Dr Olivia Ball has warned that the council's security initiatives are heading in a troubling direction and represent a misuse of public funds, with new safety officers set to be equipped with handcuffs and given the power to make arrests.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



In the council's 2025 Budget, \$2 million has been allocated to "expand the visible safety presence in the city", which will fund 11 Community Safety Officer (CSO) roles aimed at targeting begging and anti-social behaviour in the city.

According to a council report outlining the initiative, the CSOs would be authorised to act under the municipality's Local Law code, provide on-street support, and connect people in need with existing support services.

The scope of the officers' powers was not fully detailed at the June meeting. However, speaking on ABC Radio on July 31, Lord Mayor Nick Reece said they would be "the real deal" and have handcuffs and the power to make arrests.

"I do not support it," Cr Dr Ball said. "Council cannot afford to spend millions upon millions in this way with such poor evidence and evaluation."

Before the CSOs were established, the City of Melbourne conducted what was meant to be a security trial involving two security guards supporting Local Law officers in patrolling the city.

This trial was intended to inform the potential expansion of the security program. However, the trial has been extended to October 1, and Cr Dr Ball believes there is little evidence to support further expansion.

"No detailed design of the trial was ever provided," she said. "Any evaluation of the trial is severely hampered by the near absence of baseline data and a clear articulation of measurable objectives."

"The people most at risk on our streets are those sleeping rough. This program is not about protecting them. It's making their hard lives harder."

The Homeless Persons Union launched a petition in September calling on the City of Melbourne to scrap its plan to hire CSOs to target homeless people in the CBD, instead urging the council to fund programs and services to support the homeless community.

In a submission to the City of Melbourne's Council Plan 2025-29, which outlines the council's intent to bolster its security investment, the union said there needed to be greater investment in housing, support services, supervised injecting rooms, and strategic facilities for homeless people.

"A lot of people experiencing homelessness are extremely traumatised. It's a hard

life, even if it's just for a few weeks," the union stated.

"The city is becoming a scary place for ordinary people with police and security guards everywhere – a place of cruelty and inhumanity."

When the CSOs were announced in June, managing lawyer at Fitzroy Legal Service (FLS), Meghan Fitzgerald, made several recommendations to the City of Melbourne.

Ms Fitzgerald said that FLS supported the collection of further data to define the community safety concerns the trial aimed to address and urged the council to engage with health and community services, government agencies, the courts, and Victoria Police.

FLS also recommended that the trial be suspended until a review was completed, to ensure alignment with broader community safety objectives, coordination with vital social services, and to consider the legal risks and human rights impacts of the program.

Community health service Cohealth has also raised concerns about the trial's impact on their clients.

Earlier this year, CBD News reported that some clients had been urinated on,

verbally abused, or assaulted while sleeping on Melbourne's streets. Following the security guard trial, clients reported feeling intimidated.

Cohealth alleges that it was not consulted during the trial, despite the council initially indicating it would do so.

However, a City of Melbourne spokesperson refuted this, stating that claims it did not consult Cohealth were incorrect. The council claims it consulted Cohealth on multiple occasions, both before and during the trial.

Member for Melbourne Ellen Sandell said that she was "deeply concerned by reports of the intimidation tactics being used by security officers against our most vulnerable community members".

"Putting private security guards on our streets is not a sustainable solution. We need proper investment into housing and wrap-around services for people experiencing mental health challenges, homelessness or substance use," Ms Sandell said.

"Deploying private security guards in Melbourne signals a worrying shift towards punitive, right-wing policies that don't belong in our city, and also don't work to keep us safe. We should be investing in the things we know work, like long-term housing, health and wrap-around services."

Another facet of the council's security expansion is a significant investment in CCTV cameras. A total of \$2.1 million will be spent upgrading and expanding the Safe City Camera Program, activating more than 100 new cameras.

To support this, the Victorian Government will contribute an additional \$3.5 million.

This too, has raised alarm bells for Cr Dr Ball, who is particularly concerned about the council considering the use of AI to analyse video footage.

"It's time council left security cameras to the State and to police, for policing and emergency services," she said. ●



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“

Melbourne is preparing for a week-long celebration of style, creativity and community as Melbourne Fashion Week (M/FW) returns from October 20 to 26.

”

**WORDS BY
SEAN CAR**



With the theme *Come As You Are*, this year's program promises bold runways, thought-provoking conversations, exhibitions and pop-up events across the city, reaffirming Melbourne's status as Australia's fashion capital.

More than 600 designers and retailers will feature across 100 free and ticketed events, creating more than 1000 jobs and shining a spotlight on home-grown talent. More than 85 per cent of participants – from designers and stylists to models, students and retailers – are based in Melbourne.

Acting City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell said the event would be one of the city's biggest cultural highlights of the year.

"Come one, come all – and most importantly, *Come As You Are*," she said. "Melbourne will cement its place as Australia's fashion and retail capital, with bold new runway locations and a spotlight on local designers, artisans and creatives."

The runways will again be the heartbeat of the festival, staged in some of Melbourne's most distinctive venues. Opening night on October 20 will take place at the brand-new 1 Hotel Melbourne, showcasing First Nations designers including Gammin Threads, Kaninda and Yarrenyty Arltere Artists. The following evening, Opulent Tastes brings couture to the Italian dining hub il Mercato Centrale, while October 22 will see fashion meeting music at the Melbourne Recital Centre in Southbank.

On October 23, the festival returns to Little Bourke St, presented by Emporium Melbourne, with collections from Aje Studio, Et Al, Husk and Orotan. Student designers from RMIT, Holmesglen, Whitehouse, LCI and Box Hill Institute will take the spotlight on October 24 at Younghusband in Kensington. The closing runway on October 26 at 101 Collins St will feature contemporary names including Erik Yvon, Karlaidlaw and Lucinda Babi.



Beyond the catwalk, the festival program is brimming with activations across the city. Five themed Fashion Capsule exhibitions will run from September 29 to October 26, highlighting more than 30 designers with displays ranging from First Nations fashion to drag costuming and collaborations with The Australian Ballet. More than 40 independent events – the largest number in the festival's history – will bring pop-up regenerative stores, vintage runways, markets, talks and open studios into laneways, shopfronts and cultural spaces.

One of this year's most talked-about highlights is the free Australian-first *Wicked* Wardrobe exhibition at Fed Square, opening October 13. The showcase will display

Oscar-winning designer Paul Tazewell's extraordinary costumes for Elphaba and Glinda from Universal Pictures' *Wicked* films. Tazewell said Melbourne was the ideal city for the display. "It's the perfect city to showcase the inventive style, craftsmanship and detail that went into creating the world of *Wicked*," he said.

The M/FW Conversations series will return with discussions on the business of fashion and the future of inclusive design, while ticketholders can access exclusive hospitality offers across the city. Each ticket sale will also contribute \$1 towards carbon offsets, helping ensure the event remains certified carbon neutral.

Cr Mark Scott, chair of the council's

tourism and events portfolio, said the festival's economic impact was just as important as its creative contribution.

"Last year's event contributed almost \$30 million to the local economy and supported more than 1000 jobs," he said. "With its runway-to-retail focus, Melbourne Fashion Week gives people even more reason to shop local and support emerging talent."

With more than 100,000 people expected to attend, Melbourne Fashion Week 2025 is set to bring fresh energy to the city's streets. From the spectacle of major runways to the intimacy of open studios and the spectacle of *Wicked*'s costumes, the message is clear: fashion in Melbourne is for everyone, and everyone is invited to *Come As You Are*. ●

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Photos: Ben Willis.

Melbourne Electronic Sound Studio opens new home at Fed Square with 1000 instruments

Melbourne Electronic Sound Studio (MESS) has expanded to a new home at Federation Square, opening on September 19 with one of the Southern Hemisphere's largest publicly accessible collections of electronic instruments.



WORDS BY
XIANGHAN MENG



Supported by MAP Co, the operator of Fed Square, the move brings more than 1000 eclectic and historically significant instruments into the city's cultural hub at Birrarung Marr. The new space will allow the public to book studio sessions, join workshops, attend concerts and connect with a growing community of music makers.

First established in North Melbourne, MESS provides access to synthesizers, drum machines and modular synths spanning the history of electronic music. Since its founding in 2016, the not-for-profit organisation has worked to empower people to enrich their lives through music.

Beyond its collection of machines, MESS offers programs, artist residencies, education and public events – fostering curiosity, creativity and chance encounters in sound.

MESS also hosts live performances, including the MESS Synthesiser Orchestra, and runs its biannual multichannel commission series, *Sonorous*, which has produced 20 new octophonic works to date – a

highlight of Melbourne's electronic music calendar.

The studio was founded by sound artist and producer Byron Scullin and avant-garde audio-visual artist Robin Fox, who became friends through a shared passion for experimental music. Both had witnessed the barriers students and aspiring artists faced in accessing electronic instruments, which are often rare and prohibitively expensive.

The collection includes synthesizers, keyboards, drum machines and even metronomes, with contributions from musicians and collectors including Gotye and actor Guy Pearce, donations from benefactors and instrument manufacturers, and instruments inherited from Mr Fox's own family.

"We connect people to electronic sound and music culture through our huge collection of multimillion-dollar, rare and antique instruments," Mr Scullin said. "But we're not a museum – we make all this equipment available for the public to use, learn about and explore with us." ●



CRAFT

Trove: Contemporary Jewellery at Craft Victoria. Works by Gabbee Stolp, Liv Boyle, Roseanne Bartley, Samantha Dennis and Emily O'Brien. Photo: Claire Armstrong.



Craft Victoria unveils Trove: Contemporary Jewellery

Craft Victoria is set to shine a spotlight on some of Australia's most innovative jewellery makers with the opening of *Trove: Contemporary Jewellery*, running from September 27 to November 8 at its Watson Place gallery.

The exhibition brings together 22 artists whose practices explore jewellery as more than ornamentation – presenting it as a medium for storytelling, cultural expression, and social commentary.

From intricate works that reflect personal identity to bold designs tackling sustainability and political themes, *Trove* demonstrates how jewellery can operate on cultural, social and conceptual levels while remaining deeply personal.

Participating artists include some of the nation's most respected names in the field: Roseanne Bartley, Liv Boyle, Lorraine Brigdale, Christine Collins, Laila Marie Costa, Laura Deakin, Samantha Dennis, Carly Tarkari Dodd, Anna Davern, Polly Dymond, Kirsten Haydon, Inari Kiuru, Anke

Kindle, Sarah Lockey, Sim Luttin, Leslie Matthews, Belinda Newick, Emily O'Brien, Gabbee Stolp, Blanche Tilden, Zoe Veness and Melinda Young.

Together, their works create a "treasure trove" of contemporary design – from pieces that highlight material innovation to those that reinterpret traditional forms. Many of the artists are internationally recognised, while others represent the next generation of Australian makers pushing boundaries in scale, concept and technique.

Craft Victoria, which has long been at the forefront of supporting contemporary craft and design, said the exhibition invited audiences to reflect on the role jewellery played in shaping and expressing values.

"Trove celebrates jewellery as a form of cultural storytelling," the gallery said. "It asks viewers to consider how something small and intimate can hold powerful messages about who we are and what we value."

Trove: Contemporary Jewellery is on display at Craft Victoria, 11 Watson Place, Melbourne, from September 27 to November 8. Works are also available to view and purchase online: craft.org.au ●

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Victorian Seniors Festival is here! This month-long festival celebrates the enormous contribution older people make to our community. Coordinated by the Victorian Government, it brings live music, dance, film, comedy and cultural experiences to audiences across the state.

Older people play a vital role in shaping the character of our city as volunteers, mentors, artists, carers, business owners and leaders. Their lived experience enriches all our lives. Seniors Festival isn't just about connection, fun and wellbeing (though there'll be plenty of that!) it's also about honouring how much older people enrich our city.

Here are just a few of the big events planned in October:

- Celebration Day at Fed Square - a lively showcase of entertainment and community stalls.
- Big Band Dance at Melbourne Town Hall - swing back in time with live music and room to dance.
- LGBTQIA+ History Walk - uncovering stories of resilience and pride woven through Melbourne's past.
- Songs of Judy Garland - a tribute concert to one of the greatest there ever was.
- Comedy Show and High Tea - (currently booked out).

Alongside the main program, the City of Melbourne's Healthy Ageing team has joined with libraries, recreation centres and community partners to put on events supporting friendships, health and wellbeing.

The Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre is back and better than ever. Whether you're diving into the pool, joining an energising fitness class, or catching up with neighbours, it's the perfect place for older people to stay active and connected.

The Healthy Ageing Connections Program is another way the City of Melbourne is supporting older people. It offers free, one-on-one help to navigate the aged care system, from checking eligibility to finding service providers. The team can also link you with local programs, volunteering opportunities and health or social supports. Drop-in sessions run through October, November and December.

For those keen to keep learning, Digital Skills Workshops in Mandarin are being held at narm ngarrgu Library. These free classes cover everyday digital tools like email, maps and smartphones. Sessions run Fridays and bookings are essential.

And don't miss Val's Rainbow Celebration at the City of Melbourne Bowls Club - a colourful afternoon of lawn bowls, games and refreshments for older LGBTQIA+ people, friends and allies.



Seniors Festival is the perfect opportunity to meet new friends or reconnect with friends of old.

With such a wide range of events, from comedy to culture, fitness to friendship, Seniors Festival in the City of Melbourne is the perfect chance to try something new, reconnect with old friends or simply enjoy being part of our vibrant community.

SPOTLIGHT: LGBTQIA+ HISTORY WALK

One highlight this year is the LGBTQIA+ History Walk, shining a light on resilience, pride and community across Melbourne's history. Participants will explore places that hold special meaning for LGBTQIA+ communities, guided by storytellers who bring the past to life.

Past attendees say these events capture the spirit of Seniors Festival: "Lovely positive atmosphere," one participant shared. Another described the festival as "Very warm and welcoming. Lots of fun."

The walk is both a celebration of history and a reminder that Seniors Festival is for everyone - a festival where diversity is embraced and connections strengthened.



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The great migration: Why Melbourne’s leading businesses are moving to Kings Business Park



Melbourne’s commercial landscape is undergoing a quiet but powerful shift. Once bound to a corporate Collins St address, many major businesses are relocating their headquarters to the city fringe, and at the centre of this movement is Kings Business Park.



Located just five minutes from the CBD in Southbank, Kings Business Park isn’t your typical suburban office complex. It has become the Melbourne fringe’s most connected business destination, home to household names like media giant SEN, global sportswear leader Pentland Brands, parent company of Speedo and Canterbury, and industrial powerhouse Bostik.

As organisations reassess what drives productivity and employee satisfaction, traditional assumptions about prestigious addresses are being challenged. Kings Business Park delivers something even more valuable: genuine business advantages.

“We’re witnessing a decisive shift where market leaders prioritise operational excellence over postal codes,” Gianni Zagame, general manager of Kings Business Park, said.

“These companies understand that workspace design directly impacts performance metrics, talent retention and ultimately, bottom-line results.”

Kings Business Park spans 32,000 sqms of premium office space across five low-rise buildings, with 3000 sqms of landscaped gardens, designed to enhance collaboration and individual focus.

The amenities set it apart: an exclusive tenant gymnasium with EOT facilities, Project Mood wellness centre with reformer Pilates and recovery bathhouse, a four-hole putting green and golf simulator, outdoor collaboration areas, St Remio café and local favourite, Moonfishh.

What emerges is something rare in Melbourne’s commercial landscape: a workplace ecosystem that generates value beyond square meterage. The precinct hosts more than 100 professionals weekly at curated industry events, creating organic networking opportunities and staff engagement that translates into genuine business partnerships.

“Our tenants regularly collaborate across companies, which is a great testament to the community we have built,” Mr Zagame said. “We’ve witnessed partnerships form



L-R: Gianni Zagame (General Manager of Deague Group), Kaitlyn Dell’Aquila and Breanna Anderl (Kings Club Community Team) and Jonathan Deague (Managing Director of Deague Group).

over coffee at St Remio and relationships develop during sessions at Project Mood.”

Connectivity seals the deal. Linked directly to Kings Way and the West Gate Freeway, and a 500m walk to the upcoming ANZAC Station, Kings Business Park offers CBD accessibility without CBD constraints. Parking remains abundant, with their single level 400-space carpark operating underneath the five buildings.

Owned and operated by Deague Group, the precinct operates under the team’s comprehensive management, covering everything from maintenance to events, allowing businesses to focus entirely on growth. Flexible leasing spans month-to-month agreements to long-term commitments, with their coworking facility, Kings

Club, providing a variety of membership options to complement a commercial tenure.

The migration reflects broader changes in how businesses evaluate workplace investments. Traditional prestige markers matter less than practical advantages: employee wellbeing, operational flexibility, genuine networking, and cost effectiveness.

The city fringe isn’t just an alternative to the CBD anymore; it’s becoming the preferred choice for results-focused businesses. The question isn’t whether more companies will follow, it’s which ones will be smart enough to lead.

To learn more about Kings Business Park or to arrange an inspection, visit kingsbusinesspark.com.au ●

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The City of Melbourne is looking to reduce the disruption caused by protests

The City of Melbourne intends to reduce disruption caused by weekly protests. However, experts warn that the right to peaceful assembly must be protected.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



In its Draft Council Plan 2025-29, the City of Melbourne has proposed advocating for a coordinated review across all levels of government to establish a framework that safeguards the right to protest while reducing disruption to the functioning of the city and maintaining a safe environment for the community.

This follows two years of pro-Palestine marches held in the CBD every Sunday, as well as the Neo-Nazi led "March for Australia" on August 31 which escalated into violence when the two separate protests converged.

However, with potential restrictions being considered, human rights experts have emphasised the importance of the City of Melbourne protecting people's right to protest.

David Mejia-Canales, senior lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre, said, "the City of Melbourne also has an obligation to consider how its actions may impact human rights under Victorian human rights law."

"All levels of government have to work to facilitate the right to peaceful assembly for all people within their jurisdiction, and to ensure that any restriction on human rights is consistent with international and Victorian human rights law."

There have been unsuccessful attempts at the state level to introduce a permit system similar to that in New South Wales.

In August, Opposition Police Minister David Southwick sought to introduce a bill to overhaul protest laws and establish a new registration scheme. This would have granted the Supreme Court the power to block certain protests from proceeding altogether.

Additionally, when Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Mike Bush started as the

state's top cop, he said that introducing a permit system for protests was not worthwhile.

Mr Mejia-Canales noted, "Australia has a long and proud history of peaceful protest driving social change – from women's right to vote, to First Nations land rights, and the rights of working people."

"The City of Melbourne itself is the birthplace of the eight-hour workday, where union members building the Victorian Parliament and The University of Melbourne downed tools to demand better working conditions."

Cr Dr Olivia Ball also expressed concerns over the council's proposal and said that it remained unclear what these measures would actually involve.

"Peaceful protest is a human right. Being able to freely express your views in public with others is fundamental to democracy," she said in recent Instagram post.

"Given most protest is about what the government is doing, government can't be the arbiter of when, whether and where people can protest," she added.

However, speaking at the August 19 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) when the Council Plan was discussed, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell said that there needed to be a "balancing exercise".

Cr Campbell said that it was important to protect both people's right to protest and people using the city, particularly 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.

The council's head of the safety and cleaning portfolio, Cr Rafael Camillo, said that the reason behind the push for a review by all tiers of government was so that a discussion on the best ways to move forward could begin.

He said that many residents and businesses within the community he had spoken with were struggling with the ongoing protests.

However, exactly what role the city would play remains unclear according to Cr Camillo, who said that he would like to find a better way of managing protests through an intergovernmental review of the current approach to management and enforcement. ●

STATE MP

Victoria's historic Treaty with First Peoples is here!

After decades of leadership from First Nations people, the very first Treaty Bill in our nation's history was introduced into the Victorian Parliament during early September.

It's a truly historic moment, and I feel incredibly honoured to stand alongside my Greens colleagues in supporting this bill.

As a Victorian I am proud that we are the first State to take this important step forward and I hope that other states, territories, and the federal government will be encouraged to pursue its own Treaty processes.

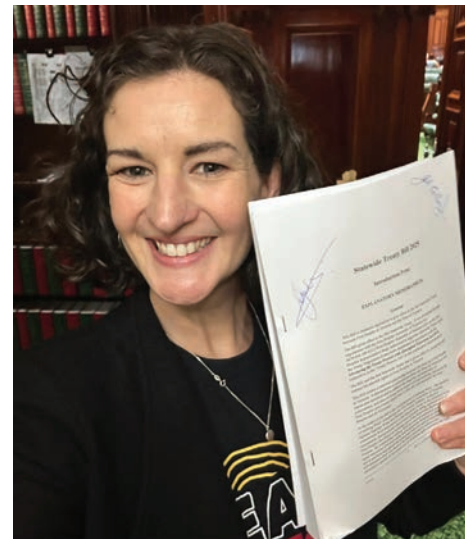
So, what will the Treaty Bill actually do? The *Statewide Treaty Bill 2025* will make the First Peoples' Assembly permanent, as part of a new First Nations body called

Gellung Warl (Gunaikurnai language).

Gellung Warl will play a vital role in our state and be able to decide on things like Aboriginal place-naming and cultural practices, support truth-telling education in our schools, and host events like NAIDOC Week. It will also have the power to question ministers directly, holding them accountable on key commitments such as Closing the Gap.

The Statewide Treaty will ensure First Peoples can use their knowledge and experience to deliver practical solutions on matters directly impacting their communities.

Importantly, the Bill ensures the First Peoples' Assembly must be consulted by the state government on any legislation affecting Aboriginal people, because Treaty is about self-determination, and when it comes to Aboriginal communities, cultures, and lands, the experts have always been



Aboriginal people.

As a mum of three young kids, I am so thankful that my children will grow up in a State that has a Treaty with First Peoples. First Nations people have invited all Victorians to walk together with them in this journey to Treaty, to celebrate and share in the oldest continuous living culture in the world. What an incredible and generous gift. ●

Ellen Sandell

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM



ELLEN SANDELL

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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May Wang brings Southbank and CBD expertise to Jellis Craig

Southbank and CBD residents may soon notice a new – yet familiar – face in the local real estate scene.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Local resident and experienced property professional May Wang has joined the team at Jellis Craig Port Phillip, bringing with her more than a decade of experience in high-end residential sales and a strong connection to the community she now calls home.

For Ms Wang, Southbank isn't just where she works – it's where she lives. After previously residing in both Bayside and the Yarra Valley, she downsized to Southbank and has embraced the energy and convenience of inner-city living since 2022.

"I was drawn to this part of Melbourne because of the arts and culture, the food, the concerts and events – everything happens here," Ms Wang said.

"Southbank gives you the best of both worlds: you're right in the heart of the city, close to the Yarra, the bay and amazing parks like the Botanic Gardens, Albert Park and Fawkner Park. For me, that balance between urban energy and access to nature is perfect."

That personal insight gives her an edge when working with buyers looking to make the move into the inner city. She understands what attracts a wide range of people – from downsizers after a low-maintenance lifestyle, to professionals who value proximity to work, interstate buyers looking for a city base, and international purchasers drawn to Melbourne's vibrant living and modern amenities.

"Every building has its own energy and attracts its own community," she said. "Some people want resort-style amenities like gyms and pools. Others prefer boutique Art Deco apartments with a more intimate feel and a sense of history. Then there are those who want skyline views stretching from the city to the bay and the mountains. My job is to help people find the property that suits their lifestyle and their aspirations."

Ms Wang's arrival strengthens Jellis Craig's presence in the inner-city market, complementing the agency's established reputation and market share especially after a recent merge with RT Edgar Albert Park and Chisholm & Gamon. With her background in project marketing with Colliers and her knowledge of the apartment market, she adds depth to the team's coverage across the full spectrum of property around the Port Phillip Bay area.

Fluent in both Mandarin and Cantonese, Ms Wang also brings cultural affinity that is vital in today's increasingly global market.

With Melbourne continuing to attract strong international interest, her ability to connect with overseas buyers and understand their expectations offers real value to local property owners.

"For me, real estate is about relationships, about understanding people's stories and bridging cultures," she said. "You have to understand what buyers from different backgrounds value most – whether it's location, amenities, investment potential or lifestyle."

"When you walk into someone's home, you see their life – the art, the pets, the family memories. I feel privileged to help people navigate big life transitions – whether it's buying their first apartment, downsizing, or investing. It's about finding the right fit and plan well ahead."

Jellis Craig is widely regarded as one of Melbourne's leading premium real estate groups, acclaimed for its renowned reputation, extensive network and community focus. Ms Wang said joining Jellis Craig felt like a natural progression. "It's a premium brand with a strong reputation and values that align with mine," she said. A connected network and more than 2.4 million clients on the open database, Jellis Craig is also backed by cutting-edge technology. Just as importantly, the team genuinely cares about the community – they're involved in local charities and neighbourhood initiatives. It's more than selling homes, as it says in its brand claim: *Your connection to something greater.*

With her combination of local knowledge, industry expertise, global perspective and people-first approach, May Wang is set to play a key role in Jellis Craig Port Phillip's continued growth in Melbourne's dynamic property market.

And for locals, Ms Wang is more than a property expert – she's a neighbour who truly understands what makes this part of Melbourne so special.

Follow her Instagram @PortPhillipMay
jellisrcraig.com.au/office/albert-park ●

HISTORY

Observing at Flagstaff

This humble building in Flagstaff Gardens, covered in ivy and sporting a weathervane, was once an important scientific site in Melbourne.

Taken around 1871, this is a rare photograph of the former Magnetic Observatory that operated on Flagstaff Hill in the Flagstaff Gardens from 1858 until 1863.

During the early days of European settlement, Flagstaff Gardens was used as the city's first cemetery.

In 1836, the first burial was of a child named Willie Goodman. Within a year, it was obvious that more space was needed, and a new official cemetery was created on a site further northeast: the current Queen Victoria Market site.

In 1840 the hill found a new purpose when it became the site of a signal station and a flagstaff (hence the park's name), taking advantage of the hill's high vantage point to the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay.

Naval flags were attached to the flagstaff, communicating in semaphore about arriving and departing ships. The arrivals were of particular interest for locals who were awaiting mail from loved ones. The flagstaff would also drop a time-ball at noon to indicate the time.

Most famously, in November 1850 Flagstaff was the location where the separation of Victoria from New South Wales was celebrated, highlighted by a 21-gun salute, and a balloon launched that "bore away the tidings of Separation by means of parchment slips attached to it." (*The Argus*). The signal station continued operating until 1857, overtaken in the end by the more convenient format of telegraph and newspapers, which provided more accessible shipping news.

A young German scientist then gave the signal station a new lease on life. Georg Balthasar Von Neumayer first visited Melbourne in 1852, and after spending time as a miner then a ship's mate, saw scientific potential in the colony. With the backing of the King of Bavaria, Maximilian II, Neumayer came back to Melbourne in 1857 requesting the Legislative Assembly for a Magnetic and Meteorological Observatory for the purposes of navigation. The Assembly refused his request, but with valuable support from his peers and the German community his observatory was funded and approved, with the signal station chosen as its site. £500 was voted to repair the buildings and another £450 was raised by private subscription (*The Argus*).

Starting operations in March 1858, the Observatory needed as many as five different buildings to house all the equipment. The research included atmospheric readings, weather, phenomena such as



the Aurora Australis, and magnetic terrestrialism. Neumayer eventually published his observatory's findings in 1867, and also conducted a five-year survey of Victoria's magnetic properties, which saw him travel around 11,000 miles.

Among Neumayer's assistants was a young surveyor who in 1860 was appointed as part of an expedition to travel up to the north end of Australia with an Irish-born police officer-turned explorer. Neumayer joined the duo for a while, before turning away at Bilbarka, near the Darling River. Neumayer would never see those two alive ever again, for months later in 1861 his assistant, William John Wills, and the officer, Robert O'Hara Burke, were found dead after their disastrous return journey from the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The observatory in the meantime would not last, as iron in the region as well as the operations of a nearby sawmill interfered with the sensitive equipment. Fortunately, the Botanic Gardens south of the Yarra happened to have a more suitable site, and with the Williamstown Astronomical Observatory also needing to move, it was deemed more economical to house both into the same building. By January 1863 it was reported the staff had already moved into their new home (despite being unfinished), and the old building was left to rot before it was demolished sometime later.

The Flagstaff Hill observatory shut down, but the park was undergoing its next transformation. From 1862 efforts were made to turn the bare hill into a recreation reserve, with works to improve the topsoil and plant various trees. By 1873 the gardens were permanently reserved, and today remains a spot to have a picnic at.

While there are no remains of the original observatory left, and tall buildings block the view of the Yarra, you can still find a mast perched near the King St end as part of the separation memorial. ●

Proudly representing the
community in Melbourne's CBD

Evan MULHOLLAND MP

Liberal Member for Northern Metropolitan Region

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Unlocking the artist within: Lyn Gazal tells the secret of drawing well ...

I've always been able to draw. As a youngster, it was a genuine puzzlement. Why could I draw, and my classmates couldn't? Two of my siblings could draw, but the other three couldn't. Hence my bewilderment!

WORDS BY
LYN GAZAL – RESIDENTS 3000
COMMITTEE MEMBER



I had a way of seeing the world that I thought everyone had. When I read, I see images in the stories but when I draw, I see the many parts that made up the whole.

Back in the mid 1950s, when I was in primary school learning to write, I savoured the art of copperplate script. We learnt a modified form but still highly decorative with formal slanted letters. There were lots of curvy capitals and the five-year-old me revelled in producing the thick and thin combinations of line. The letters were no longer arbitrary symbols that meant phonetic sound to enable reading; they were more than that and my drawings mirrored that same quality of descriptive purpose.

Years later, having completed a Fine Art degree and further studies in education, I embarked on a 40-year career in teaching Art and Design and the Creative Technologies.

Drawing is a learnable teachable skill. As long as you have average eyesight and average eye hand coordination you can learn to see like an artist.

Our brain enables us to do this by using the special qualities of both the right and the left hemispheres. These have different modes of interpreting the world. The right, when engaged in drawing, can accurately represent the relationship between objects, including edges, negative spaces, (the area around objects), and proportions rather than relying on verbal labels or prior knowledge. This allows for more objective

perception of form and space. When drawing, the artist makes a mental shift to gain the two-fold advantage of that slightly altered mode of awareness to see things in a different way.

I instruct students to remain silent and not to name the subject matter or parts that make up the whole. To draw, one must observe using spatial perception.

When you learn to see the abstract elements laid bare, you enter the right hemisphere what Iain McGilchrist refers to as "The Master". You have entered an altered state of awareness, which allows you to lose time consciousness, becoming relaxed and able to really concentrate on the subject. Words recede from the conscious mind, and you experience a relaxed, pleasurable yet activated mind.

When teaching drawing, I believe the key is to set up conditions that shift students to a different mode of information processing, something akin to seeing well through a slightly altered state of consciousness.

A favourite quote from Augustus Rodin: "opening the eye to the lovely language of forms to express yourself in that language."

In the expanded edition of Iain McGilchrist's 2009 book *The Master and His Emissary, The Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World*, the author describes the division of labour between the two hemispheres. This divide is what Betty Edwards draws on in her book *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*. I have used this book extensively throughout my teaching career for both high school students and adults alike. I highly recommend both books.

Betty Edwards' book gives you a step-by-step set of activities which will direct you towards unlocking your hidden artistic talent. She has written a number of other

books enhancing her original ideas.

Hope this gives you the enthusiasm to take steps towards unlocking the artist within.

Coming up: Annual General Meeting (AGM) October 2, Kelvin Club, 6 for 6.30pm

Every year at the AGM, a new committee of up to 12 persons is voted to run the Residents 3000 group. 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, applications are currently being sought. Being a committee member is a good way to get involved closely with a vibrant community that contributes to the wellbeing of the central city residents.

Typical sub-committees

- Membership and sponsors
- Communications
- Events organisation
- News hounds
- Website and mailing list maintenance

Although we need to go through the formal processes that occur at an association AGM, we try to make the event efficient allowing members and guests the time for discussion and socialising in the convivial surroundings of the Kelvin Club. According to long-standing tradition, we usually welcome Melbourne's Lord Mayor Nick Reece at our AGM but this year, it will be deferred to a future meeting.

More information and updates can be found via our website: residents3000.org.au. In the meantime, think about your contribution to making things even better for residents of Melbourne's CBD precinct whether it be on the committee or as a member. ●

METRO TUNNEL

Hundreds of drivers ready to drive through the Metro Tunnel

The Metro Tunnel is another step closer to opening later this year, with nearly 500 drivers now trained and ready to take passengers through the tunnel and five new stations.

This is more than the number needed for the opening of the tunnel, with drivers undertaking training on the cutting-edge systems and technology that will be used on Victoria's new train line.

Eventually there will be more than 1000 drivers trained on the Metro Tunnel – the majority of drivers on the metropolitan network.

Train driver Cindy Champness, who has been driving for nearly six years, said training had been critical to understanding the High-Capacity Metro Trains – the dedicated fleet that will run through the tunnels.

"It's very different, it's a lot more computerised," Ms Champness said.

"It's got a lot more features in it that we can monitor what the train's doing and showing us."

Training has included a mix of classroom, practical and on-the-job training, where the trainee drivers are accompanied by a trainer while operating passenger services.

As with any new infrastructure, extra training has been provided to qualified drivers to



allow them to drive in the new tunnels. This includes training on the project's next-generation signalling system and the use of the Victorian-first platform screen doors.

Lyndel Connolly, who first started driving trains in 2011, said it was an exciting time for those working on the rail network.

"It's a job that I love," Ms Connolly said.

"Driving a train is magnificent. It's such good fun."



While driver training continues as part of the project's trial operations phase, station staff are also being trained in the many processes and procedures that will be needed to operate the new stations safely.

More than 200 station staff, including station masters, senior station officers, station officers and station assistants, will work across the Metro Tunnel's new five new stations – Arden in North Melbourne, Parkville,

State Library and Town Hall under Swanston St in the CBD and Anzac on St Kilda Rd.

The project is the biggest upgrade of Melbourne's train network since the City Loop opened in 1981.

It will free up space in the City Loop by creating a new end-to-end rail line from Sunbury in the north-west to Cranbourne and Pakenham in the south-east – via a new tunnel under the city. ●

Quiz



- Brisbane hospitality group Ghanem has opened its first Melbourne venue on Flinders Lane. What is it called?
- Which *Seinfeld* actor went on to star in the sitcom *Veep*?
- How many service occasions did Cohealth deliver across Melbourne in the past year, according to its FY25 Impact Report?
- Nauru was formerly known by what name?
- The character Freddy Krueger first appeared in which horror film?
- Which major CBD landmark reopened after more than three years of closure due to Metro Tunnel works?
- John Bonham is best remembered as the drummer for which English band?
- What is the birth name of actress Dakota Fanning (pictured)?
- What is the name of Melbourne's newest arts and technology festival, expected to attract 400,000 people across 11 days?
- Who is the only US president to have resigned from office?
- Which historic Melbourne hotel is being redeveloped into a \$200 million office tower while preserving its heritage façade?
- What is the name of the \$1.7 billion development approved at Queen Victoria Market, promising 2,200 new residences and 1.8 hectares of green space?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

- Blackbird 2, Julia Louis-Dreyfus
- Never 10, Richard Nixon 11, Hotel Lindrum 12, Gurrrowa Place
- 526,500 service occasions 4, Pleasant Island 5, *A Nightmare On Elm Street*
- Campbell Arcade 7, Led Zeppelin 8, Hannah Dakota Fanning 9, Now or Never 10, Richard Nixon 11, Hotel Lindrum 12, Gurrrowa Place

5x5

No. 317

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

R		A		H
	M		E	
G		U		A
	T		A	
L		E		S

SOLUTIONS

REACH, EMCEE, GOUDA, ATTAR, LEERS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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October, 2025

Sudoku

No. 052

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

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Ireland

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- BANSHEE
- BELFAST
- BLARNEY
- COUNTY
- CÚ CHULAINN
- DUBLIN
- EIRE
- GAELIC
- GUINNESS

- HIBERNIA
- JOYCE
- KELLS
- NEWGRANGE
- SHAMROCK
- TUATHA
- ULSTER
- WHISKEY

Secret message: The Emerald Isle

Crossword

No. 052

ACROSS

- To the power of three (5)
- Life forms (9)
- Scoundrels (7)
- Of a number (7)
- Waterer (9)
- Workshop machine (5)
- Depressants (7)
- Fears (7)
- Extra motorcycle seat (7)
- Fall (7)
- Semiconductor (5)
- Stone age (9)
- Scientist (7)
- Feeling (7)
- Distributes (9)
- Snoozes (5)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9								10						
11										12				
13							14		15				16	
17				18					19		20			21
22		23				24		25						
26									27					
28													29	

DOWN

- Held (7)
- Scattered over (9)
- Lag behind (7)
- Beginning (5)
- Produced (9)
- More dextrous (7)
- Swagger (5)
- Favourable outcome (7)
- Best features (9)
- Led astray (7)
- Fissure (7)
- Long odds winner (7)
- Wife of a duke (7)
- Harbingers (5)
- Fertile spot (5)

SOLUTION

S	L	I	S	E	R	S	E	S	N	E	A	S	I	O
S	O	E	I	H	O	N	E							
S	L	A	T	S	N	E	S	I	S	I	H	S	H	O
H	E	N	A	M	U									
O	I	L	I	O	E	N	E							
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尽管被指“政治接管”，Residents 3000 并未“分崩离析”

墨尔本市议员拉斐尔·卡米洛 (Rafael Camillo) 正处于居民组织 Residents 3000 内部激烈争议的中心。一位委员会成员指控他将该组织政治化，并借此推进其个人议程。

Jon Fleetwood

在9月11日发给 Residents 3000 成员和订阅者的一封措辞激烈的电子邮件中，长期担任秘书的梅尔·威利斯 (Merle Willis) 宣称，该组织已遭到卡米洛议员、副会长苏·桑德斯 (Sue Saunders) 及其支持者的“政治接管”。她表示，该组织在过去几个月里变得“令人无法接受地敌对”，不再代表邮编 3000 区社区的最佳利益。

“Residents 3000 是一个代表邮编 3000 居民的社区组织。然而，它已过度被拉斐尔·卡米洛议员及其委员会中的支持者所主导、控制和引导，服务于其个人与政治目的，”威利斯在邮件中写道。

她呼吁卡米洛辞去会长一职，理由是他领导该组织与其市议员身份存在冲突。她还

敦促桑德斯“体面地退休”副会长职务，让协会“重新调整方向”。

9月15日，桑德斯向成员发出题为“Residents 3000 并未分崩离析”的邮件作为回应，指控威利斯“非法”控制了组织的社交媒体账户，并更改密码使只有她能发帖。

“她违反了当时《法案》和《章程规则》下的职责，并从那时起对会长拉斐尔·卡米洛、苏·桑德斯以及委员会成员发动了一场孤身持久战，”桑德斯表示。

“这些只是梅尔个人的看法，并不代表 Residents 3000 委员会的意见或态度。”但威利斯声称，几位委员会成员想辞职，却“害怕发声，担心自己成为下一个被攻击的目标”。

“苏珊·桑德斯写得好像委员会成员是团结一致的，但事实并非如此，”威利斯表示。

“一些委员会成员正在考虑辞职，另一些则无意再次参选。这种情况只是不断重复的恶性循环，把优秀的人赶出委员会，使得始终没有合适的竞争者来替代拉斐尔或苏珊。”

然而，几位委员会内部消息人士告诉 CBD News，该组织在反对威利斯单方面掌控通讯方面是团结一致的，并在7月通过一项决议，要求多位委员会成员共同管理通讯权限。

墨尔本市拟减少抗议活动带来的干扰

墨尔本市希望减少每周抗议活动对城市造成的干扰。然而，专家警告称，必须保护和和平集会的权利。



Jon Fleetwood

在其《2025-2029年市议会草案计划》中，墨尔本市提议在各级政府间推动协作审查，以建立一个框架，在保障抗议权利的同时，减少对城市运作的干扰，并维护社区的安全环境。

该提议是在过去两年内，每逢周日在市中心举行的亲巴勒斯坦游行之后提出的。此外，8月31日由新纳粹分子领导的“为澳大利亚而行”游行在与另一场抗议活动交汇后演变成暴力事件。

然而，鉴于相关限制措施正在被考虑中，人权专家强调墨尔本市必须保护公众的抗议权利。

**人权法律中心 (Human Rights Law Centre) 资深律师大卫·梅希亚-卡纳莱斯

(David Mejia-Canales) **表示：“根据维多利亚人权法，墨尔本市有义务考虑其行为可能对人权产生的影响。”

“各级政府都必须努力保障其管辖范围内所有人享有和平集会的权利，并确保任何对人权的限制都应符合国际与维多利亚人权法。”

此前，州政府曾试图引入类似新南威尔士州的抗议许可制度，但未能成功。

今年8月，反对党警务事务部长大卫·索斯威克 (David Southwick) 试图推动一项法案，改革抗议法律并建立新的登记制度。该法案将赋予维多利亚最高法院阻止某些抗议活动进行的权力。

此外，维州警察总长**迈克·布什 (Mike Bush) **在就任期间曾表示，引入抗议许可制度“没有意义”。

2025年墨尔本时装周：以“真实自我”引领全城

随着2025年墨尔本时装周 (Melbourne Fashion Week, M/FW) 将于10月20日至26日回归，墨尔本正为一场为期一周的风格、创意与社区的盛宴做好准备。



Sean Car

本届时装周以“真实自我 (Come As You Are)”为主题，节目涵盖大胆的走秀、引人深思的对谈、展览和快闪活动，遍布全城，进一步巩固墨尔本作为澳大利亚时尚之都的地位。

超过600位设计师和零售商将参与超过100场免费和售票活动，预计创造超过1000个工作岗位，并聚焦本地人才。参与者中，超过85% (包括设计师、造型师、模特、学生和零售商) 均来自墨尔本本地。

墨尔本市代理市长**罗希娜·坎贝尔 (Roshena Campbell) **表示，该活动将是本年度墨尔本最重要的文化亮点之一。

“欢迎所有人，最重要的是——做真实的自己 (Come As You Are)，”她说，“墨尔本将进一步巩固其作为澳大利亚时尚与零售之都的地位，借助大胆新颖的走秀场地，聚光灯将聚焦本地设计师、工艺师与创意人士。”

时装周将再次成为本次节庆的核心，选址墨尔本最具特色的场地。

开幕之夜 (10月20日) 将在全新开业的1

号墨尔本酒店 (1 Hotel Melbourne) 举办，展现包括Gammin Threads、Kanindal以及Yarrenyty Arltere Artists等原住民设计师的作品。

10月21日，“奢味之夜 (Opulent Tastes)”将在意大利美食中心il Mercato Centrale将高级定制服与美食融合。

10月22日，时尚与音乐将在**南岸的墨尔本音乐厅 (Melbourne Recital Centre) **碰撞交汇。

10月23日，活动将回到Little Bourke St，由Emporium Melbourne呈现，展出Aje Studio、Et Al、Husk和Oroton的系列。

10月24日，来自RMIT、Holmesglen、Whitehouse、LCI 和 Box Hill Institute 的学生设计师将在Kensington的Younghusband登台亮相。

闭幕秀 (10月26日) 将在101 Collins St 举行，展出包括Erik Yvon、Karlaidlaw 和 Lucinda Babi 等当代设计师的作品。



“幽灵学院”：澳大利亚与移民劳工关系的映照

墨尔本拥有超过 23 万名国际学生，来自约 175 个国家。这座城市是全球创新、艺术和多元社区的中心，正是这些特质使其成为无数人向往的地方。

这些“幽灵学院”存在于澳大利亚所有主要城市，其普遍性反映出澳大利亚在处理移民劳工关系方面的一个更为阴暗的现实。

在澳大利亚，国际学生就读职业教育课程的人数，从2016年的116,651人增长至2025年的262,955人。

这些教育提供者提供各类文凭和证书课程，费用通常都在几千澳元以上。根据联邦海外学生教育机构及课程注册名录 (CRICOS)，仅维多利亚州就有 573 所此类教育机构在运营。

然而，这些证书的含金量及其在澳洲社会中的真正价值正受到质疑。

悉尼大学社会学与犯罪学副教授萨尔瓦托雷·巴博内斯 (Dr. Salvatore Babones) 指出了这些职业教育机构与移民劳工之间的剥削性关系：

“如果这些学历和教育机构确实有价值，我们会看到来自一些相对富裕的非英语国家的学生大量就读，比如日本、韩国、中东或泰国。但我们没有看到这样的趋势，”

“涌入这些机构的学生主要来自全球最贫困国家。”

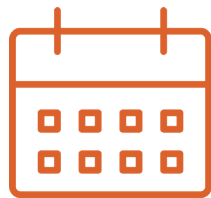
Dermot O'Brien

然而，在主要大学之外，有相当数量的职业技能培训机构，其存在似乎只是为了利用澳大利亚现行学生签证制度的漏洞。

仅在墨尔本市中心 (CBD) 就有超过 50 所学院、机构或学术单位，它们隐藏在你从未注意的建筑中，教室空荡荡的，仿佛是隐形存在。

这些被称为“幽灵学院 (ghost colleges)”的地方，表面上看似合法的职业教育机构，实际上学生几乎都是在网上注册，几乎没有出勤检查，课程多以 Word 文档形式进行教学。

WHAT'S ON October



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



EDDY CURRENT SUPPRESSION RING LIVE

Legendary garage rockers Eddy Current Suppression Ring return for a rare free Melbourne show, joined by NYC's Edan and genre-blurring duo Wrong Way Up.

Fed Square

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER, 7PM – 10.30PM



CRAFTERNOON AT METRO TUNNEL HQ

Drop by Metro Tunnel HQ for school holiday fun with creative crafts, Metro Tunnel facts, colourful colouring sheets, and giveaways. No booking needed – just come and enjoy!

Metro Tunnel HQ, 125–133 Swanston St

TUES 30 SEPTEMBER, 10.30AM – 3.30PM



MELBOURNE FASHION WEEK

Celebrate fashion, creativity, and culture at Melbourne Fashion Week with runway shows, talks, exhibitions, and workshops. No dress code – just bold, limitless self-expression all week long.

Melbourne

20 – 26 OCTOBER, ALL DAY



MIFF ENCORES

Enjoy award-winning films from the 73rd Melbourne International Film Festival in this ACMI-curated encore series – a rare chance to see acclaimed titles you may have missed in August.

ACMI Cinemas, Fed Square

10 – 12 OCTOBER, 7PM – 9PM



SCOTS' LUNCHEBREAK

Stop the clock for a reflective break with Scots' LunchBreak. Brief Bible teaching, relaxed vibes, and free barista coffee.

scotschurch.com/lunchbreak

Scots' Church – Cnr Collins/Russell St

THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER, 12.30PM



GRAND FINAL LONG WEEKEND AT QUEEN VIC MARKET

Enjoy Grand Final fun at Queen Vic Market with footy games, player meet-and-greets, live entertainment, giveaways, and delicious food!

Queen Victoria Market

23 SEP – 2 OCTOBER, 10AM – 2PM



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

UNTIL 6 OCTOBER, 8AM – 8PM

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