



**New Trader  
Shed tops  
out at QVM**

Queen Victoria Market CEO Matt Elliott (second left), Lord Mayor Nick Reece (centre left) and Cr Olivia Ball (centre right) gathered alongside workers atop the market's new three-storey Trader Shed on October 27 to celebrate the structure's topping out – another significant milestone in the market's renewal. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

## City of Melbourne pushes back on State's plan to mandate work-from-home rights

“The City of Melbourne has formally come out against the Victorian Government's plan to legislate a right for employees to work from home two days a week, warning that the move could hurt the city's fragile post-pandemic recovery.”

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



In a nine to two vote on October 21, councillors supported a motion moved by Cr Rafael Camillo and seconded by Cr Philip Le Liu urging Premier Jacinta Allan to abandon the proposal and preserve the current system of negotiated workplace flexibility. The motion was also backed by Lord Mayor Nick Reece.

“Melbourne comes alive through its people,” Cr Camillo said. “Our city thrives when people are here, connecting, collaborating, and supporting local business. Flexibility should be about choice – something that's worked out between employers and employees, not imposed through a blanket rule.”

The motion notes that the government's plan could “adversely impact Melbourne's CBD through a future increase in office vacancy rates, a decline in city activation and negative impacts on small businesses who rely on foot traffic.”

It further argues that “flexibility in the workplace is best achieved through negotiation between employers and employees”, warning that a “one-size-fits-all mandate” would add bureaucracy and undercut the diversity of Victoria's industries.

The resolution calls on the State to focus instead on “policies which seek to build confidence, attract investment and drive economic activity,” saying that mandated work-from-home rights would place Melbourne at a competitive disadvantage nationally and internationally.

Cr Camillo said the council's vote reflected the concerns of businesses, landlords and the hospitality sector.

“I've been listening to the business community, who've told us their concerns,” he said. “Empty offices mean

*Continued on page 8.*

PLANNING, PAGE 03

### Greenline receives fresh federal funding

HOMELESSNESS, PAGE 07

### Call for churches to help combat homelessness

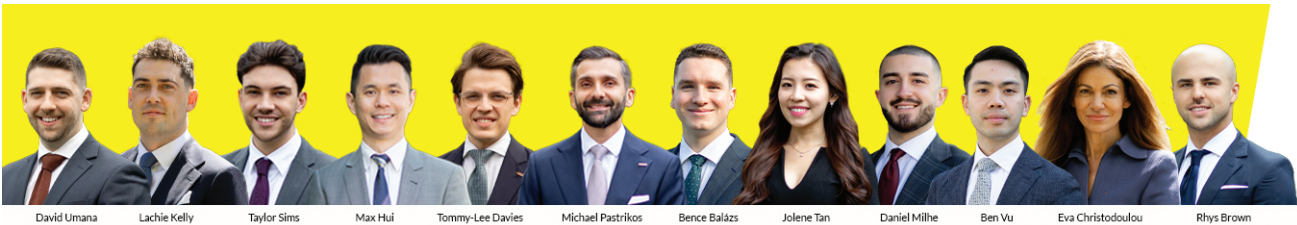
SAFETY & SECURITY, PAGE 11

### Council calls for stronger action on extremism



### Melbourne may have its very own “off-Broadway” with new Spiegel Haus

Serial entrepreneur and filmmaker Christopher Mitchell is the man behind a soon-to-open Spiegelhaus on the rooftop of Golden Square Car Park on Lonsdale St.



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CONTACT

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

EDITOR  
Sean Car

PUBLISHER

Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd  
ABN: 57 623 558 725

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Residents concerned over eight-storey  
office proposal in Exploration Lane

CBD residents have voiced concern over a proposed eight-storey development, warning that they were not consulted and that the project risks undermining the character and liveability of one of Melbourne’s most historically significant precincts.

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



The development is planned for 9-11 Exploration Lane, where a 34-storey “Slender Tower” hotel project was once approved. However, the current developer, Exploration Lane Developments Pty Ltd, is now seeking to construct an eight-storey office and retail building. President of EastEnders, Dr Stan Capp, said residents were disappointed by the lack of consultation. “It was approved with no consultation and, although it is a better outcome than the 30-plus-storey permit previously approved, it reveals a lack of recognition of the City of Melbourne’s own policies relating to planning in laneways and heritage,” he said. According to the council, the proposal was exempt from public notice under the relevant planning controls, and the application was not required to be advertised. Dr Capp noted that the council had previously rejected a single-storey development in the area that would have added to the precinct’s diversity. “The eight-storey approved development is capable of being commented upon, and in



my view, we should do so,” he said. Neighbouring cottages at 120-122 Little Lonsdale St, listed on the Heritage Places Inventory, are described as rare examples of mid-Victorian housing in the central city. In a submission to the council, EastEnders said the planned 30.9-metre blank wall adjoining these homes would “visually dominate” the heritage buildings and diminish the precinct’s cultural identity. The group warned that approving the project would “set a dangerous precedent” for Melbourne’s laneway network by permitting blank walls, minimal activation and heritage consideration. “It provides inadequate activation, poor public realm interface, and entrenches

Exploration Lane as a back-of-house service space,” the submission read. “It leaves flood risk unresolved and delivers only minimal sustainability.” EastEnders also raised concerns for the nearby former Exploration Hotel at 116-118 Little Lonsdale St, saying the new tower would overshadow the site and erode its contribution to a streetscape recognised for its early residential scale. According to the objection, the development offers only 40 per cent active frontage, well below the 80 per cent expected within the Hoddle Grid. The proposed retail space of just 23 sqms was also deemed too small to be commercially viable. The group warned that inactive façades and service entries would create “a hostile and unsafe environment”, contrary to the council’s urban design and crime prevention guidelines. With all loading and waste collection proposed via Exploration Lane, residents argued the laneway was already too narrow to safely accommodate additional vehicle movements. The site also lies within a flood zone, and while the finished floor levels have been raised, the lobby entrance remains vulnerable to flooding. EastEnders has called for the council to review the planning permit. The residents group argues that the applicant should be required to substantially redesign the proposal to provide at least 80 per cent genuine activation and weather protection and to respect the scale, massing, and heritage attributes of the area. Additionally, its members would like for flood safety to be comprehensively addressed and for the development to deliver best-practice sustainability outcomes consistent with the council’s declared climate commitments. ●

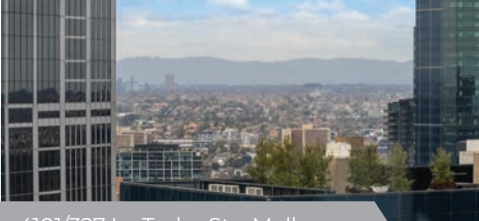
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# Greenline receives fresh federal funding

The Albanese Government has announced a further \$4.4 million for the City of Melbourne's flagship Greenline Project, delivering renewed confidence in the long-awaited Yarra River revitalisation – and fresh clarity on how the new funds will be used.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Announced by Minister for Infrastructure Catherine King on October 21, the funding forms part of more than \$7 million allocated to Melbourne councils under the Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program (UPPP).

In a press release following the announcement, the federal government said the \$4.4 million would go towards "investigating how to reinvigorate" phase two of Greenline between Princes Bridge and Queens Bridge.

But the City of Melbourne has since confirmed the latest round of funding will go towards developing detailed plans for the Birrarung Riverfront Activation Precinct – the next stage of Greenline connecting Federation Wharf, Flinders Walk, the Banana Alley Vaults, Sandridge Bridge, Custom Square, the Turning Basin and Enterprise Park.

The grant will enable the council to collaborate with government, business, Indigenous groups and the community to draft precinct plans, progress key designs, and establish business cases for future investment and delivery.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece welcomed the funding, describing it as a major boost to the city's flagship waterfront project.

"This latest round of federal funding is a vote of confidence in the Greenline Project, and in Melbourne's future," Cr Reece said.

"The grant will allow the City of Melbourne to plan for the delivery of the next stretch of Greenline, linking Federation Wharf to the historic Banana Alley Vaults and Turning Basin."

"The Birrarung Marr stage will be complete before Christmas – a gift to Melbourne's riverfront and a celebration of our Garden City vision."

Minister King said the funding recognised the role of projects like Greenline in transforming Australian cities.

"Our cities are growing. Projects like Greenline show how innovative precincts can meet the needs of residents while appealing to tourists and locals alike," she said.

Federal Member for Melbourne Sarah Witty said the project would help breathe new life into the city's riverfront.

"Greenline will transform underused spaces along the Yarra into vibrant public assets that attract more visitors," Ms Witty said. "This next phase of planning and activation will bring key partners together to help realise that vision."

The new funding builds on the \$20 million committed by the Albanese Government in 2022 to help deliver the first stage of Greenline – a four-kilometre network of boardwalks, parks and promenades along the Yarra River's north bank.

Councillors have previously clashed over whether to maintain funding for the remainder of the project. In May, Cr Phillip Le Liu tabled a motion proposing that the council withdraw from Greenline by year's end unless the state or federal governments committed additional funding. His motion was voted down seven to two. Cr Le Liu argued that the council should not "gamble" on projects reliant on unfunded commitments, while others – including Cr Dr Olivia Ball – said abandoning Greenline would waste years of investment and planning.

Following a turbulent year in which the council redirected \$14.6 million from its Greenline budget to other projects, the latest contribution signals renewed federal confidence in the project's future.

With the Birrarung Marr section set to open before Christmas, attention will soon turn to delivering the next stretch – reimagining one of Melbourne's most historically significant riverfront corridors. ●



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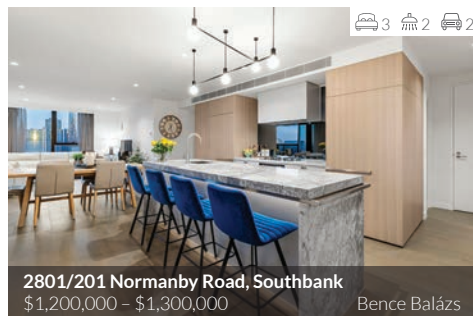
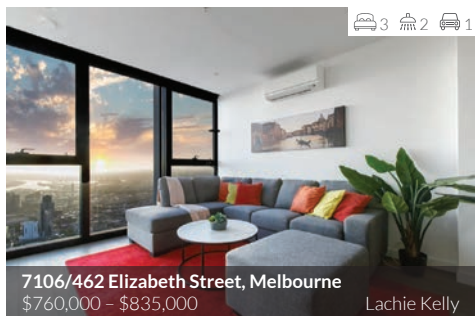
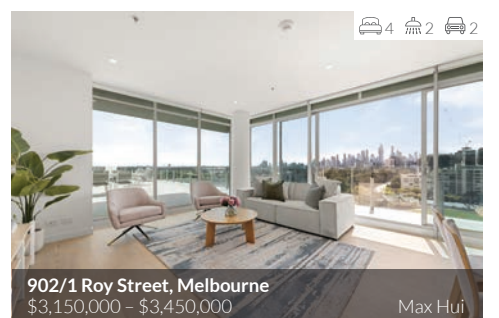
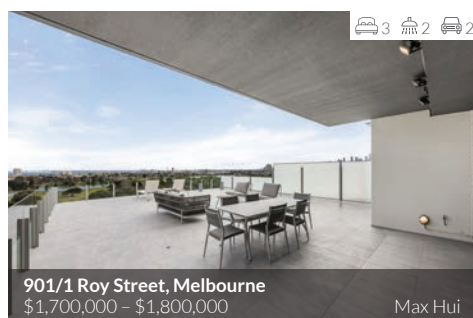
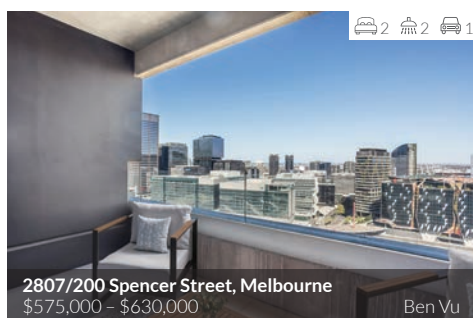
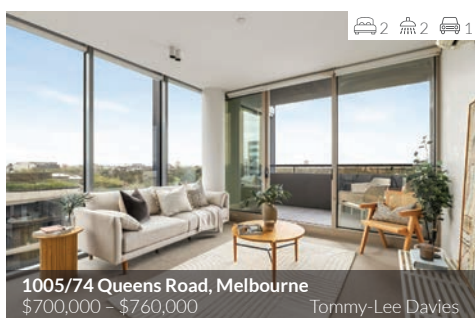


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# Head of safety and cleaning portfolio defends council’s approach to community safety

“City of Melbourne Cr Rafael Camillo has doubled down on the council’s commitment to community safety, as concerns continue to grow among Melbourne’s homeless community.”

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



The rollout of the council’s Community Safety Officer Program and Safe City Camera Network has come under scrutiny from the Homeless Persons Union, community health services and legal organisations. However, local businesses and residents have been supportive of the programs, and Cr Camillo argues that everyone in the city has the right to feel safe.

“There is no denying crime is on the rise in Melbourne, and we need to do more about this,” he said. “That’s why initiatives like our Community Safety Officer Program and the expansion of our Safe City Camera Network are so important.”

Eleven Community Safety Officers will be on the ground by the end of October. They have replaced two contracted security guards and will have the authority to make arrests for breaches of local laws.



Cr Camillo said they will focus on creating a safe and inclusive environment for all Melburnians.

“Our Community Safety Team’s primary focus is to help our whole community feel safe and supported,” he said. “A key part of this is connecting vulnerable people with services and pathways to improve their wellbeing and avoid the justice system.”

“Importantly, our Community Safety Officers will complement existing support mechanisms council has in place for those who need it most – from homelessness support such as Make Room, to our Daily Support Team, Melbourne City Mission and

others.”

The council’s authorised officers have undergone extensive training, including trauma-informed engagement, mental health and substance use awareness, cultural safety, and family and gendered violence prevention.

Cr Camillo also noted that the recent security guard trial demonstrated the benefits of an increased on-street safety presence, with officers reporting a reduction in public begging and street drinking, and more than 50 individuals referred to support agencies.

However, at the October 21 Future

Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, there was a large number of submissions speaking against the trial and the increased security presence.

A number of audio recordings were played in which homeless people shared their experiences in Melbourne and the impact the security guard trial has had.

One woman, who became homeless after losing her 13-year-old daughter, said she had several bad experiences with guards.

“I’ve had plenty of interactions with the security guards of Melbourne that walk around with the council,” she said. “Only on Saturday just gone, they actually followed me most of the day. Anywhere that I stopped, they would tell me to move on.”

“I’d just like them to know that I’m not a drug addict, I’m not mentally ill, I’m just a woman who’s had a couple of bad bouts ... it makes me feel like I’m not allowed to exist. I’m just physically not allowed to be anywhere.”

Fitzroy Legal Service policy, advocacy and community engagement director, Verena Tan, called on the council to suspend the security and safety officers in the CBD.

“In your own homelessness strategy, council created an ambitious plan to end homelessness in the city,” she said.

However, she believes the current approach doesn’t align with Melbourne’s vision to end homelessness, but rather “criminalises poverty” by targeting begging and public drunkenness.

Moving forward, Ms Tan would like to see the council revise its approach to city safety and properly “consult” and “engage” with services and people with lived experience to provide a preventative, health-based response and take a people-centred approach. ●



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# Philip Le Liu: A steady hand at Town Hall

“  
Now in his third term on the City of Melbourne council, Cr Philip Le Liu has become one of the council’s more experienced and pragmatic voices. Known for his financial discipline, Cr Le Liu’s journey to Town Hall has been anything but conventional.”  
”

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



Before entering local government, Cr Le Liu worked as a management consultant but found the corporate world “not fulfilling enough”. Seeking something more meaningful, he spent time in China launching an education technology start-up and working with the Australia-China Youth Association, a not-for-profit organisation that supported thousands of Australian international students studying in China. On his return to Melbourne, Cr Le Liu made an unlikely move into politics, standing as the Liberal candidate for the seat of Melbourne in the 2016 federal election, which was a contest few were willing to take on against Adam Bandt. However, Cr Le Liu punched above his

weight and defied expectations, becoming the first Liberal candidate to outpoll Labor on primary votes in the electorate’s history. His performance caught the attention of the late long-serving councillor Ken Ong, who invited him to join his council ticket. “Without Ken Ong and his support, I wouldn’t be here,” Cr Le Liu said. “He gave me my start, and I’m very grateful for that.” Since being elected, Cr Le Liu has built a reputation for his focus on responsible financial management. During his previous term, as head of the finance portfolio under former Lord Mayor Sally Capp, he oversaw four budgets and pushed the council to return to surplus. “It’s not sexy,” he said. “But getting the City of Melbourne back in the black was crucial. We couldn’t just keep spending like before – we had to fix our financial position.” However, there is still a long way to go, according to Cr Le Liu, who said the biggest challenge the council now faced was completing the initiatives it had promised, drawing attention to the redevelopment of Queen Victoria Market and the Greenline project. “We have this habit of launching new initiatives before completing the old ones,” he said. “It’s time to consolidate, not just create.” This term, Cr Le Liu has taken on a new challenge as head of the creative and arts portfolio, which he volunteered to do following a proposed restructure that would have merged arts with the tourism and events portfolio. “Arts deserves its own champion,” he said. “Melbourne is a city defined by its arts and culture. We can’t treat it as an afterthought.” While he doesn’t consider himself an artist, Cr Le Liu’s commitment stems from a belief that strong cultural policy is essential to Melbourne’s identity. “I gave up other portfolio opportunities



COUNCILLOR PROFILE

to take it on,” he said. “Someone needed to stand up for it.” Cr Le Liu’s passion for standing up for what he believes in isn’t new. Earlier in his council career, he advocated for international students, believing they had been overlooked. “When I started, there was no real budget or recognition for international students,” he said. “After four years, we’d created programs, internships and proper engagement. We changed the culture within council to include them in everything we do.” From EY to Town Hall, Cr Le Liu has donned many hats, but at the heart of all his ventures has been a desire to make long-lasting change and to always be a voice of reason. ●

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### QUICK TIPS FOR A HAPPY INDOOR CAT

- **Vertical space:** Cat trees, shelves or window perches let cats climb and observe.
- **Playtime:** Wand toys, laser pointers, or puzzle feeders satisfy hunting instincts.
- **Safe outdoors:** Catio enclosures or harnesses let cats enjoy fresh air without risk.
- **Positive reinforcement:** Use treats and toys to help cats explore new spaces confidently.
- **Gradual transition:** Increase indoor time slowly, especially for outdoor-loving cats.

Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/newcatrules](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/newcatrules) for more information.

**If your cat loves to stalk socks or pounce on invisible prey, that same instinct can spell danger outdoors. From October 2025, new rules in the City of Melbourne will help protect both cats and native wildlife.**

Cats will need to stay on their owner's property from 6 pm to 8 am and avoid sensitive areas such as rivers, waterways and major parks unless safely leashed or in a carrier.

The changes were introduced in conjunction with the City of Melbourne's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-29, which guides responsible pet ownership across the city. Together, they form part of a long-term effort to balance animal welfare with the protection of native species.

These measures aren't about restriction – they're about keeping cats safer and healthier. Indoor cats are less likely to be injured, pick up disease or go missing, and they tend to live longer.

Jade Currie, Animal Behaviour Consultant at the Lost Dogs' Home, says indoor life can be just as rewarding with a few smart adjustments:

"Provide vertical spaces, hiding spots, play opportunities and window perches – enrichment lets cats express natural behaviours and reduces stress." She adds that the key is patience and positivity.

"Introduce new experiences slowly and associate them with good things – treats, toys and praise. That way, cats feel safe, curious and confident in their indoor world."

Cr Dr Olivia Ball, Deputy Lord Mayor and portfolio holder for Environment, stresses why the changes are necessary:

"Cats can't help having a strong hunting instinct, day and night, no matter how much we love and feed them. But our native wildlife hasn't evolved to deal with feline predators, and unfortunately, cats have done immeasurable damage since being introduced to Australian ecosystems."

She also reassures owners: "The great majority of cat owners in the City of Melbourne already keep their cat inside all the time. For the rest, who are used to roaming, this is a big change, but it's vitally important. Please reach out for information and advice on how to smooth the transition and keep your cat happy and healthy indoors."

The City of Melbourne currently provides guides and practical support, including low-cost desexing and vet checks, to help owners adapt to the new rules. This is in addition to providing free registration for all cats and dogs for the next registration period (April 2026 to April 2027).

Containment isn't just about rules or restrictions: keeping cats safe at home protects wildlife – and gives our feline friends the long, comfortable lives they deserve.



## Melbourne's guide to affordable food



**Melbourne is famous for its cafés, markets, and world-class dining, but not everyone in our city can easily put a healthy meal on the table. The rising cost of living and financial pressures mean more people are skipping meals or relying on food relief services.**

The City of Melbourne is stepping up to make a real difference. The Community Food Guide and Map is a handy tool to help anyone find free or low-cost meals, food banks, community gardens, and cooking classes in their neighbourhood.

Programs like programs like Open Table's Local Lunch Club at Kathleen Syme Library bring people together over a free vegetarian meal made from donated ingredients. It is not just about food, there is live music, friendly faces, and a chance to learn about local community services. Similarly, our FareShare Freezer located at the library provides nutritious prepared meals to anyone in need, etc provides pre-prepared, nutritious meals to anyone in need, with more than 10,000 meals shared since July 2024.

For fresh, affordable produce, residents can visit the Community Grocer in Carlton or the Kensington Community Fresh Food Market.

If you would like to grow your own vegetables, the city supports communal gardens like the Kensington Stockyard Food Garden and the FoodCubes at Kathleen Syme Library.

Residents of all ages can join Grow Together workshops, learning practical gardening skills to grow your own produce, while connecting etc community. You can also pick up free seasonal seeds or participate in the Gardens for Wildlife program, growing native plants that are good for cooking and local wildlife.

Through the Food City 2024-34 Policy, we are working with local groups and the food industry to create a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food system, so no one has to choose between paying bills and feeding their family.

### AFFORDABLE FOOD IN MELBOURNE AT A GLANCE

- **Community Food Guide & Map** – Find community meals, food banks and affordable groceries near you.
- **Local Lunch Club** – Free monthly meal provided by Open Table and live music at Kathleen Syme Library.
- **FareShare Meals** – Free pre-packaged meals are currently available at Kathleen Syme library.
- **Local markets** – Fresh, low-cost produce at the Community Grocer in Carlton and Fresh Food Market in Kensington.
- **Grow Together Workshops** – Learn to grow your own fruit and veggies sustainably.

Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/news](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/news) and search 'affordable food' to find out more.

# Cohealth to end GP services at three Melbourne clinics amid funding crisis

Community health provider Cohealth has announced it will end GP services at its Collingwood, Fitzroy, and Kensington sites in December 2025, with the Collingwood clinic at 365 Hoddle St set to close completely by mid-2026.

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



The not-for-profit organisation, which provides essential healthcare to thousands of vulnerable Victorians, said the move was a last resort after years of unsustainable funding and rising operational pressures.

Cohealth is now appealing for federal government support to help maintain its GP services, which cater to more than 12,500 Victorians experiencing homelessness, trauma, mental illness, chronic disease, or family violence.

According to the organisation, the current Medicare funding model fails to reflect the complex, time-intensive, and coordinated nature of the care required by its clients.

"The current Medicare funding model does not support the way our GPs work," Cohealth said in a statement. "Despite our best efforts to make Medicare work, it simply does not cover the cost of care."

Cohealth chief executive Nicole Bartholomeusz said the decision to wind back services had been "extraordinarily difficult" but "unavoidable."

"These GP services have been part of the fabric of Collingwood, Fitzroy and Kensington for decades, and we

know the impact will be deeply felt," Ms Bartholomeusz said.

"This decision reflects multiple, complex pressures, including decades of underinvestment, ageing infrastructure, and a funding model that doesn't match the reality of the need or the type of care required."

She said the withdrawal of GP services would have significant flow-on effects for the broader health system.

"We are funded for standard care, but we're servicing extraordinary need," she said. "Every day, our GPs are delivering complex, person-centred care for vulnerable Victorians who face some of the greatest barriers to health."

The closure are expected to place further strain on hospital emergency departments and other public health services as patients struggle to find affordable, ongoing care.

CBD News spoke with Cohealth patient Xantia Stavely, following the announcement of the closure of the clinics.

Ms Stavely is a young Aboriginal woman with a disability, history of drug use, trauma, mental and physical health conditions and living in homeless accommodation. Cohealth was the first service that provided her with non-judgmental care.

She said that at other clinics she was told that there was nothing they could do to help, was refused scans and was advised that her condition was "just anxiety".

However, the doctors at Cohealth took the time to help Ms Stavely and to determine that she was suffering from a range of chronic illnesses, including chronic fatigue.

"To have a dedicated service who understands my complex history, has cultural awareness, and awareness of the financial and social difficulties of the community ... is what makes it a significantly important service different from any other, and should be celebrated and protected," she said. ●

# CBD resident urges council to hold faith-based organisations accountable in combating homelessness

Jake Land is a CBD resident and a former council candidate and adult store proprietor. However, now in retirement, he has shifted his energy into a campaign calling for churches in Melbourne to do more to address the homelessness crisis.

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



Mr Land has called on the City of Melbourne to put "serious pressure" on churches to open their facilities and land to support people sleeping rough in the CBD.

Mr Land said that while community organisations such as The Salvation Army played a vital role, many churches were "failing to meet their moral obligations" when it came to helping the city's most vulnerable.

"Throughout history, it's always been the church's responsibility to look after the poor," Mr Land told CBD News. "The Bible's very clear on that. I'm not a religious person myself, but I think it's really the council's job to remind them of those obligations."

He believes that, as part of the City of Melbourne's safety push, there must be greater accountability for faith-based organisations that benefit from public funding and tax exemptions.

Churches are generally exempt from paying council rates in the City of Melbourne because they are considered charitable or religious institutions.

Mr Land suggested that sites such as St Paul's Cathedral could be repurposed to



provide temporary housing solutions. "They've got a huge piece of land there that could easily be turned into a homeless village – it wouldn't even need to be inside the church," he said.

"These organisations get millions in grants from the government. If they really believe in their mission, they should be doing it without taxpayers footing the bill."

While acknowledging that homelessness is a complex issue, Mr Land said that for a city like Melbourne, the problem should be manageable.

According to the most recent City of Melbourne data, 78 people were identified on the Melbourne By Name list as sleeping rough in the municipality.

"If a handful of churches each opened their doors to ten or fifteen people, we could practically end street homelessness overnight," Mr Land said.

When he mentioned this to the council, he said that he received "evasive responses" from councillors.

"I've asked these questions before and only get political talk," he said. "The council needs to stop passing the buck and start holding churches accountable."

"The Bible doesn't say, 'take government grants and pray for the poor,'" Mr Land added. "It says to look after them – it's time they did." ●



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# Division overshadows Residents 3000 AGM as new committee elected

Tensions were high at the Residents 3000 Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Kelvin Club on October 2, as members gathered to elect a new general committee following weeks of internal controversy.

WORDS BY  
DERMOT O'BRIEN



The meeting took place amid an ongoing feud between president and City of Melbourne councillor Rafael Camillo and former secretary Merle Willis, whose September email to members accused Cr Camillo of orchestrating a "political takeover" of the residents' group.

Ms Willis, who was removed as secretary in August, claimed her dismissal was politically motivated and "not based on the rules of the association". Committee vice-president Sue Saunders denied the allegations, saying the claims were Ms Willis's "alone" and did not reflect the wider committee's position.

Despite the backdrop of conflict, the AGM proceeded with the presentation of annual reports from the president and treasurer before opening the floor to questions. Members raised concerns about transparency, representation and conduct within the group.

"This committee has seen the departure of not one, not two, but three of its members over the past 18 months," one member said. "Will future model rules include a code of conduct?"

Others questioned whether the group adequately represented the city's growing diversity. "Where are the international



students? Where are the younger demographic?" one attendee asked. "If we're going to keep this group strong, we need to make sure Residents 3000 is a force, not a dwindling one."

Cr Camillo reiterated that his role did not present a conflict of interest, stating, "The City of Melbourne has confirmed that my conflict is not material. I don't receive a salary for Residents 3000."

Despite calls for reform and greater accountability, the subsequent election drew frustration from some attendees after it was revealed that 12 nominations had been received for 12 available positions, making the vote a formality. "What is this an election for – just a vote to accept?" one member asked, as murmurs spread through the room.

Some also questioned whether all nominees lived within the 3000 postcode, but the motion to elect was carried.

As tensions eased over post-meeting refreshments, Cr Camillo urged unity. "We are a small group; we have to work together," he told members.

However, others left unconvinced. "Nothing has changed, and nothing will change," one attendee remarked as the evening drew to a close.

With a new committee now in place, the challenge for Residents 3000 will be to restore trust, rebuild engagement, and demonstrate that it can rise above internal divisions to represent the city's residents with one collective voice. ●

# City of Melbourne pushes back on State's plan to mandate work-from-home rights

Continued from page 1.

fewer people in the city and tougher times for the businesses that keep Melbourne prosperous and vibrant. We should be focused on building confidence, attracting investment and keeping Melbourne competitive."

Cr Le Liu said the motion gave the city a clear position on an issue that goes to the heart of Melbourne's recovery.

"This sends a very clear signal that this is the way we want to go," he said. "We represent the closest people to the people and businesses, and many stakeholders have made it very clear that this is something they do not support. Investors have told us they're alarmed by this proposal and have shifted their money to Sydney. When people stop coming to the city and when the city's dead, it's very hard to get it back."

Several councillors echoed concerns that the proposal could discourage office investment and further hollow out weekday activity in the city centre, already burdened by high vacancy rates and slow return-to-office patterns. Cr Owen Guest said legislating work-from-home rights would "hamstring business" at a time when government should be "making things easier, not harder."

"Flexibility is the word," he said. "It is popular, but that doesn't mean we should legislate it. This is a relationship that should be forged between employers and employees."

Cr Gladys Liu also supported the motion, saying governments should not "tell businesses or people what to do."

"Our job is to make sure we have an active, vibrant city," she said. "People can choose to work from home – that's fine – but we don't need government to tell them."

Two councillors opposed the motion

– Labor's Davydd Griffiths and the Greens' Dr Olivia Ball – arguing that legislating the right to work from home would protect employees from power imbalances and increase workforce participation.

"Flexible working arrangements have enabled millions of people, many of them women, to balance caring responsibilities with paid work," Cr Dr Ball said. "It's a win for the environment and the economy."

The motion passed despite public opposition from former council candidate Aaron Moon, who told councillors before the vote that working from home is "a defining feature of the modern workplace" and that opposing it "trivialises" the city's advocacy efforts.

The Allan Government remains firmly committed to its proposal. Earlier this month, it released results from a record-breaking 36,770-response survey showing that 74 per cent of employees rated the right to work from home as "extremely important," and 83 per cent said they were more productive doing so. The Premier said the findings confirmed that "work from home works for families and it's good for the economy."

But at Town Hall, councillors framed their stance as a "line in the sand" moment for Melbourne's future.

After years of talk about retrofitting towers and reviving the city economy – with little visible progress beyond the coming Metro Tunnel stations at Town Hall and State Library – the motion signalled a more assertive approach to advocacy on state policy.

"This is the capital city," Cr Camillo said in closing. "We have a duty to show our constituents our view. Whether the Premier listens or not, we're doing our job. We need to send a strong message to our residents, businesses and investors about our vision for Melbourne." ●

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# Work begins on new CBD community health hub to tackle addiction and disadvantage

Work has officially begun on a new Community Health Hub in Melbourne’s CBD, which the state government says will provide a central access point for treatment, social support and addiction services when it opens in 2026.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Located at 244 Flinders St, the hub is being delivered in partnership with Cohealth, and will bring together medical care, mental health support, counselling, pharmacy services and social programs under one roof. The site will also host a Victorian-first hydromorphone treatment trial, designed to reduce harm by diverting people from the illicit drug market and offering evidence-based alternatives for those living with chronic addiction.

Announcing the start of works on October 15, Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt said the facility would become a safe, inclusive space for some of the city’s most vulnerable residents.

“Every Victorian deserves access to care and support when they need it – and this new Community Health Hub will make that possible for people in the heart of our city who are doing it toughest,” Minister Stitt said.

“This is about giving people a real chance to turn their lives around, with healthcare, treatment and social support all available in one welcoming place.”

The new hub forms part of the state’s \$95



million Statewide Action Plan to reduce drug harm, which was launched last year following the Ken Lay review into Victoria’s approach to drug policy. The review called for a health-based response to addiction – including a supervised injecting facility in the CBD – though the government ultimately ruled that option out.

Instead, it committed \$36.4 million to transform the former Flinders St office building into a community health and wellbeing centre focused on rehabilitation and wraparound care. The redevelopment, managed by the Victorian Health Building Authority and Lendlease, will include consulting rooms, a drop-in kitchen, shower

and laundry facilities, treatment and counselling spaces, and a reception area co-designed with people with lived experience of addiction.

Cohealth, which currently runs medical services at 53 Victoria St as well as at The Salvation Army headquarters at 69 Bourke St, will operate the site in partnership with the government.

The Salvation Army’s Bourke St hub is also now providing medical, nursing and mental health supports, and there is expanded street outreach in the city, Footscray and St Kilda – delivering nearly 7000 harm reduction supports and connecting hundreds of Victorians to life-saving care.

The hydromorphone trial, modelled on similar programs in Canada and Europe, will offer a medically supervised treatment for a small number of participants identified by Cohealth clinicians. Research shows such therapy can lead to significant reductions in illicit drug use and associated harms while improving participants’ overall health, housing and social stability.

The project comes amid growing concern about the city’s drug crisis. The Coroners Court of Victoria recently revealed that 584 Victorians died from overdose in 2024 – the highest rate in a decade. Health advocates, including the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF), have urged the government to introduce a long-term alcohol and drug strategy, warning that short-term measures alone will not curb rising deaths.

ADF chief executive Dr Erin Lalor said stronger investment was needed in prevention, education and stigma reduction.

“While the government is progressing some great initiatives through its Statewide Action Plan, our state still lacks a long-term strategy with a dedicated budget behind it,” she said.

The state government maintains that all actions from the Statewide Plan are either completed or under way, including new outreach teams, naloxone vending machines, and the appointment of Victoria’s first Chief Addiction Medicine Adviser, Dr Paul McCartney, to guide policy reform.

Meanwhile, the government has been engaging local businesses, residents and service providers as the new facility takes shape. A CBD Reference Group, first proposed in 2024 to advise on the project’s rollout and related safety issues, was established in May and its work is under way.

With fit-out works now under way, the Flinders Street facility is expected to open in early 2026. ●



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The program was first rolled out in the CBD in 2023, and based on its success, the City of Melbourne has now expanded it across the entire municipality. Since its launch, drivers have clocked up more than 15 million minutes of free parking and saved over \$1.3 million.

The move has received a big thumbs up from the small business community.

"It's a fantastic initiative. A lot of our traders rely on convenience - people stopping on their way to work or school, or making a quick stop after hours," said Sylvia Hungria, President of the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association.

As the owner of a small business herself, Sylvia knows the difference parking can make to a business bottom line.

"Anything that makes it easier for people to support their local traders is a win for our small business economy. The ability to park easily for 15 minutes can be the difference between someone deciding to stop and support a local business, or driving past. It's a simple idea with a big impact," Sylvia Hungria said.

Some locals have really made the most of it. One particularly efficient Melburnian notched up around 1,100 free sessions in a single year, averaging about three quick stops a day.

Keep in mind: you get 15 minutes free parking per EasyPark zone each day. You could use 15 minutes in one area, then 15 in another, but multiple stops in the same zone count toward the same 15-minute daily total.

Melbourne is also making short-stop parking easier with 2-minute 'No Parking' spaces. You can stop in these areas for up to two minutes, provided you stay within three metres of your vehicle. They are ideal for quick pick-ups and drop-offs, such as passengers, bags, or deliveries, and are usually placed as the first space after intersections in the central city, making them easy to spot and use.

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# Council calls for stronger action on extremism following violent city protests

The City of Melbourne has unanimously backed a motion calling on the Victorian Government to fast-track the implementation of recommendations from the state's 2022 Inquiry into Extremism, amid growing concern over violent demonstrations in the CBD.

WORDS BY  
DERMOT O'BRIEN



The motion, moved by Cr Dr Olivia Ball and seconded by Cr Philip Le Liu, was passed at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on October 21 following a spate of extremist activity in the city – including a violent anti-immigration protest on August 31 and an attack by self-described neo-Nazis on a First Nations assembly at Camp Sovereignty in Kings Domain days later.

The committee's vote reaffirmed the council's condemnation of all forms of violence, intimidation and racism and urged state authorities to "redouble" efforts to curb the rise of extremist ideologies.

"This motion seeks to call on the state government to redouble its efforts to implement the recommendations of its own inquiry, and for us at local government to think about our role – what we can do to build social cohesion and lessen the risks and vulnerabilities to radicalisation of any type," Cr Dr Ball said.

The 2022 parliamentary inquiry, which was the first of its kind in Australia, found that extremism was not simply a law enforcement issue but a "whole of society" challenge that required governments, communities and institutions to work together to build social cohesion and strengthen democratic values.

According to Cr Dr Ball, the government had only fully implemented two of the inquiry's 12 recommendations – despite accepting most either "in principle" or in full. Those implemented include the banning of the Nazi salute and the passage of the Anti-Vilification Bill 2025, while other recommendations, such as supporting community-based prevention programs and strengthening education, remain unfulfilled.

The council's motion specifically calls for the Lord Mayor and CEO to write to the Premier and Attorney-General urging them to prioritise the completion of all recommendations, and for management to develop evidence-based local actions to support social cohesion and anti-racism education.

Cr Dr Ball said that young people were

particularly vulnerable to extremist narratives, especially those facing social isolation or disadvantage.

"Youth workers and social workers have a vital role to play, and this is a realm where local government can be active in engaging with our youth workforce to design risk mitigation strategies," she said.

The motion also highlights the role that councils can play through community-led initiatives, anti-racism campaigns, and deliberative democracy programs that build trust in civic institutions – echoing the inquiry's recommendations for stronger local collaboration with schools, libraries and community organisations.

The motion was prompted in part by testimony from community advocate Milo Parker, who was among those targeted during the attack at Camp Sovereignty earlier this year.

"This happened a kilometre away from where we are right now," Mr Parker told councillors. "It's important to recognise that this extreme behaviour isn't just happening overseas or in other states – it's happening here."

While all councillors supported the motion, several emphasised that extremism was not confined to any single ideology or group.

"It's not actually one side – it's both sides," said Cr Le Liu, who seconded the motion. "Anything called extremism happens on both ends," added Cr Gladys Liu, while Cr Rafael Camillo noted that "whether from the right or the left, extremism is never justified."

The discussion underscored concerns that radicalisation can emerge from a wide range of sources – from online echo chambers and misinformation to economic hardship and social alienation – with experts warning that hate-fuelled movements have become increasingly visible in public spaces since the pandemic.

Cr Dr Ball said the council's role would focus on fostering inclusion and resilience through programs that "build community and trust in civic institutions".

"We know how to do this," she said. "The council already has strong partnerships with community organisations and multicultural networks that can be strengthened to counter division and fear."

The motion passed without opposition, making Melbourne one of the first local governments in Victoria to formally endorse the state inquiry's recommendations and call for their complete implementation.

While no specific initiatives have yet been outlined, council officers have been tasked with preparing a report outlining possible next steps, including education programs, youth engagement strategies, and collaborations with multicultural groups. ●

## Melbourne Boutique Property sees CBD market turn a corner as confidence returns

After a stop-start first half of the year, boutique city specialist Melbourne Boutique Property (MBP) says Melbourne's CBD apartment market is finishing 2025 on a firmer footing, with investor activity lifting and buyer sentiment improving ahead of the Metro Tunnel opening.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



"It was a tough first six months," MBP director Suzie Inglis told CBD News. "People expected it to be stronger at the start of this year and it just wasn't. But now that we've had a couple of interest rate drops and there's a little bit more confidence in the market, we've seen investors from interstate returning as well."

Ms Inglis said the agency had sold several CBD apartments in the past six months to interstate buyers. MBP is also fielding more enquiry following October policy changes reducing the deposit hurdle for some buyers. "The barriers to entry are less. That's brought a bit of buoyancy back in the second half of the year, and I think that should continue into next year."

Even so, she said the city was "always the slowest to recover whenever there's been a down", with lingering perceptions about safety still costing deals.

"It takes a bit of convincing with the city at the moment. I've lost buyers looking at a nice apartment with us on Spring St who then decide to go to South Yarra or Richmond," she said. "The safety issue is a big one – and it's people that don't experience the city often who have that perception. If you're here regularly, you love it. What you see on the news isn't exactly what it's like."

MBP is leaning into the transport narrative as the Metro Tunnel countdown begins.

"The new Metro Tunnel is about to open and that's really going to lift Melbourne to a more sophisticated, cosmopolitan level," Ms Inglis said. "We've got a lot of owners around the stations who've put up with noise and lower rents; they're waiting for it to be open and to see values go up. We don't have a crystal ball, but surely it will help."

On the leasing side, MBP reports a clear return of corporate international renters and office workers wanting proximity to work while keeping amenity for hybrid days. "Historically people wanted to live in the city to be close to the office; that changed during work-from-home. Now we're starting to see the return of that, which is good," Ms Inglis said. "Owners with furnished, executive-level apartments have done really well

and gotten the good rents."

MBP principal Kim Davey said a "generational shift" was reshaping demand within CBD buildings.

"There's now a big difference between the Airbnb buildings, the high-rise style product, and the hidden gems," he said.

"Those hidden gems are rarer and more popular. The regional Monday-to-Friday owners who came up for shows have sold because of land tax and the next generation of CBD dwellers is moving in and discovering just how fantastic the city is with all its hidden gems."

MBP's footprint stretches across the city's laneways and Spring St precinct, with deep ties in select buildings where body corporate relationships and long-term rent rolls generate steady referrals.

"We get a lot through good relationships – committee members referring us to neighbours," Ms Inglis said, pointing to pockets around Guildford Lane, Anthony St and Franklin St near Queen Victoria Market. "Our rent roll is a big driver – long-term tenants can be influential in the building."

The agency also credits its monthly backpage advertising in CBD News for connecting with passive buyers.

"We are getting so many buyers and sellers off the back page of the paper," Ms Inglis said. "They might not be actively searching online, but they'll see the paper in a café or lobby and call us. It has a real pulling power."

Looking to 2026, Ms Inglis is upbeat.

"People who had to sell in the past couple of years haven't been happy sellers. Now they're starting to see, 'okay, I've held on, I've paid my high owners' corp fees, and the market should start to lift'. We're definitely more optimistic about next year if these trends continue."

Her message to landlords is to stay informed. "There are new rental laws coming in from November 25 – make sure you or your property manager are on top of what's changing and be on the front foot."

For MBP, the brief is simple: keep championing the city. "If you live the CBD, you know its energy," Ms Inglis said. "Once people come in and experience it, they get it."

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Photo: Jeff Busby

Photo: Benny Capp

# Mad Max and a million meals – A Christmas Carol is back in Melbourne

“He may be playing an infamous miser, but Melbourne actor Lachy Hulme is entering into his next show ready to call on the spirit of generosity.”

WORDS BY  
DAVID ALLEN



The role of Ebenezer Scrooge will be played by Lachy Hulme in this year’s production of *A Christmas Carol* at the Comedy Theatre, in a limited season starting November 27. Hulme, the first Melbourne-born actor to

play Scrooge in the production, said he had aspired to play the famous role since he was 15. “It’s taken a while,” he laughed. “Now I’m 54, but I finally get to take a swing.” Hulme’s career stretches more than three decades, covering everything from *Acropolis Now* (he penned an episode in 1992) to playing Immortan Joe in 2024’s *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*. He said he had been warned in advance about the weight of Scrooge’s imposing traditional Victorian-era costume. “Putting it all on a couple of weeks ago for the first time, I’ve worn some unusual costumes in the past, even the *Mad Max* gear was nothing compared to this,” he said. The stage adaptation of Charles Dickens’ classic novel by Jack Thorne will this year play concurrent seasons around the world – in New York, London and Melbourne. Within the theme of generosity and kindness in the show, the production also partners with

meal relief charity FareShare, which distributes meals to Australians doing it tough. “Last season alone, Melbourne audiences generated enough money to provide a million hot meals, which is just extraordinary,” Hulme said. “It’s not all beer and skittles for people at Christmas time. But if we’ve done our job right, as the ensemble of this show, the cast and crew, and we’ve left audiences floating on air, hopefully they’ll dig deep.” The production’s Australian associate director David Spencer teased details of the full cast, to be announced in coming weeks. “We re-auditioned many roles to keep the show fresh, and also to make sure we were doing our best to have an Australian production,” he said. “Audiences should expect to see some well-known faces.” Mr Spencer said *A Christmas Carol* had thrived in Melbourne because of its strong universal themes of generosity, kindness

and redemption. “Everybody is welcome,” he said. “It’s not just a traditional English story. It crosses boundaries.” Hulme said since his casting had been announced, friends had told him they saw this production of *Carol* every year as a Christmas tradition. “I didn’t know how devoted audiences were to this production,” he said. “They come back again, and again, and again.” Spencer said he expects the season to sell out. “It’s such a festive part of Melbourne’s Christmas now. I hope as many people as possible see it.” *A Christmas Carol* will run at the Comedy Theatre from November 27 to December 24, Christmas Eve. More information about the production is available at [christmascarolaustralia.com.au](http://christmascarolaustralia.com.au) ●

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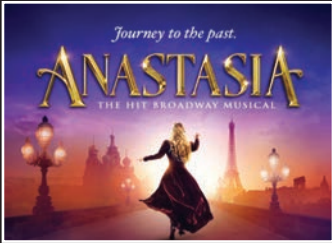
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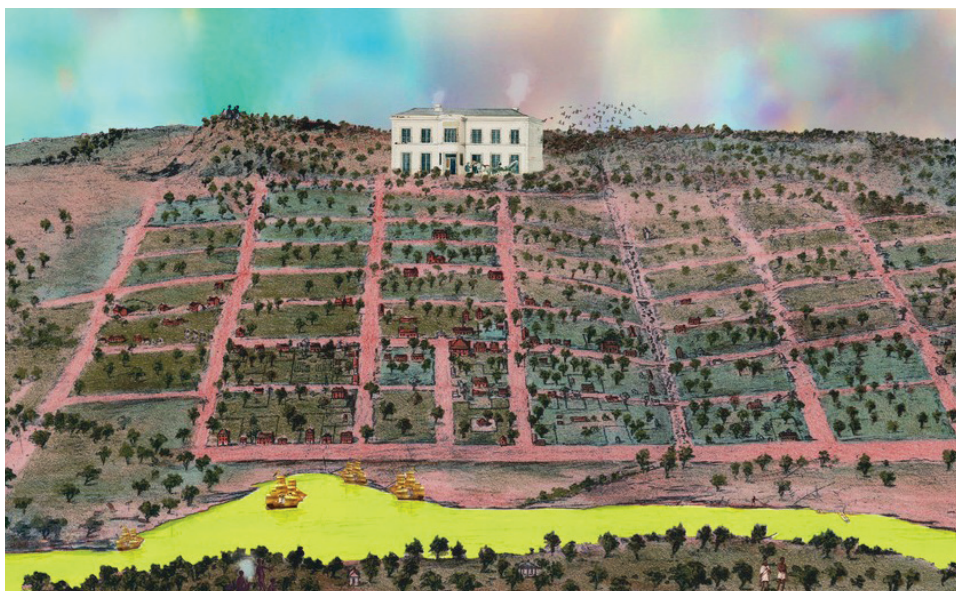
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## New City Gallery exhibition maps Melbourne's memories from sky to street

A striking new exhibition at City Gallery, Melbourne Town Hall invites visitors to rediscover the city through the lens of memory, mapping and belonging.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Open since October 2, *You Are Here: Melbourne Memory-scapes* is a powerful meditation on how we locate ourselves – physically, emotionally and imaginatively – within Melbourne's ever-changing landscape.

Curated by Angela Bailey, the exhibition draws from the City of Melbourne's vast Art and Heritage Collection, revealing rarely seen black-and-white aerial photographs of the city taken in the 1960s.

Originally captured by survey companies such as Adastra Airways, these images were once tools of measurement and mapping. In *You Are Here*, they become something far more intimate – a visual archive of collective memory that reveals the city's expansion, its architecture, and the human stories woven into its streets.

The exhibition juxtaposes these large-scale aerial images with a new commissioned text work by Wergaia/Wemba Wemba poet Susie Anderson, whose lyrical writing forms a bridge between the city's cartographic and cultural landscapes. Her words flow across the gallery walls and through a projected animation, guiding visitors to consider their own "memory-scapes" – the smells, sounds and sensations that make a place feel like home.

Anchoring the exhibition is Wathaurung Elder Marlene Gilson's monumental painting, *Land Lost, Land Stolen, Treaty*, depicting ancestral creators Bunjil (eagle)

and Waa (crow) watching over Naarm as Wurundjeri people witness John Batman's infamous "treaty." Gilson's work serves as both a spiritual and historical counterpoint to the mid-century aerial photographs, reminding visitors that every mapped space sits on unceded land with deep First Nations histories.

The exhibition also includes connective works by Joan Ross, Louise Forthun, and miniature sculptors André Bonnice and Anna Jankovic – all drawn from the City's collection. Together, these artists explore Melbourne as a living palimpsest: a city of sovereignty and survival, migration and memory, queer gathering places, protests and personal landmarks.

Curator Angela Bailey said the exhibition encourages visitors to look beyond the ordered lines of maps to the emotional terrain beneath.

"While mapping technologies fix boundaries and create ordered space, it is our memories – personal and collective – that give these places meaning," she said. "This exhibition invites viewers to bring their own memory-scapes to the work."

Lord Mayor Nick Reece said *You Are Here* reflected the City of Melbourne's ongoing commitment to preserving and sharing the city's layered stories.

"It's an exhibition that connects past and present, place and people, in meaningful ways," Cr Reece said.

The council's creative and arts portfolio lead Cr Philip Le Liu added that Melbourne's identity continues to evolve through art.

"Melbourne is not just a place on a map, but a place where stories, cultures and communities connect," he said.

*You Are Here: Melbourne Memory-scapes* runs until February 6, 2026 at City Gallery, Melbourne Town Hall. Entry is free, with guided tours offered Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

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



Photos: Georges Antoni

## Craft Victoria's new exhibition highlights Australian creative talent through the lens of *Vogue Living's* Style Editor

Craft Victoria will launch one of its largest exhibitions to date this month with *DONE/UNDONE*, curated by Joseph Gardner as part of the gallery's 2025 Visionaries series.

Running from November 14, 2025, to February 7, 2026, the exhibition features work by more than 50 Australian artists working across diverse mediums, scales and practices – all united by a focus on process, materiality and experimentation.

*DONE/UNDONE* explores the creative process as a space of constant negotiation – a series of decisions to build, erase, repeat, or let be. The exhibition considers the intuitive moments when a maker chooses to pause, push further, or dismantle entirely – the choices that define the rhythm of making across art, design and craft.

The works span a spectrum of resolution. Some reveal their construction openly – raw, unpolished and deconstructed – where process is as visible as form. Others are meticulously refined, their surfaces concealing the complexity of their making. Some revisit historical ideas and materials, while others venture into entirely new territory, using experimentation as both method and message.

Through these perspectives, *DONE/UNDONE* invites visitors to look beyond notions of completion and consider how



intention, iteration and even doubt shape both the creative act and the finished work.

Presented as part of Craft's annual Visionaries program – which each year highlights a leading voice shaping the future of Australian art, craft and design – the exhibition showcases exceptional contemporary talent.

Joseph Gardner is the founder of Sydney-based Studio Gardner and currently serves as style editor-at-large for *Vogue Living*. His work has appeared in international titles including *Vogue Australia*, *Vogue Living*, *GQ Australia*, *Architectural Digest Spain* and *China*, and *Love Want*.

*DONE/UNDONE* runs at Craft Victoria, Watson Place, from November 14 to February 7. More information: [craft.org.au/whats-on/all-events/doneundone](http://craft.org.au/whats-on/all-events/doneundone) ●

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# Spice brand Aunty Jenny launches in Melbourne, blending culture, ethics and flavour

“Melbourne’s culinary scene has gained a new homegrown venture with the official launch of Aunty Jenny, an ethical spice brand founded by Melbourne entrepreneur Evangeline Tee and co-founder Ramneek Wayne.”

The launch took place on September 25 at Elchi restaurant in the CBD, drawing guests from Melbourne’s business and cultural communities, including City of Melbourne Cr Rafael Camillo, who praised the brand as an example of the city’s multicultural creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

Aunty Jenny brings spices sourced directly from farms in India to Australian consumers under the guiding motto “No nasties. No middlemen.” The company aims to redefine the way Australians buy and use spices, offering fresh, high-quality products while ensuring fair compensation for growers through direct trade partnerships. Its founders describe the brand as one that “honours tradition while modernising supply chains”, with every batch traceable back to the farmers who produced it.

For Ms Tee, the business has deeply personal roots. The company is named after her mother, Jenny, whose dietary sensitivities and love of flavour first sparked the idea.

Frustrated by the lack of pure, pesticide-free options that offered richness without overwhelming heat, Ms Tee began sourcing directly from farmers who shared her values around freshness and integrity.

“I wanted to create a brand that brought back honesty and quality to the way we experience spice,” she said. “Australians shouldn’t have to sacrifice health or flavour for convenience.”

Ms Tee, who previously told CBD News she founded Aunty Jenny as part of her journey toward greater visibility for women entrepreneurs, said the launch was about more than just a business milestone.

“It’s not just about selling spices – it’s



about showing what’s possible,” she said. “There are so many women quietly doing incredible work in industries like food and agriculture. I hope this helps encourage more of them to step forward.”

The brand’s debut at Elchi was followed by its first public showcase at NAB’s Diwali celebration on October 6, where Aunty Jenny sold more than 220 packs within weeks of launching. The initial range features six core products – including Butter Chicken, Tandoori, Garam Masala, Mild Curry, Turmeric, and Red Chilli Powder – each packaged in resealable pouches and suitable for both vegetarian and vegan cooking. All products are available online at [auntyjenny.au](http://auntyjenny.au), with expansion into independent grocers and specialty food retailers planned in 2026.

Co-founder Ramneek Wayne, who has written extensively about the role of migration and entrepreneurship in shaping modern Australia, said the venture reflected a shared belief in bridging cultures through food.

“When we support ethical trade, everyone benefits – from the farmers in India to families here in Melbourne cooking their favourite dishes,” he said.

Aunty Jenny’s farmer-first model ensures producers are paid above commodity rates, and its small-batch process means spices are packed within weeks of harvest, preserving the intensity of their aroma and flavour. The founders are also exploring ways



to introduce refillable packaging options to further reduce environmental impact.

Speaking at the launch, Cr Camillo described Aunty Jenny as “a celebration of everything Melbourne stands for – diversity, innovation, and connection through food.” “Migrants make Melbourne richer and warmer, and this brand is a perfect example of how culture and commerce can work together for good,” Cr Camillo said.

From a simple idea inspired by a mother’s love of flavour, Aunty Jenny has grown into a symbol of ethical entrepreneurship and cultural pride. For Ms Tee, it’s also a story about taking control of one’s path.

“There was a time when I didn’t think I could do something like this,” she said. “But

I decided to stop doubting myself. You show up, you work hard, and you take charge of your own life. That’s what Aunty Jenny is really about.” ●



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no nasties

[www.auntyjenny.au](http://www.auntyjenny.au)



## Future of the Multicultural Hub remains unclear as key CBD site under review

The Multicultural Hub on Elizabeth St, opposite the main entrance to Queen Victoria Market, remains one of the City of Melbourne's most quietly contested community assets.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



It's a site rich in purpose and history, but is increasingly viewed as underutilised amid the city's rapidly changing urban landscape.

Owned by the City of Melbourne and leased to AMES Australia, the hub provides vital settlement, employment and English-language services to newly arrived migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. It also houses Cohealth's community health service and the heritage-listed Drill Hall, a multipurpose community venue surrounded by a social housing complex.

Yet despite its importance as a hub for multicultural engagement, the precinct's prime CBD location – fronting a wide, paved forecourt on Elizabeth St's bustling tram corridor – has prompted growing debate about its long-term future and how it could better connect with the market precinct opposite.

The ground floor currently includes a handful of commercial tenancies, including a small café and an Indigenous arts gallery, while the upper levels accommodate classrooms and meeting spaces managed by AMES. But several nearby stakeholders have described the site as "a missed opportunity" for activation, given its visibility and proximity to one of Melbourne's most-visited public spaces.

CBD News understands that council officers have previously longlisted the

site for potential affordable housing redevelopment, alongside others at Victoria and Curzon streets in North and West Melbourne. However, no formal proposals are currently being pursued.

In a statement provided to *CBD News*, a City of Melbourne spokesperson said there were no plans to change the site's use, emphasising that the Multicultural Hub "delivers important services to our diverse community and is crucially located in the inner city".

The spokesperson said the council was "doing its part" to deliver affordable housing elsewhere, pointing to the Munro development near the market (which includes 54 affordable units), the Boyd development in Southbank (40 units), and the Gurwara Place project, which will deliver more than 80 affordable homes.

Council sources, however, say the Multicultural Hub's strategic role has become increasingly uncertain following years of shifting priorities. When the City North Structure Plan was first prepared more than a decade ago, it highlighted the need for new community facilities in the area. But much of that planning was "washed away" after the council launched its Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal (QVMPR) master plan and invested heavily in the

Munro site, where it consolidated most of City North's community infrastructure.

That move effectively left the Multicultural Hub "stranded", described internally as a "legacy site" that sits outside the council's current vision for community service delivery. While once considered an essential part of the City North network, the hub is now viewed by some within council as an "orphaned" facility that no longer fits neatly into the city's broader planning framework.

The original Munro building plans had included a maternal and child health service before being reconfigured during COVID to deliver the new *narrm ngarrgu* Library and Family Services, which opened in 2024. That change, coupled with the council's decision to centralise its community functions in the market precinct, has raised questions about whether the hub's existing operations will remain long-term.

One senior council source told *CBD News* that the Elizabeth St site was unlikely to be a redevelopment priority in the short term, noting that the council had resolved to revisit its future only after completing work at the Victoria and Curzon sites. With the Curzon St project delayed, any reconsideration of the hub has also been postponed.

The site's co-location with affordable housing, delivered in partnership with Housing Choices Australia in 2011, adds another layer of complexity. The nine-storey development includes 59 apartments alongside the restored Drill Hall and public courtyard, which residents have transformed into a community garden.

Meanwhile, the broader Elizabeth St frontage – featuring a generous forecourt, tram superstop, and direct connection to the market's southern gateway – has prompted calls for temporary activation or placemaking measures to bridge the gap between the two major public spaces. Ideas floated by local stakeholders include pop-up retail,

outdoor dining, or market spill-over uses, though none have been formally pursued.

Drill Hall Residents' Association president Martin Mulvihill said he hoped that any redevelopment of the adjacent Multicultural Hub could help improve access and safety for residents.

He said that the complex, which adjoins the Multicultural Hub, posed significant access and evacuation challenges, particularly for residents with disabilities or mobility issues.

"Every time the lifts or automatic doors break down, the congestion is enormous. If something serious happened, it could be a mini-Grenfell," Mr Mulvihill said.

He added that the precinct remained physically and visually disconnected from QVM, despite its proximity.

"We've long wanted to create a kind of uniting ambience between the market and this side of the street – to stop it feeling like the Cinderella of the precinct," he said.

For now, AMES continues to operate the site, running English classes, settlement programs, and employment services, along with providing information on transport, housing, and community engagement. The hub also offers a Gig Workers' Hub for delivery and rideshare workers – a relatively new initiative helping some of the city's most precariously employed residents connect with services and advocacy.

The adjoining Cohealth centre provides integrated health care and social support to vulnerable residents and was briefly considered by the state government as a potential site for a safe injecting facility – a plan later abandoned in favour of a new community health hub on Flinders St.

Despite renewed attention on the site, the council insists its current use remains valuable. "The Multicultural Hub continues to play a vital role in connecting residents, supporting newcomers, and providing access to critical services," the spokesperson said. ●

## Elevated festivities at Eureka 89

Eureka 89 is Melbourne's premier destination for those seeking a sophisticated dining experience, ideal for getting into the festive spirit.

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Guests can choose between two areas: the Southern Point Room, which is ideal for gathering with family and friends in a warm atmosphere, or the vibrant Northern Point Room, promising lively entertainment for those eager to celebrate the arrival of the new year.

Prices start from \$595 per adult.



Whichever space you select, Eureka 89 guarantees a night to remember, filled with delectable cuisine, spectacular views, and an electric atmosphere.

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event high in the clouds, whether for a corporate function, birthday, or other special milestone, hosting it at Eureka 89 offers a unique location that will leave a lasting impression on your guests for all the right reasons.

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# Melbourne may have its very own “off-Broadway” with new Spiegel Haus

Melbourne has long been renowned as Australia’s cultural capital. However, serial entrepreneur and filmmaker Christopher Mitchell believes that for the city to have a truly vibrant cultural scene, it needs an “off-Broadway”.

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



Mr Mitchell, a founding partner of the Northcote Theatre, is aiming to lead the charge through his new venue, Spiegel Haus.

Located on the rooftop of Golden Square Car Park on Lonsdale St, the precinct features a mirrored Spiegeltent, rooftop bar, food vans and open-air activation spaces, with capacity for 1000 patrons.

It’s a mix of theatre, music and hospitality, set against an extraordinary backdrop in the heart of the CBD, with the hit circus-cabaret *Blanc de Blanc Encore* to be the first show to take the stage.

“There’s a huge gap in Melbourne for venues that seat around 400, the scale you need for off-West End or off-Broadway productions,” Mr Mitchell said.

“We saw an opportunity to fill that space, and we’ve had enormous support from across the industry – from performers to venue owners to local government.”

Mr Mitchell’s vision is to create a home for daring performances that all Melburnians can embrace. From students to bankers, and seasoned theatre goers to people looking to go to their first show, he wants it to bring new life to Melbourne’s arts scene.

Alongside his work in events, Mr Mitchell is a film and theatre director with internationally acclaimed works across both forms.

He started out pursuing film, but at about 19 he shared an office next to radio station Kiss FM, which changed his trajectory.

“It was huge at the time. I ended up sharing a balcony with a bunch of promoters, DJs and producers – I’d sit there smoking with them, hanging out, and soon I was filming a lot of their content,” he said.

“I realised I could do what they did pretty easily, and that sidetracked me from filmmaking into a life of hedonism as a promoter. I was very good at it – unfortunately – and it derailed me for a while.”

About 15 years ago, Mr Mitchell also ran a cabaret, burlesque and vaudeville venue, which has influenced what he is doing with Spiegel Haus.

But it wasn’t until a friend, Marc Lucchesi from the band Vaudeville Smash’d, asked him to direct and produce their show *The Marvellous Elephant Man: The Musical* that he became serious about establishing a new venue in the city.

“I dropped everything, spent what little money I had, and decided to pursue a career in musical theatre direction and production



– which, of course, is the logical thing to do after COVID,” he said.

The show went to Adelaide Fringe, where it won the Critics’ Circle Award for Best Show, and then to Melbourne Comedy Festival. However, when they wanted to remount the production, they couldn’t find a venue.

“We couldn’t find a 400-seat theatre available long-term. So, I said, ‘Stuff it – let’s build our own.’ That’s literally how this whole thing started.”

While directing theatre and film may seem a far cry from building a venue, Mr Mitchell said there were many parallels.

“There’s a crossover, and I think that’s why I’ve managed to maintain any sanity working in events, which historically hasn’t always been creatively fulfilling for me – but it’s allowed me to keep working that muscle,” he said.

With five years of programming planned, Mr Mitchell will be in overdrive as he looks to turn what was a parking lot into one of Melbourne’s premier event spaces.

The inaugural season includes *Vaudeville Smash’d*, with a five-week Saturday night residency from 8 November to 6 December, *Jazz & Jaffles: Halloween* on Friday, October 31 and *The Marvellous Elephant Man: The Musical* will take the stage early next year. ●

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Melbourne Airport Noise Sharing Plan

## Have your say on the Melbourne Airport Noise Sharing Plan

A Noise Sharing Plan is being developed to manage and distribute aircraft noise across communities when Melbourne Airport’s third runway opens.

The Noise Sharing Plan aims to provide periods of respite from aircraft noise, balancing airport operations with community wellbeing.

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MELBOURNE AIRPORT



Photos: Stephanie Armand

## First Nations designers open Melbourne Fashion Week with powerful storytelling on the *ganbu marra* Runway

Melbourne Fashion Week 2025 opened in spectacular form on October 20, with the *ganbu marra* Runway at 1 Hotel Melbourne celebrating the creative excellence and cultural storytelling of First Nations designers.

The opening night event – whose name means “one mob” in Woi Wurrung language – set the tone for the week-long festival, spotlighting the intersection of fashion, art, and Country through bold collections, sustainable practices and stories of identity and resilience.

For designer Nicole Enoch-Chatfield, the evening marked her debut at Melbourne Fashion Week with her collection *Kanyarra*, a deeply personal reflection on heritage, motherhood, and self-discovery.

“*Kanyarra* is not just a collection – it’s a story of coming home and remembering who I am,” she said. Drawing on the symbolism of the saltwater crocodile, her designs embodied protection and strength, brought to life through upcycled materials and layered silhouettes that merged sustainability with cultural revival.

Fellow designer Cassie Fisher-Patterson of *Yanggurdi* presented *Outback Country*, an upcycled, bush-dyed collection inspired by native flora and fauna and their stories of transformation. Her designs used fashion as a vehicle for environmental justice and cultural truth-telling.

“Fashion is a number one contributor to emissions,” she said. “My label wants to be a voice and advocate for environmental justice and share ways we can still be designers but in more mindful, exciting ways.”



The show was widely praised by attendees for its diversity, colour and storytelling. Fashion enthusiast Melisa Lewins described it as “innovative and full of colour,” highlighting the work of *Tjarlirli & Kaltukatjara* Art and the appearance of supermodel Elaine George on the runway as standout moments.

Another guest, Joti Gore, said the night was a “wonderful immersive dive into culture, movement and design,” applauding the inclusion of models across all ages, sizes and backgrounds.

With more than 600 designers and more than 100,000 fashion lovers participating in this year’s Melbourne Fashion Week, *ganbu marra* reaffirmed the city’s reputation as Australia’s fashion capital – and set a strong precedent for the celebration of First Nations creativity at the heart of its future. ●

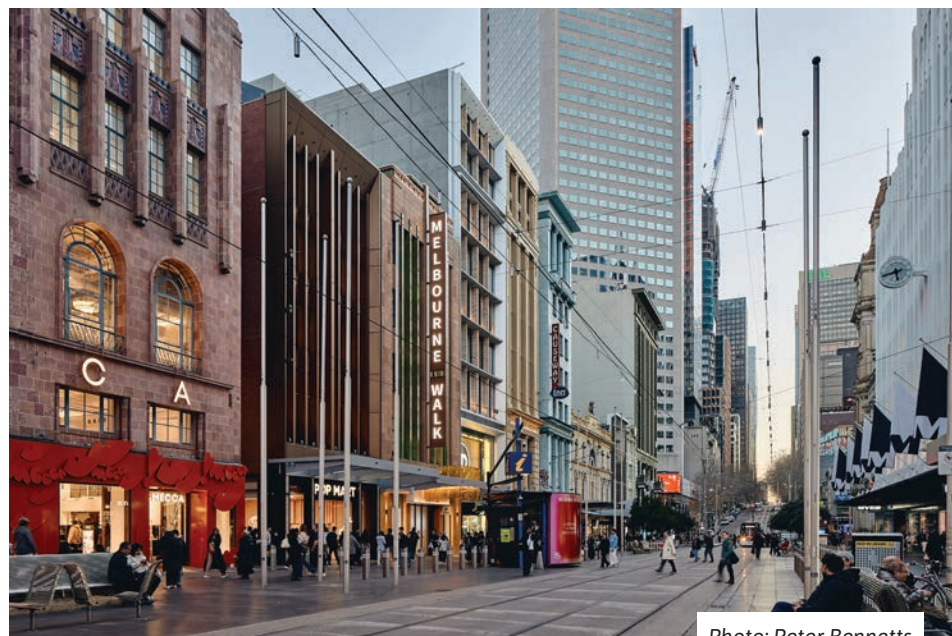


Photo: Peter Bennetts

## Melbourne Walk opens, bringing a touch of Manhattan to Bourke Street Mall

Melbourne’s retail heart has a bold new centrepiece, with the long-awaited Melbourne Walk officially opening – the first major development in Bourke Street Mall in more than 50 years and a striking new gateway between Bourke St and Little Collins Street.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Knitting together several historic buildings across a 3600-square-metre site, the new precinct brings together 6295sqm of retail and the InterContinental Hotel Group’s (IHG) first dual-branded hotel in Australia: Hotel Indigo and Holiday Inn, which together house 452 rooms above a three-level retail podium.

Designed by global architecture firm Buchan, Melbourne Walk’s restored façades, reimagined arcades and vibrant signage – complete with a soaring neon “Melbourne Walk” sign reminiscent of Manhattan – have already begun transforming the character of Bourke Street Mall.

The precinct occupies the site formerly known as “The Walk Arcade”, stretching between Bourke St, Little Collins St, The Causeway and Union Lane. Buchan senior associate Hayden Djakic said the project reimagined the area’s famous pedestrian “ant trail” with a contemporary twist that blends Melbourne’s grit and glamour.

“Melbourne Walk is a celebration of the city’s unique identity,” Mr Djakic said. “It merges the retail elegance of the Bourke Street Mall with the laneway culture that

defines Melbourne, creating a new destination where locals and visitors can explore, shop, dine and stay.”

Four heritage façades – including the Diamond House and Public Benefit Bootery on Bourke St, and the Allans and York buildings on Little Collins St – have been carefully restored. Between them, new façades take cues from their historic neighbours, reinterpreting materials, geometry and lighting to create a cohesive city block that still feels layered and organic.

Inside, a nine-metre-high arcade lit by gold-tinted skylights connects Bourke St to Little Collins St, echoing the rhythm and grandeur of the Royal Arcade and Block Arcade. Brass, marble and textured stone frame the shopfronts, while warm lighting and reflections bring a cinematic quality to the experience – giving the precinct the cosmopolitan energy of midtown Manhattan with a distinctly Melbourne soul.

Union Lane, one of Melbourne’s most photographed graffiti spots, remains a gritty counterpoint, while The Causeway has been reactivated with new food and beverage frontages. A rooftop bar overlooking Bourke St will open later this summer.

“The design retains the sense of a collection of buildings, allowing light to filter deep into the site and maintaining Melbourne’s laneway intimacy,” Mr Djakic said.

Above the retail, Hotel Indigo and Holiday Inn each offer a distinct character. Hotel Indigo celebrates Melbourne’s eccentric history through playful interiors inspired by the site’s past – from E.W. Cole’s “emporium of everything” to the former Turkish baths once located here – while the Holiday Inn embraces a natural, calming palette that evokes a home-away-from-home feel.

Together, the hotels are expected to draw more than 900 daily guests to the precinct, providing a boost for city retailers and restaurants and injecting fresh life into the mall. ●

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QVM TRADER PROFILE

# A blooming tradition: Joe Leuzzi Flowers keeps colour and community alive at QVM

“Pass through the bustle of the Queen Victoria Market and into Joe Leuzzi Flowers, you’re greeted by more than just vibrant blooms – you’re stepping into a Melbourne tradition that has been blossoming for more than 30 years.”

WORDS BY  
DERMOT O'BRIEN



A staple of QVM’s flower precinct, Joe Leuzzi Flowers has built a loyal following of customers who return week after week for its freshness, quality, and personal touch. “There’s always something for everyone here,” said owner Liman, who has worked in floristry for more than 20 years. “Nothing beats the look on people’s faces when they get fresh flowers.” For Liman, who took over the business nearly a decade ago, running the stall is more than a job

– it’s a labour of love. “It’s a busy job, but in the end, it’s always rewarding,” she said. “Stepping into the role has meant a lot. It’s been a big responsibility, but my years of experience working here prepared me for it.” Family and community sit at the heart of Joe Leuzzi Flowers, and Liman said she didn’t know one could make a profession out of something so beautiful. “Interacting with people, selling a fresh product and being part of a family-oriented business is what I like most,” Liman said. “QVM is an old market with a lot of great history and traditions, and we get along beautifully with everyone.” Spring marks one of the busiest times of year for the team, with their tables overflowing in colour.

Liman takes pride in supporting local growers, showcasing the best seasonal Australian flowers. This spring’s standouts include peonies, strawberry fields, strawflower and cosmos, with more varieties arriving as the season unfolds. Located just outside the organic produce section in I Shed on Therry St, Joe Leuzzi Flowers is open Tuesday to Sunday. So, whether you’re after a bunch to brighten your home, a gift for someone special, or simply a stroll through one of Melbourne’s most fragrant corners, Joe Leuzzi Flowers continues to remind locals that beauty and community go hand in hand. Joe Leuzzi Flowers may be found in the kiosk at Therry St. ●



# New social enterprise GROW Gardens launches, planting career pathways for First Nations youth

A new Melbourne-based social enterprise is transforming how the city approaches green space – and social impact – with the official launch of GROW Gardens, a First Nations-led horticultural enterprise providing paid employment pathways for young Aboriginal Victorians.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Launched on October 10, GROW Gardens combines commercial-quality gardening and landscaping with a strong social purpose: creating opportunities for young First Nations people to gain skills, mentoring and long-term careers in horticulture. The initiative has already attracted strong early support, with the City of Melbourne confirmed among its first clients. Other recent projects include work for Stowe and several residential garden commissions delivered through PBG. In its first year, three young First Nations crew members from across Melbourne have been employed and trained by GROW Gardens, which partners with the Killara Foundation to provide wrap-around well-being support, cultural safety and ongoing mentorship. Co-founder Damian Walsh said GROW Gardens was born from a desire to merge sustainability with social justice. “Every GROW Gardens project is an opportunity to create both beautiful



landscapes and brighter futures,” Mr Walsh said. “Partnering with us means getting reliable, high-quality horticultural work while investing in the next generation of First Nations leaders.” The enterprise marked a major milestone this month with the completion of its first large-scale project for the City of Melbourne – a rooftop garden showcasing native plants with cultural significance, including Murnong daisies, Bulbine lilies, and Chocolate and Vanilla lilies. The garden was designed to provide both a vibrant green space for council employees

and a symbol of connection between culture, nature and community. Cr Dr Olivia Ball, chair of the City of Melbourne’s Aboriginal Melbourne portfolio, said the partnership represented the kind of inclusive and purposeful collaboration the city wanted to foster. “This project is about more than greenery – it’s about bringing culture and community together,” Cr Dr Ball said. “We’re proud to partner with GROW Gardens to enliven our rooftop space while supporting meaningful employment opportunities for young First Nations Melburnians.”



Mr Walsh said the City of Melbourne collaboration was just the beginning, with GROW Gardens now calling on councils, developers and contractors to engage its services as a way to deliver genuine social procurement outcomes. “It was a privilege to showcase our amazing team in action during the City of Melbourne project,” he said. GROW Gardens plans to expand its operations in 2026, growing its workforce and continuing to connect First Nations youth with training, mentoring and meaningful work in the city’s green spaces. ●

# The amazing benefits of Melbourne's culinary culture

Building relationships, fostering ideas, enhancing wellbeing over a meal.

## WORDS BY

LYN GAZAL – RESIDENTS 3000 COMMITTEE MEMBER

Socialising or doing business over coffee or a meal is central to city life. Melbourne's enviable culinary culture gives us more than great food – it gives us opportunities to connect. But what makes the relaxed atmosphere of a shared table such a powerful setting for communication and creativity?

In the digital age, much of our day is spent looking at screens. In 2003, the average attention span was two-and-a-half minutes. Recent research shows it's now just 44 seconds. The culprit? A life dominated by digital devices.

Children are being trained to use screens from an early age – in school and at home – and attention spans are shrinking. Adults fare no better. Take a tram ride and you'll see nearly every passenger staring at a phone rather than engaging with those around them. "Rapid jumping," a term used to describe the constant switching between online distractions, leads to brain overload and poorer memory retention.

As a former teacher, I've seen the impact firsthand. When I began teaching, lessons were simple – chalkboard, pen and paper, and focused attention. My goal was to foster critical thinking, creativity, and character. Today, while technology offers new learning tools, it also fragments focus and weakens our ability to think deeply.

When I was growing up in the 1950s, there was no internet – but there was the dining table. It was the heart of our home and the centre of learning. Dinner was a "not to be missed" event where the family came together to eat, debate the day's news, and share experiences. That tradition taught me communication, curiosity, and empathy.

When television arrived in 1956, even that required balance – our neighbour, the first in the area to own a TV, set up a roster so families could watch together a few times a week. Technology was shared, not consuming.

By age 10, I had found my calling in the kitchen. Cooking for my family became an act of love, and my apprenticeship came from watching older relatives and neighbours. Being of Middle Eastern heritage, I learned treasured recipes passed down through generations – recipes I still teach and share with joy.



My belief in the shared dining table remains as strong as ever. Food brings people together, enhances wellbeing, and strengthens relationships. This was reaffirmed recently at our Residents 3000 AGM, where we decided to hold our first meeting over a meal. Gathered around a member's table, we swapped stories, shared ideas, and discovered how naturally collaboration flows when conversation is paired with good food.

Science supports what we've long known intuitively – storytelling and face-to-face conversation stimulate multiple parts of the brain, improving empathy, emotional connection, and cognitive function. When we engage with others in person, our brains synchronise – we learn better, think more creatively, and feel more connected.

Technology can inform and connect us, but it cannot replace genuine human interaction. The storytelling tradition, whether around a table or in a meeting, remains vital. It strengthens language, passes on culture, and nurtures belonging – especially for children learning who they are and where they come from.

For me, the dining table is where I learned to listen, to share, and to understand the world. It shaped who I am.

So, my advice is simple: share meals often. Put the screens aside. Take time to talk, listen, and connect. The benefits go far beyond the food on your plate.

**Next Forum 3000: November 6, 6pm for a 6.30pm start**

**Kelvin Club, 14-30 Melbourne Place**

**Topic:** Living safely in a Strata Community  
**Details:** [residents3000.org.au](http://residents3000.org.au)

**Meet the newly elected committee:**

Rafael Camillo – President; Sue Saunders – Vice-President; Lyn Gazal – Secretary; Richard Grace – Treasurer; Artur Hadja – Events; Joy Popovska; Arman Rashid; Michael Kennedy; Peter Neville; Peter Taylor; Andrew Stephanetti; Elise Simonovski. ●



## When there's smoke, there's a fire to stop

Dated from 1906, this photograph is of the south-west corner of Gisborne St and Victoria Parade, north-east of the main CBD.

Even with the recent invention of the motor car, the roads people and horse-drawn carriages have all the space to themselves. In the background is a brick, castle-like structure, the Salvation Army Training Garrison Building.

In the foreground is a Queen Anne Style building, with a high watchtower looming overall. This is the Eastern Hill Fire Station, which for more than 80 years has seen various fire trucks and vehicles urgently leave the doors in its quest to save Melburnians from fire.

Fires have been a part of Melbourne life since the early days of European settlement. The first recorded fire was at a prison near Batman's Hill (now near Southern Cross Station) on April 28, 1838, started by Indigenous prisoners in a bid to regain their freedom. It wasn't until 1845 when the first fire brigade service, the Melbourne Fire Prevention Society, was established.

In the 1880s, with dozens of volunteer and insurance company-run brigades in the city and suburbs, and some divided by rivalry, there were calls to create a unified brigade. An infamous incident happened on December 28, 1888 when the Melbourne Insurance Brigade (at the time was the city's main brigade) and the National Fire Brigades Association (an association of firemen who advocated for the legislation of a unified brigade) came to physical blows during a Russell St fire after a dispute about hose usage, and then again at Bourke St later that same night, with one fireman arrested.

Adding to the need for a unified brigade was the increase of fires in the city, with six firefighters losing their lives over various fires across 1889 and 1890, leading to inquiries that revealed poor discipline among the brigades. By 1890, the Victorian Government finally passed the *Fire Brigades Act*, allowing for the establishment of a

Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

The new brigade officially had its first meeting on March 6, 1891, with the Insurance Brigade's Superintendent David Stein as first chief officer. Their initial headquarters was the Insurance Brigade's building at 447 Little Bourke St, but they were soon able to buy some land across the road from the Eye and Ear Hospital and ran a contest to determine the design of a new station.

The final design was built by Thomas Cockram and Co., and opened on November 2, 1893, in a ceremony where the new firemen's diligence was shown in a demonstration where an alarm summoned 100 men from multiple brigades to perform "Sundry evolutions".

Because of the urgent matter of a fire appearing any time, the building was equipped for the long-term stay of its workers. There were living dorms for married men (women didn't join the MFB until 1988) and their families, as well as bachelor workers and officers, a recreation room, bathrooms, stables for horses and administration rooms. The most notable feature was the 150-foot-tall tower, taking advantage of the high vantage point of the hill. Anyone tasked with watchmen duties would stay a few hours at a time, watching over the city for any signs of smoke come hail or shine, or even pitch darkness. At one point, a watchman was required to press a button to a "time machine" every five minutes to assure the communications room below that he hadn't dozed off. According to Stein himself, the stints used to be four hours until he dismissed a watchman for falling asleep on the job. The watchman asked that Stein should try the job for himself, and after spending four hours in the darkness, Stein promptly reduced the stints to two hours.

The fire station continued as the brigade's headquarters until the 1970s, when a new modern facility was built down the road at the corner of Albert and Gisborne St. The Eastern Hill Station continues to remain as a museum for anyone wanting to see what the war on fire was like in a bygone age. ●

Proudly representing the  
community in Melbourne's CBD

**Evan MULHOLLAND MP**

Liberal Member for **Northern Metropolitan Region**

96518242 EvanMulhollandMP Evan.Mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au

Shop 24, 55-63 Paringa Boulevard, Meadow Heights EvanMulholland.com.au

Authorised by Evan Mulholland MP, Shop 24/55-63 Paringa Boulevard, Meadow Heights VIC 3048.



# New *Boot Camp* artwork graces Scott Alley as the Metro Tunnel prepares to open

These boots were made for walkin’; and that’s just what they’ll do; one of these days these boots ... are going to pique your curiosity and lead you down Scott Alley!

Ahead of the opening of Parkville Station where artist Patricia Piccinini’s *Vernal Glade* will be able to be enjoyed by Metro Tunnel passengers, Melburnians now have an opportunity to visit Piccinini’s bright and cheerful new artwork *Boot Camp* in Scott Alley in the CBD.

“It’s actually a really interesting space because there’s a barber there, there’s banh mi ... there’s a lot of life in Scott Alley,” Piccinini said.

“[The work] is part of this very convivial atmosphere. And *Boot Camp* is a really joyful work, the colours are really vibrant ... it’s positive and optimistic, it’s uplifting.”

Piccinini’s work is in mixed media – from sculpture through to video and installation – and *Boot Camp* is no exception. The work consists of a photograph taken of a glass sculpture Piccinini created, made of many coloured glass cowboy boots piled on top of each other. While the boots are made of glass, the image of the sculpture has a jelly-like feel to it.

“I’ve broken many of those boots, so it’s

delicate work. It’s interesting to see this work in this reproduced state – that delicate aspect isn’t there because it has to be resilient on a hoarding.”

This tension between delicate and brittle, decorative and utilitarian is what *Boot Camp* is all about.

“These boots are one of the iconographies I use in my practice that occur over and over again in different forms. I’ve made them in glass, in silicone, in many different ways.

“It’s an iconography I really love, because cowboy boots are a very masculine thing made for cowboys, but they’re full of ornament. And I love how those two things can exist in one boot – a moment where men can really express their interest in decoration.”

Piccinini’s work can be found all over the world – including on Metro Tunnel’s Parkville Station concourse. *Vernal Glade* is a beautiful work made up of handmade ceramic tiles that focuses on contributing to the wellbeing of those in its presence.

The Metro Tunnel – the biggest upgrade of Melbourne’s train network since the City Loop opened in 1981 – will open in early December.

It will transform the way we move across Melbourne – while delivering more trains, more often.

You can check out *Boot Camp* in Scott Alley now until mid-December. ●



Photo: James Henry

## FEDERAL MP

# Six months in: representing Melbourne in our national parliament

It’s been just over six months since I was elected to represent our wonderful community in the Australian Parliament; and what a six months it’s been.

**WORDS BY**  
SARAH WITTY MP, FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE



When I first walked into Parliament House as the new Member for Melbourne, I carried with me the hopes, frustrations and determination of our city. Melbourne is a place that pulses with creativity, compassion and ambition. It’s a city that knows what it stands for – fairness, opportunity, and looking out for one another.

Representing those values in Canberra is one of the greatest honours of my life.

From day one, I’ve focused on listening to residents, community leaders, small business owners, students, and local organisations, about what really matters. Housing affordability, climate action, the cost of living, and the future of work are at the top of that list. These aren’t abstract policy debates; they’re the realities shaping the daily lives of people in every corner of our city.

One of the first things I did as your representative was to push for stronger national action on housing. Too many Melburnians are being priced out of the communities they love. I’ve worked closely with the Housing Minister to make sure our voices are heard as the federal government rolls out new investments in social and affordable housing, including through the Housing Australia Future Fund, which will help

deliver thousands of new homes across Victoria.

We’ve also taken major steps forward on renewable energy and sustainability, areas where Melbourne leads the way. In Parliament, I’ve spoken about the incredible work happening locally: from start-ups driving clean technology innovation, to community groups helping households make the switch from gas. Our city has the ideas, the talent, and the urgency to help Australia meet its climate commitments and create good, secure jobs in the process.

It’s also been inspiring to see the way Melburnians step up for one another in tough times. Whether it’s volunteers at Second Bite and OzHarvest rescuing good food to feed families in need, or advocates working to support international students, or neighbourhood houses providing a safe space for connection – our community spirit is second to none.

I’ve made it a priority to champion those efforts in Canberra. Just recently, I met with social enterprises like Jigsaw, which is creating meaningful employment pathways for people with disability, and community-led organisations tackling homelessness and food insecurity. These are the people who

show what “building our future together” really looks like.

Of course, there’s much more work to do. The cost of living continues to stretch household budgets. That’s why the Albanese Government’s new tax cuts, which will start flowing to all taxpayers from July, are designed to give genuine relief to low- and middle-income earners. At the same time, we’re delivering cheaper medicines, expanding Medicare urgent care clinics, and providing energy bill relief to millions of households.

On the local front, I’ve been working with schools, sports clubs and community groups to make sure Melbourne gets its fair share of investment. We’ve secured funding to improve local sporting facilities and community hubs, and I’m working with local councils to identify more projects that can make a real difference, from safer streets to greener spaces.

More recently, the announcement of Cohealth closures in Fitzroy and Collingwood has emerged as a major issue of concern for our community. Since news of the closures came to light, I have met with Cohealth and other community health providers to get a better understanding of

how Cohealth became unviable. I am also in discussions with the Health Minister, the Health Department, the state government and Yarra Council to work out a way forward for the thousands of patients who have grave concerns about the closure.

As I look back on my first six months, I feel proud – but mostly, I feel grateful. Grateful to the people of Melbourne for placing your trust in me. Grateful for the many community members who have shared their ideas and concerns. And grateful for the chance to stand up every day for the place we all call home.

The next few years will bring challenges, no doubt about it. But they will also bring enormous opportunity. Together, we can shape a fairer, more sustainable, more inclusive future for Melbourne and for Australia.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you. My door is always open; whether it’s to raise a local issue, share an idea, or simply have a chat about what’s happening in our city.

Because representing Melbourne isn’t just about what happens in Parliament House, it’s about listening, learning, and working every day to build the future we believe in, together. ●

Quiz



- 1. Which Melbourne heritage building, once a private hospital in 1901, is now facing partial demolition as part of the Shell House redevelopment?
- 2. What type of chestnut can be used as an eco-friendly detergent?
- 3. Which councillor has publicly opposed the City of Melbourne's plan to equip community safety officers with handcuffs and arrest powers?
- 4. Netflix's *Stranger Things* debuted in what year?
- 5. How many new homes does the City of Melbourne aim to deliver by 2051 under its housing plan?
- 6. What are 'ghost colleges'?
- 7. *Phascolarctos cinereus* is the scientific name for which Australian animal?
- 8. Nestlé's Milky Bar Kid is usually dressed as what type of character?
- 9. Sandi Toksvig (pictured) hosted which British competition show from 2017 to 2020?
- 10. What was the theme of Melbourne Fashion Week 2025, taking place from October 20 to 26?
- 11. Maithili is a language spoken in which two countries?
- 12. What is the name of the \$590 million mixed-use project that will see a 42-storey tower rise above Collins Street, incorporating the historic State Savings Bank of Victoria building?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

- 1. Milton House on Flinders Lane
- 2. Conker/horse chestnut
- 3. Councillor Dr Olivia Ball
- 4. 2016
- 5. 119,500
- 6. Vocational education providers that exploit student visa loopholes
- 7. Koala
- 8. *Cowboy Be Crazy*
- 9. *The Great British Bake Off*
- 10. Come As You Are
- 11. India and Nepal
- 12. 623 Collins, developed by Sterling Global

5x5

No. 318

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

R		K		S
	R		D	
A		A		N
	U		T	
T		A		E

SOLUTIONS

RAKES, ERODE, AGAIN, CULTS, TEASE

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION  
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Sudoku

No. 053

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

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Space exploration

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- ARMSTRONG
- ASTRONAUT
- CAPSULE
- COSMONAUT
- EXPLORATION
- GAGARIN
- GRAVITY
- MOON
- NASA
- SATELLITE
- SHUTTLE
- SOYUZ
- SPACECRAFT
- STATION
- WEIGHTLESS

Secret message: Apes among the stars

Crossword

No. 053

ACROSS

- 1 Small amounts (5)
- 4 Superfluous (9)
- 9 Proceedings of meeting (7)
- 10 Elementary particle (7)
- 11 Not artificial (7)
- 12 Settle (7)
- 13 Mediterranean islander (9)
- 15 Agreement (4)
- 17 Small island (4)
- 19 Tending to plants (9)
- 22 Corrected (7)
- 25 Radio broadcaster's accessory, often (7)
- 26 First (7)
- 27 In the midst of (7)
- 28 Provider of information (9)
- 29 Lecher (5)

DOWN

- 1 Philander (8)
- 2 Upper house politician (7)
- 3 Gloomy (9)
- 4 Ending in (9)

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				

- 5 Giver (5)
- 6 Naming words (5)
- 7 Type of acid (7)
- 8 Dig (6)
- 14 Compass direction (9)
- 15 Animals that prey on others (9)
- 16 Firebrand (8)
- 18 Local law enforcer (7)
- 20 Visible (2,5)
- 21 Polynesian island (6)
- 23 Less wet (5)
- 24 Land near river's mouth (5)

SOLUTION

H	A	L	S	I	N	W	R	O	E	N	I
O	R	S	L	E	E	T					
I	S	O	M	E	T						
V	A	I	E	E	M	H					
I	B	S	G	V	E	H	O	E	G	N	M
I	N	G	I	E	H	I					
O	N	I	N	E	G	R	V	E	E	S	I
V	O	V	E	N	T	I	N	G	R	V	S
I	N										
E	A	N	O	S	E						
N	A	N	O	N							
N	O	B	I	L	E	N					
N	O	B	I	L	E	N					
I	N	V	O	E	R	S	E	S	I	M	

Codeword

No. 053

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

SOLUTIONS

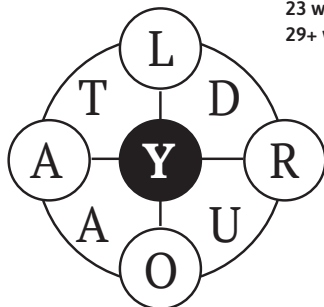
C	D	I	H	E	S	G	S	A	V	A	X	S	L	I	J
90	52	10	53	12	17	00	61	81	11	91	51	11			
L	I	F	O	B	N	K	Y	W	M	F	U	Z			
51	11	11	01	04	08	03	09	03	14	05	03	01			

9-Letter

No. 053

Today's Focus:  
17 words: Good  
23 words: Very good  
29+ words: Excellent

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



Reference:  
Macquarie Dictionary

SOLUTIONS

ADULTORY, adytia, alary, arly, atary, dory, dourly, dray, duly, duty, lady, LAUDATORY, layout, lory, orly, outlay, royal, ryot, tardy, tayra, today, today, today, today, truly, troy, tyro, your, yurt



## 墨尔本市反对州政府强制远程工作计划

“  
墨尔本市正式反对维多利亚州政府计划立法规定员工每周可在家工作两天的提议，并警告称此举可能损害城市脆弱的疫情后复苏。

Sean Car

在10月21日的表决中，议员以9比2的票数支持由拉斐尔·卡米洛议员提出、菲利普·勒·刘议员附议的动议，敦促州长贾辛塔·艾伦放弃该提议，并维持当前由雇主与员工协商的灵活工作制度。该动议也得到了市长尼克·里斯的支持。

“墨尔本因其人民而生机勃勃，”卡米洛议员表示，“当人们在这里交流、合作并支持本地企业时，我们的城市才能繁荣。灵活性应建立在选择的基础上——由雇主与员工协

商达成，而非通过一刀切的规定强加。”

动议指出，政府的计划可能“对墨尔本中央商务区产生负面影响，包括未来办公楼空置率上升、城市活力下降，以及依赖人流的小企业受到冲击。”

动议进一步强调，“职场灵活性最好通过雇主与员工协商实现”，并警告称“一刀切的强制规定”将增加官僚作风，并削弱维多利亚州各行业的多样性。

决议呼吁州政府应专注于“旨在增强信心、吸引投资和推动经济活动的政策”，认为强制远程工作权利将使墨尔本在国内外竞争中处于不利地位。

卡米洛议员表示，议会的投票反映了企业、房东和酒店业的关切。

“我一直在倾听商业界的声音，他们告诉我们他们的担忧，”他说，“空置的办公楼意味着城市里的人减少，维持墨尔本繁荣和活力的企业将面临更困难的时期。我们应专注于增强信心、吸引投资，并保持墨尔本的竞争力。”

勒·刘议员表示，该动议为城市在关系墨尔本复苏的核心问题上提供了明确立场。

## 墨尔本CBD新社区健康中心开工，应对成瘾与社会弱势问题

墨尔本CBD的一座全新社区健康中心已正式开工。州政府表示，该中心将在2026年开放时，为居民提供治疗、社会支持及成瘾服务的集中入口。

Sean Car

新中心位于Flinders街244号，由Cohealth合作建设，将医疗护理、心理健康支持、咨询、药房服务及社会项目集中于同一屋檐下。该场地还将进行维多利亚州首个羟吗啡（hydromorphone）治疗试验，旨在通过将人们从非法药物市场引导至有科学依据的替代方案，降低危害，并帮助慢性成瘾患者。

心理健康部长英格丽德·斯蒂特（Ingrid Stitt）在10月15日宣布开工时表示，该设施将成为城市最脆弱居民的安全、包容空间。

“每一位维多利亚人都应在需要时获得护理和支持——而这个新的社区健康中心将为那些在城市中心最艰难的人提供这种可能，”斯蒂特部长说。

“这意味着人们可以在一个温暖友好的地方获得医疗、治疗和社会支持，从而真正有



机会改变自己的生活。”

新中心是州政府去年推出的总额9500万澳元的“全州行动计划”一部分，该计划旨在减少药物危害，并源于Ken Lay对维多利亚州药物政策的审查。审查建议以健康为导向的成瘾应对措施，包括在CBD设立监督注射设施，但政府最终排除了这一选项。

取而代之的是，政府承诺投入3640万澳元，将原Flinders街办公楼改造为以康复和综合护理为重点的社区健康与福祉中心。该改造项目由维多利亚州健康建筑管理局（Victorian Health Building Authority）与Lendlease管理，将包括诊疗室、临时厨房、淋浴和洗衣设施、治疗与咨询空间，以及有成瘾经历的人共同设计的接待区。

Cohealth目前在Victoria街53号及救世军总部69 Bourke街提供医疗服务，将与政府合作运营该中心。



## Philip Le Liu：市政厅的稳健之手

现已担任墨尔本市议会第三个任期的勒·刘议员（Philip Le Liu），已成为议会中经验丰富且务实的声音之一。以财务纪律著称的勒·刘，其通往市政厅的道路却并非寻常。

Jon Fleetwood

在进入地方政府之前，勒·刘议员曾任管理顾问，但他觉得企业界“没有足够的成就感”。

寻求更有意义的工作，他曾前往中国创办教育科技初创公司，并参与澳中青年协会的工作——这是一个支持数千名在华澳大利亚留学生的非营利组织。

回到墨尔本后，勒·刘议员意外地进入政界，2016年他作为自由党候选人参选联邦选举墨尔本选区，这是一场很少有人愿意挑战亚当·班特（Adam Bandt）的竞选。

然而，勒·刘议员超越预期，成为该选区历史上第一位在初选票中超过工党的自由党

候选人。

他的表现吸引了已故长期议员肯·翁（Ken Ong）的注意，肯邀请他加入自己的议会竞选团队。

“没有肯·翁的支持，我不会在这里，”勒·刘议员表示，“他给了我起点，我非常感激。”

当选后，勒·刘议员以关注负责任的财务管理而闻名。在上一个任期内，作为前市长萨莉·卡普（Sally Capp）任内的财政事务主管，他监督了四个预算，并推动议会实现财政盈余。

“这听起来不够炫目，”他说，“但让墨尔本恢复收支平衡至关重要。我们不能像以前那样随意花钱——我们必须修复财政状况。”

然而，勒·刘议员认为，议会仍有很长的路要走。他指出，议会目前面临的最大挑战是完成已承诺的项目，包括维多利亚女王市场改造计划和Greenline项目。

“我们有一个习惯，总是推出新项目而未完成旧项目，”他说，“现在是整合成果的时候，而不仅仅是创造新的计划。”

## 墨尔本步行街开幕，为Bourke街商城带来曼哈顿风情

墨尔本的零售核心迎来了一个大胆的新中心——期待已久的墨尔本步行街（Melbourne Walk）正式开幕，这是Bourke街商城50多年来的首次重大开发，也是Bourke街与Little Collins街之间引人注目的新通道。

Sean Car

新街区连接了一个3600平方米场地上的多栋历史建筑，汇集了6295平方米的零售空间，以及洲际酒店集团（IHG）在澳大利亚的首个双品牌酒店：Indigo酒店与假日酒店（Holiday Inn），两者共拥有452间客房，位于三层零售底座之上。

由全球建筑事务所Buchan设计，墨尔本步行街的翻新立面、重新设计的拱廊和充满活力的标识——包括高耸的霓虹灯“Melbourne Walk”标志，令人联想起曼哈顿——已经开始改变Bourke街商城的城市风貌。

该街区位于原“Walk Arcade”旧址，延伸至Bourke街、Little Collins街、The



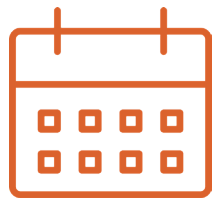
Causeway及Union Lane。Buchan高级合伙人海登·贾基奇（Hayden Djacic）表示，该项目以现代手法重新演绎了这一著名的行人“蚁道”，融合了墨尔本的坚韧与魅力。

“墨尔本步行街是对城市独特身份的礼赞，”贾基奇先生表示，“它将Bourke街商城的零售优雅与定义墨尔本的巷道文化相结合，创造了一个本地居民和游客都可以探索、购物、用餐和住宿的新目的地。”

四座历史立面——包括Bourke街的Diamond House和Public Benefit Bootery，以及Little Collins街的Allans和York建筑——均得到了精心修复。新建立面在设计上借鉴了邻近的历史建筑，重新诠释材料、几何形态和照明，形成了一个既统一又层次丰富的街区。

内部，九米高的拱廊由金色天窗照亮，连接Bourke街与Little Collins街，呼应了Royal Arcade和Block Arcade的节奏与宏伟感。黄铜、大理石和纹理石材勾勒出店面轮廓，温暖的灯光和反射效果赋予空间电影般的质感——让街区拥有曼哈顿市中心的国际都市氛围，同时保留了墨尔本独特的城市气质。

## WHAT'S ON November



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



### QUEEN VIC MARKET FLAVOURS OF GREECE TOUR

Explore Greek flavours at Queen Victoria Market with a guided tasting tour, including feta, olives, seafood and dolmades. Includes shopping bag.

Queen Victoria Market

SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER, 10AM – 12PM



### POLISH FESTIVAL @ FED SQUARE

Celebrate 21 years of the Polish Festival at Fed Square with free folk dancing, music, art, kids' activities, and traditional food – honouring Poland's vibrant culture in the heart of Melbourne.

Fed Square, Melbourne

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER, 10AM – 5PM



### MATINEES AT ACMI CINEMAS

Spring matinees run Fridays to Sundays, featuring factual films like Sally and Yurlu | Country, plus global escapes and 4K restorations including Somersault and Sunset Boulevard. New films fortnightly.

ACMI Cinemas, Fed Square

UNTIL 30 NOVEMBER



### ARJ BARKER'S SAFE SPACE: TUESDAYS

US comedian Arj Barker performs every Tuesday at Basement Comedy Club, testing new jokes, classic bits, and hosting guests before touring global theatres. Rare, intimate shows.

Basement Comedy Club, Melbourne

UNTIL 25 NOVEMBER, 8PM – 9.15PM



### THE SCOTS' CHURCH PROMS

You're invited to join us for The Scots' Church Proms on Sunday 16 November from 2 PM for a delightful afternoon of music, fun and praise. Admission is free! More info: [scotschurch.com/proms](http://scotschurch.com/proms)

Scots' Church – Cnr Collins/Russell St

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER, 2PM



### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

The Tony Award® winning A Christmas Carol returns to Melbourne, starring Lachy Hulme as Scrooge. Featuring stunning staging, classic carols, and a powerful tale of redemption for all ages.

Comedy Theatre, Melbourne

UNTIL 24 DECEMBER



### KATE REID: ON FAST CARS AND CROISSANTS

Kate Reid left F1 engineering to pursue pastry, founding Lune Croissanterie and earning global fame for her perfect croissants.

The Wheeler Centre Melbourne

TUES 25 NOVEMBER, 6.30PM – 7.30PM

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