



Private dining and cocktails in historic Queen St landmark

Edition Hospitality Group culinary director Michael Greenlaw and Reine & La Rue executive chef Andy Roche outside the new cocktail bar and private dining venue Bar Privé, which will open on Queen St in July, adding another hospitality offering to Melbourne's historic Gothic Bank precinct. More on page 12.

HIDDEN SECRETS, PAGE 03

Frontier wars memorial in the heart of the city

COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 09

New laws give council stronger hand on derelict buildings

Work-from-home laws reignite fight over Melbourne's CBD recovery

The Victorian Government's move to legislate a right to work from home has reignited a bitter debate over Melbourne's post-pandemic recovery, with the City of Melbourne, business groups and the housing industry warning the policy will add red tape, weaken city activity and create new uncertainty for employers

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Premier Jacinta Allan announced on June 16 that Labor's work-from-home laws would come into effect from September 1, with legislation introduced to parliament to amend the Equal Opportunity Act 2010.

Under the proposed laws, Victorians who can reasonably work from home would have a legal right to do so two days a week. Regular casual and part-time workers would also be covered, with guidance to be released on how pro-rata entitlements would operate.

Workplaces with fewer than 15 employees would have until July 1, 2027 before the laws apply, giving small businesses more time to prepare.

The government says the change will lock in flexibility for workers, save families money and support workforce participation. It estimates working from home saves Victorian workers an average of \$110 a week, or \$5308 a year, while reducing commuting time by more than three hours a week.

"Work from home works for families, it saves time and money and it gets more parents working," Ms Allan said. "That's why we're protecting work from home in law."

Minister for Industrial Relations Jaclyn Symes said working from home was "good for families, good for productivity and good for the economy".

But the announcement has drawn immediate criticism from the City of Melbourne, which has long argued that flexible work arrangements should remain a matter between employers and employees rather than be imposed through state legislation.

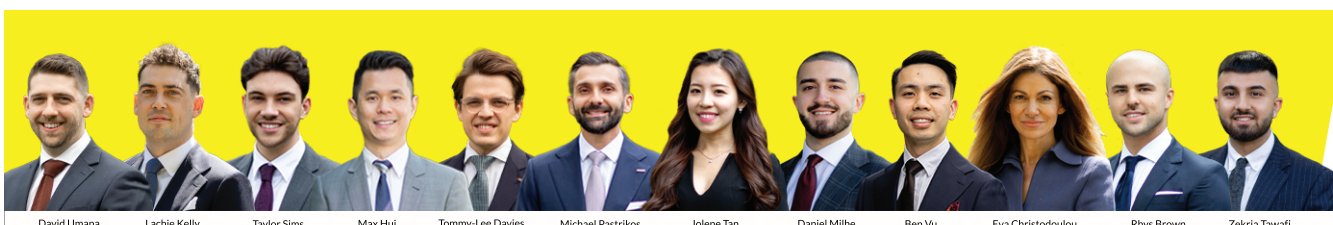
Continued on page 2.



QVM TRADER, PAGE 15

Queen Victoria Market stalwart marks 50 years

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Work-from-home laws reignite fight over Melbourne's CBD recovery

Continued from page 1.

Acting Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell said the council's position was clear.

"Flexible work arrangements are a matter between employers and employees already provided for in federal legislation," Cr Campbell said.

"Not only is this State Government legislation unnecessary, it creates a bureaucratic and legal nightmare for Victoria's small businesses that are already doing it so tough."

Cr Campbell said the government should instead focus on "building confidence, attracting investment and driving economic activity".

"This legislation will do nothing to grow the State's economy and is a long-term threat to every worker in Victoria because a job that can be done from home is a job that can be done offshore," she said.

The criticism follows months of tension between Spring St and Town Hall over the issue.

In February, Premier Allan publicly released a letter rebuking Lord Mayor Nick Reece and councillors over the council's opposition to mandated work-from-home rights.

In that letter, the Premier argued that the council had left "workers" out of its list of stakeholders and said she was "speaking for them".

But the council has maintained that its position is not anti-flexibility. Rather, councillors have argued that a blanket legislated right risks further weakening CBD recovery, increasing office vacancies and undermining small businesses reliant on weekday foot traffic.

That argument sits at the heart of the latest backlash.

The Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other employer groups, through the Victorian Congress of Employer

Associations, have called on the government to withdraw the Bill, arguing it is creating "a problem that didn't exist".

The groups said Victorian businesses had already embraced flexible work, with recent Victorian Chamber surveys showing about three-quarters of businesses already provide flexible work arrangements, including hybrid models.

"The system is currently working," the joint statement said.

"Instead of supporting practical conversations between employers and employees, this legislation introduces a new layer of regulation and positions VCAT as the ultimate arbiter of workplace arrangements."

Under the government's model, disputes would go to the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission for conciliation, or to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal if conciliation failed.

Business groups argue that would replace workplace-level negotiation with delay, legal processes and uncertainty at a time when employers are already dealing with rising freight, energy, insurance and supply chain costs.

"Business supports genuine workplace flexibility," the statement said.

"What we do not support is replacing collaborative workplace conversations with legal processes, uncertainty and unnecessary bureaucracy."

"There was no problem to fix."

The Housing Industry Association has also called for the laws to be abandoned, warning the policy represents a "one-size-fits-all" approach that fails to reflect the operational reality of industries such as residential construction.

HIA Victorian executive director Keith Ryan said flexible work could support workforce participation, but argued the government's use of anti-discrimination laws was "a cynical attempt to circumvent existing federal laws".

"These changes would create obligations

that simply don't reflect how businesses operate," Mr Ryan said.

"For home builders, this would add unnecessary compliance pressure and complexity at a time when many employers are already under significant strain."

Mr Ryan said Victoria should be focused on delivering more homes, addressing integrity issues in construction and making the state more attractive for business, rather than adding further workplace regulation.

He said HIA's recent Small Business Conditions Survey showed around 75 per cent of small business members were considering scaling back, relocating or closing due to the regulatory burden of operating in Victoria.

"This rushed announcement only reinforces the perception that Victoria is not open for business – particularly small business," he said.

The debate is now set to become a major pre-election flashpoint.

Labor is framing the laws as a cost-of-living and family-friendly reform, while the City of Melbourne and business groups argue the policy risks damaging the central city economy and complicating workplace arrangements already being managed without state intervention.

As it did earlier this year, the dispute again raises a more nuanced question than whether flexible work is good or bad. Most stakeholders accept it is now part of modern working life.

The unresolved issue is who should decide its limits: employers and employees at the workplace level, or the state through a legislated right.

Evan Mulholland, Liberal Member for the Northern Metropolitan Region and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, said, "The Liberals and Nationals support flexible working arrangements. We will be looking closely at what the government has proposed and assessing this legislation on its merits." ●

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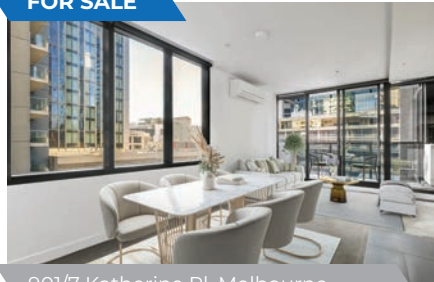
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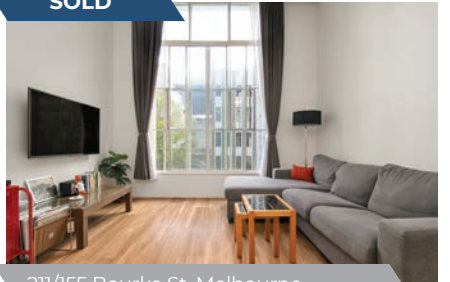
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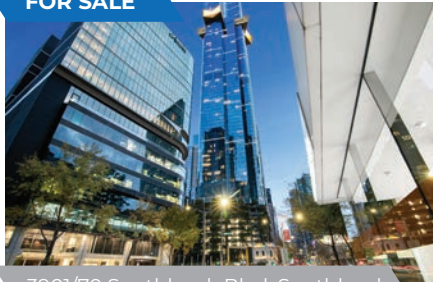


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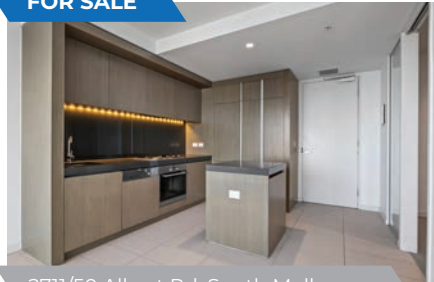
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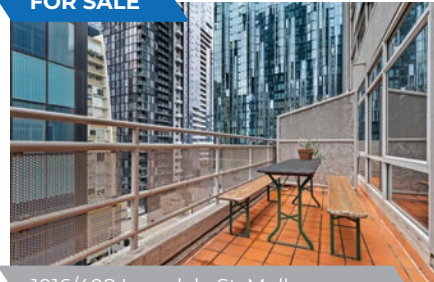
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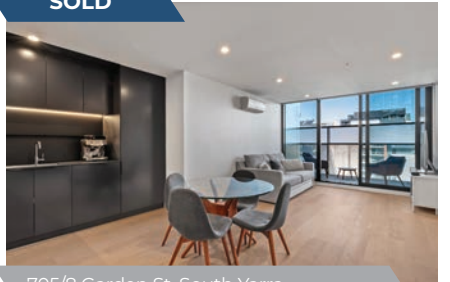
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Frontier wars memorial in the heart of the city

Tucked into a tiny pocket of native trees, shrubs and plantings on one of Melbourne's busiest corners is a surprising monument.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



Its colourful, varied shapes and forms suggest a playful contemporary art piece.

But the location, opposite and connected via bluestone pathway to the frighteningly grim main gate of Old Melbourne Gaol, signals something else.

The installation, on a rise once known as Gallows Hill, in fact, marks the place where the first two people to be executed in Melbourne were hung.

Tasmanian Aboriginal men Tunnerminnerwait – in early records known as “Jack” – and Maulboyheener – also called “Robert”, “Bob”, “Timmy”, “Jimmy” and “Timme” – were hung here in 1842 for having fatally shot two whalers in the Western Port area.

The pair had been brought to Melbourne in 1839 by “Aboriginal Protector” George Augustus Robinson as part of a group of 15 survivors of the three-decade-long roundup, killings and expulsion of Aboriginal people from Tasmania’s main island.

Two years later a party of five of them had absconded from Robinson’s supervision and travelled east on a journey that saw them raid settler huts, shoot the whalers at Cape Paterson and evade capture over several weeks.

Their motives were unclear but could have included payback for the killing of a relative and the rape and mistreatment of Aboriginal women.

The attacks happened during an intense period of violence in the history of Port Phillip.

As one historian has noted, after John Batman’s Tasmanian group began to take over land there in 1835, “Port Phillip had become such a terrible place for Aborigines that within 15 years of the founding of Melbourne almost all of them were dead”.

At Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener’s trial, where the accused were not allowed to give evidence, their counsel, future chief justice Redmond Barry cited “the Black War” in Tasmania as a motivation for the shootings and raids they carried out.

Three women who were with them

– well-known Tasmanian Truganini; Planobeena, the sister of resistance fighter Eumarrah, and Pytterriner – were tried and acquitted as accessories to the murders.

The jury found Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener guilty but urged mercy on the grounds of their previous good behaviour and unusual circumstances.

The recommendation was ignored, with Judge Willis, Superintendent Charles La Trobe and the Governor in Sydney, Sir George Gipps, all agreeing the men should be executed.

In a play on the fact that the January 20, 1842 hanging was a public event with a reportedly festive atmosphere that was attended by a quarter of the colony’s

population, the “commemorative marker” for the two men is styled as a “swing” attached to a frame.

At the same time its huge bluestone blocks engraved with their names evoke their coffins, and the swing’s chains the ropes they were hung with.

It is surrounded with indigenous food and medicine plantings and a reproduction, Victorian-style suburban fence.

A row of newspaper stands, painted in the colours of the Aboriginal and Australian flags, contain information, including newspaper articles, about the events and other colonial histories.

The Standing by Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner memorial by Indigenous artists Brook Andrew and Trent Walter was commissioned by the City of Melbourne in early 2016 and opened publicly on September 11, 2016.

It exists, there on the busy corner of Franklin and Victoria streets, in the heart of Melbourne, as the result of the efforts of a dedicated group of activists who formed a commemoration committee and campaigned for the recognition for more than a decade.

Built 165 years after the two men’s execution, it is “the first significant monument to frontier wars in any capital city in this country,” the committee’s chair Dr Joe Toscano says.

According to the artists it “invites visitors to the site to sit, contemplate and reflect”.



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Council backs infrastructure plan as CBD faces space squeeze

The City of Melbourne has endorsed a new 10-year Community Infrastructure Plan, with the CBD identified as one of the municipality's most constrained areas for future community space.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The Community Infrastructure Plan 2026-36 was unanimously backed at the June 16 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, setting out a city-wide framework for how the council will plan, deliver, partner and advocate for community spaces over the next decade.

While the plan covers the whole municipality, its central district section highlights the particular challenge facing the Hoddle Grid, where major arts and cultural institutions sit alongside community hubs of varying condition, but also where there are "significant shortfalls" across all categories of community space and limited capacity to expand.

For the CBD, the council's next four-year pipeline includes planning for open space improvements, the new Market Square and Queens Corner Building at Queen Victoria Market, activation of City of Melbourne buildings in the Bourke St precinct, community space opportunities along the Birrarung as part of future Greenline stages, and advocacy for new primary schools to service the Hoddle Grid.

The plan also identifies longer-term CBD ideas, including a new early years hub, partnerships to deliver recreation and youth spaces, an Aboriginal community hub and better use of civic assets.

City strategy director Jo Cannington told



councillors the plan was a "first of its kind" for the City of Melbourne, bringing together the council's understanding of its community infrastructure assets with demand over time.

She said the plan would help coordinate investment, respond to growth and provide clearer prioritisation about how facilities and services should be optimised.

"It doesn't actually then go to implementation. That will be the next step," Ms Cannington said.

"This is our first step on, I think, a really exciting process."

The plan notes that Melbourne's residential population is forecast to exceed 292,000 by 2043, alongside a much larger daily population of workers, students and visitors.

For the CBD, that dual role is especially important. The Hoddle Grid is not only a residential neighbourhood, but also the centre of Melbourne's worker, visitor, education, cultural and civic life.

The report identifies existing central city assets including narm ngarrgu Library and Family Services, the Multicultural Hub, Melbourne Town Hall, City Library, Melbourne City Baths, City Art, North Bank Signal Box, Collins Street Studio, Regent Theatre and City Square.

But with land scarce, expensive and largely built out, the council says it cannot simply build its way out of future demand.

Acting Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell, who moved an amended version of the original motion, said the plan provided a "much needed reset" by creating a single city-wide framework for community infrastructure planning.

She said the council needed to move away from fragmented, site-by-site decision-making and adopt an evidence-based approach to where investment was needed most.

"For the first time, we will have a shared transparent view across the city of existing supply, current and future demand and the gaps that we need to address over time," Cr Campbell said.

She said the plan would help the council make better use of existing infrastructure before deciding to build new facilities, while also embedding infrastructure planning into the annual budget, capital works and asset planning processes.

The final motion also strengthened the plan's review and accountability process, requiring management to provide an opportunity for community feedback on the

first year of the plan through the Annual Plan and Budget process.

Future project ideas will also be monitored, considered and, where necessary, reprioritised through the annual budget cycle.

Ms Cannington said a new interactive online version of the plan would allow residents to see existing community assets and planned projects by neighbourhood.

The tool will be updated annually, with a full review of the plan every four years.

Cr Davydd Griffiths described the document as "foundational" for the council's future work.

"It's entirely appropriate that we have something that starts to marry up that understanding of our assets and that understanding of what community need is," he said.

Heritage issues were also raised through written submissions, including from cultural heritage professional B. McNicholas, who argued the plan should more clearly identify when proposed infrastructure sits within heritage-listed places.

The submission cited examples including Market Square at the National Heritage-listed Queen Victoria Market, facilities within Royal Park and Fawkner Park, the Domain Parklands, and the World Heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens.

For the CBD, the issue is particularly relevant given the plan's focus on Market Square, Queens Corner and better use of civic assets.

B. McNicholas argued heritage considerations should be recognised upfront in the strategic planning framework rather than deferred to later project approvals.

The endorsed plan will now be published online, with annual reporting intended to allow communities to track progress and continue pushing for local priorities as Melbourne's demand for community space grows. ●

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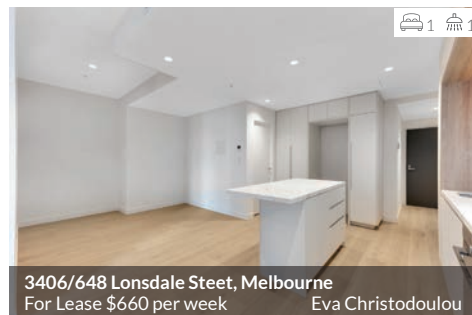
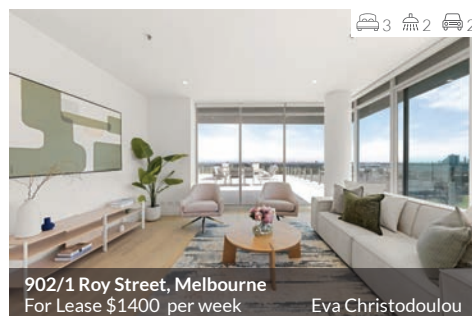
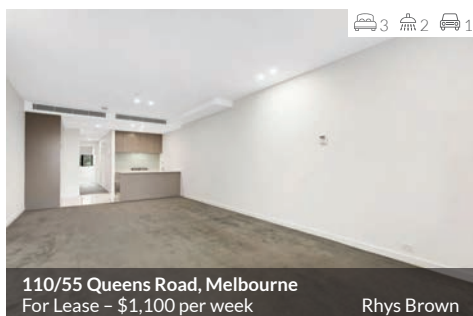
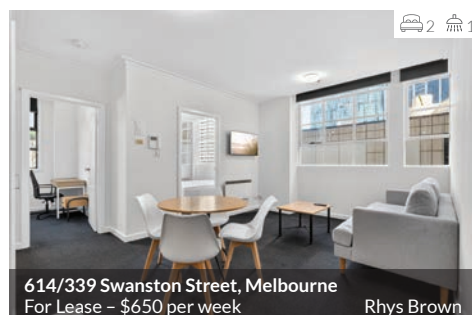
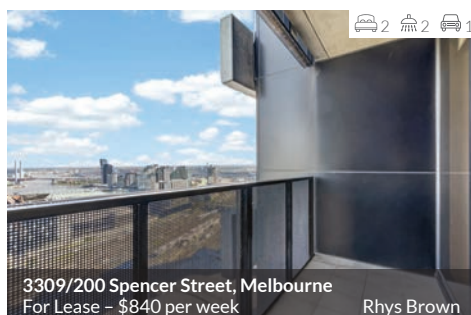
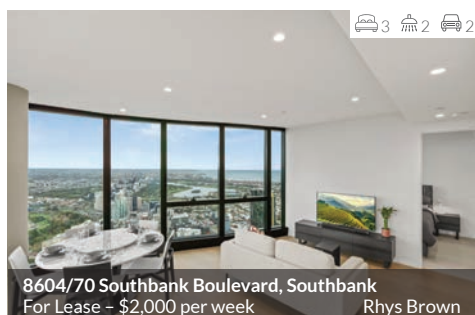
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A helping hand out of homelessness



The City of Melbourne's investing \$2.3 million in homelessness initiatives as part of Budget 2026-27.

For people experiencing homelessness, a pathway to stable housing often begins with something simple: a conversation.

"A huge part of our work is consistency. We keep showing up."

After 8 years working with people sleeping rough in Melbourne, Jessica has seen firsthand how trust is built slowly, one conversation at a time.

"Everyone is different and there's no one-size-fits-all approach. Sometimes a win is someone accepting a cup of coffee and being open to a chat after years of trying to build rapport," says Jessica.

Rain, hail or shine, Jessica's teams are in the city every day. As the coordinator of Launch Housing's Rough Sleepers Initiative and Daily Support Team, they're often the first point of contact for people experiencing homelessness.

In a typical month, the Daily Support Team speaks to more than 130 people across the City of Melbourne. They connect people with health services and crisis accommodation and pathways into longer-term housing.

Jessica says while the work can be challenging, it's deeply rewarding.

"The real beauty of the work we do is seeing people who have been entrenched in sleeping rough find a home after years of persistent engagement with the team."

"We got to know someone who had been sleeping rough for 10 years. He's now moved into safe, secure, long-term supported accommodation where he can stay for the rest of his life if he chooses. This amazing outcome came from years of engagement, relationship building and support from multiple people across the team."

For Jessica, stories like this are a reminder that the right care can change lives.

To help more people find a path out of homelessness, City of Melbourne is investing \$2.3 million in homelessness initiatives as part of Budget 2026-27.

The funding will help back 2 new programs: the Melbourne Outreach Team, delivered by Launch Housing and Ngwala Willumbong, and a new Safe Space Program led by VincentCare.

Led by Jessica, the new Melbourne Outreach Team will help people sleeping rough with referrals to crisis accommodation, supported housing and other essential services.

The service will also double the number of specialist frontline workers on Melbourne's streets and introduce a dedicated complex case manager to provide trauma-informed, long-term care.

"We want to ensure people experiencing homelessness get the care they need most, working alongside trusted partners with expertise in mental health, social services and trauma. Together, we believe we can make a real, positive difference in people's lives," Lord Mayor Nick Reece said.

Jessica says the complexity of homelessness means no single organisation can tackle it alone.



"It takes strong partnerships between outreach services, health providers, housing services and local government to create lasting change."

As part of this broader network, City of Melbourne Community Safety Officers (CSOs) also help connect vulnerable people with services across the city. Their numbers are set to double from 11 to 22 as part of Budget 2026-27.

CSOs are trained in trauma-informed engagement, mental health awareness, cultural safety, substance use and family violence awareness.

The path out of homelessness rarely begins with housing. More often, it starts with trust.

"Treating people with dignity and respect won't solve homelessness but it can make it more likely that people will feel comfortable reaching out for support," Jessica said.



The team connects people with crisis accommodation and longer-term housing. Photo: Launch Housing



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New garden guidelines open door to greener neighbourhood streets

Melburnians will be able to plant small gardens in nature strips, tree plots, laneways and planter boxes more easily under new City of Melbourne guidelines designed to encourage community-led greening across the municipality.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The Garden City Guidelines were unanimously endorsed by councillors at the June 16 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, giving residents, renters and businesses clearer rules for greening local streets without needing a permit in most cases.

The guidelines apply to neighbourhoods outside the Hoddle Grid, including Kensington, Carlton, North Melbourne, West Melbourne, Parkville, Docklands, East Melbourne, Southbank, Fishermans Bend and South Yarra.

The CBD will remain subject to the existing Greening Melbourne Permit system because of its tighter layout, high pedestrian volumes and more constrained public realm. Edible gardens in streets will also still require a Street Garden Permit, while some state-managed and heritage roads are excluded.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece, who was overseas and not at the meeting, said the guidelines would make it easier for residents and businesses to contribute to Melbourne's garden city identity.

"We're making it easier than ever for Melburnians to roll up their sleeves, uncover their green thumb and start transforming their neighbourhoods," Cr Reece said.

"Melbourne is the garden city, and these guidelines will help our residents and businesses create vibrant green spaces that bring colour, biodiversity and life to our streets."

The new framework allows for in-ground planting in nature strips and tree plots, as well as pots and planters on footpaths or outside buildings, provided safety, access and maintenance requirements are met.

Residents must check underground services, speak to neighbours, choose appropriate non-invasive plants and maintain gardens over time.

The guidelines prohibit edible plants, trees, spiky or hazardous plants, weeds, synthetic turf, rocks, structures, irrigation systems, electrical wiring and herbicides or insecticides. Plant heights are capped at one metre, or 50cm within 10 metres of intersections or crossings.

Footpaths must retain at least 1.2 metres of clear pedestrian space, with pots and planters also subject to size and stability limits.

Environment portfolio head Cr Davydd Griffiths said the shift from a permit-based approach to an enabling guidelines model would remove a barrier for residents who wanted to green their streets.

"No matter how big or small – every garden makes a difference," Cr Griffiths said.

"More greenery means cooler streets, better habitats for birds and pollinators, and more welcoming neighbourhoods for everyone."

At the meeting, Cr Griffiths said many residents had either already been gardening outside their homes or had been "waiting and asking for the opportunity to do so".

He said the guidelines would help people move from the initial idea of "I'd like to grow something at the front of my house" through the practical steps needed before "putting spade into ground".

The council says the guidelines support broader goals around biodiversity, urban cooling, stormwater management, social cohesion and neighbourhood pride.

Submissions to the meeting were broadly supportive, including from the Southbank Residents' Association, which said the guidelines were particularly relevant in high-density areas where streets were often dominated by hard surfaces, buildings and transport infrastructure.

But accessibility concerns emerged as a major talking point.

Disability Advisory Committee member and access consultant Rosemary Walshaw told councillors she supported more urban greening, but warned that environmental outcomes should not come at the expense of accessibility and inclusion.

"For many people with disability, footpaths are not simply public spaces. They are essential transport infrastructure," she said.

She said barriers often emerged gradually as vegetation grew, pots were moved, paths narrowed or surfaces became slippery, and that people with disability did not always lodge complaints when access was compromised.

"The community should not have to choose between a greener city and an accessible city," she said.

Other written submissions raised similar concerns, including calls for clearer complaints processes, stronger requirements around planter stability, more explicit warnings about spiky plants and clearer written guidance on bin clearance and pedestrian access.



Council officers said those matters could be addressed through minor editorial changes, frequently asked questions on the council website and the annual review process.

The council will also encourage residents to register new and existing gardens to improve visibility, support communication, recognise community projects and help council contractors understand which gardens are being maintained.

Cr Griffiths said the guidelines would evolve over time, but marked an important step towards allowing "budding green thumbs right across the city" to help green Melbourne's streets.

The final guidelines will be published on the City of Melbourne website, with a new online landing page and garden registration process. ●



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Gurrowa Place redesign approved

City of Melbourne councillors have endorsed revised designs for two towers in Lendlease's \$1.7 billion Gurrowa Place development, following changed market conditions and conditions attached to the project's federal environment and heritage approval.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



At the June 16 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, councillors voted unanimously to support amendments to the QVM Southern Precinct Development Plan and the planning permit for towers 1 and 2.

The revised design "reduced massing" near the heritage Franklin St stores and provided "a much more respectful interface", councillors were told.

The endorsement came despite questions from Cr Andrew Rowse about wind impacts from the 29- and 47-storey north-facing towers, and concerns from Friends of Queen Victoria Market that the upcoming review of market operations could have significant implications and should be allowed to run its course before decisions were made.

With the Minister for Planning the ultimate decision-maker, councillors were advised that delaying their decision could risk the council having no input. The amendments had also been reviewed by the Office of the Victorian Government Architect.

A notable detail to emerge from

submissions was that any trees in the 1.8-hectare Market Square park, to be created over the current outdoor car park, would need to be planted in containers.

Kate Gray from Lovell Chen told councillors this was because, under last year's federal approval, no excavation could occur within the footprint of the Old Melbourne Cemetery.

The main design changes include setting tower 1, closest to Flagstaff Gardens, further back from the Franklin St stores, which are due to be redeveloped, and converting the building from office to residential use.

That shift has seen architects adopt "a revised form" comprising three distinct elements that step up in height from west to east.

Planner Sarah Macklin from Urbis, which has worked with Lendlease on the

development, said the primary change was "the setback of tower 1 to create more breathing space for the heritage Franklin St stores".

"Tower 1 was originally approved as a commercial building and approval is now sought to change the use," she said.

"This responds to the more slender form of the [revised] tower 1, and also of the market conditions that have changed."

The conversion would increase the combined number of dwellings in towers 1 and 2 from 569 to 1129.

The two towers are together valued at \$553 million and will include a mix of studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments.

They will also include 10 per cent affordable housing, adding 53 affordable dwellings to the project and lifting the overall total from 81 to 134.

Ms Macklin said the affordable homes would be transferred to a registered housing agency in perpetuity and rented at a maximum of 30 per cent of gross household income.

The third tower, a 53-storey building being developed separately by student accommodation provider Scape, is expected to contain around 1150 beds.

Responding to project documents, Cr Rowse raised concerns about possible downdrafts and gusting winds in Market Square, as well as "an east-west facing wind tunnel" between the new buildings and the Franklin St stores.

He noted that, based on the wind modelling diagrams provided, 85 per cent of the park appeared to sit above the "sitting comfort" threshold for wind.

"Are we inadvertently creating a park next to the market where we expect people to sit and eat food, but we expect there to be significant downdraft and gusty winds as a result of the infrastructure?" he asked.

City of Melbourne planning executive Julian Edwards said, "wind implications" could not be completely avoided, but that the revised design improved "the amount of sitting and standing comfort throughout the area".

Council infrastructure head Rick Kwasek said any wind mitigation required in Market Square would be considered through the separate park design process, for which the council is responsible.

Councillors Roshena Campbell, Rafael Camillo, Kevin Louey, Andrew Rowse, Olivia Ball, Davydd Griffiths and Mark Scott voted in favour of supporting the planning amendments.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece and councillors Gladys Liu, Philip Le Liu and Owen Guest were absent. ●

Street Side Medics calls for volunteer GPs at Bourke St clinic

Street Side Medics has issued an urgent call for Melbourne GPs to volunteer at its Bourke St clinic, as demand continues to grow for free primary healthcare among people experiencing homelessness.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The not-for-profit, GP-led mobile medical service operates fully customised medical vans equipped as "GP clinics on wheels", delivering healthcare directly to people who may otherwise face barriers to treatment.

Its Bourke St clinic, located outside The Salvation Army's Melbourne Project 614 at Westwood Place, off 69 Bourke St, runs every Thursday from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Street Side Medics is now calling for more local GPs to volunteer for a monthly two-hour shift to help maintain consistent weekly clinics for some of Melbourne's most vulnerable people.

Since launching in September 2024, the Bourke St clinic has recorded a steady increase in patient presentations, with many people returning each week for ongoing primary healthcare and continuity of care.

Street Side Medics CEO Nic Brown said the organisation relied on volunteers to keep its clinics running.

"The Street Side Medics model is entirely volunteer-driven, and we are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated and deeply valued team of medical and allied health professionals supporting our clinics," Mr Brown said.

"However, demand at our Bourke St clinic continues to grow, and we are urgently

seeking more GPs to help us meet the needs of people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness in Melbourne."

Mr Brown said even a small commitment from local doctors could make a significant difference.

"Even two hours a month from a GP can change the trajectory of someone's health," he said.

"We would be immensely grateful for any GPs – especially in and around Melbourne's CBD – to consider volunteering."

The Bourke St clinic was Street Side Medics' first expansion beyond NSW, following the charity's launch in August 2020. It has since expanded its Victorian footprint to include clinics in Dandenong, St Kilda and Geelong.

Founded by 2022 Young Australian of the Year Dr Daniel Nour, Street Side Medics focuses on areas with high concentrations of people experiencing homelessness, working alongside food services, shelters and other support organisations.

Mr Brown said people experiencing homelessness often faced barriers to healthcare including cost, lack of transport, limited awareness of services and past negative experiences that had led to distrust.

Street Side Medics provides bulk-billed care through Medicare where possible, but also operates a no-turn-away policy for people without Medicare or those unable to access it.

Services include general health checks, chronic disease screening, acute infectious screening, immunisations, pathology,

diagnosis and treatment, Medicare care plans, nutritional advice, minor procedures and referrals.

GPs interested in volunteering can email volunteer@streetsidemedics.com.au or visit streetsidemedics.com.au ●



New laws give council stronger hand on derelict buildings

“

The City of Melbourne is set to receive greater powers to pressure owners of vacant and derelict buildings to act, under state government reforms aimed at tackling some of the city's most persistent eyesores.

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The *Local Government Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities) Bill 2026*, introduced to parliament in June, would amend the *City of Melbourne Act 2001* to give the council more flexibility in how it applies differential rates.

Currently, the highest differential rate the council can set is no more than twice the lowest rate. The bill would increase that limit to four times the lowest differential rate, while retaining the city's use of Net Annual Value as the valuation base for rates.

The change responds to concerns raised by the City of Melbourne about vacant and derelict properties that have become unsightly, unsafe or magnets for vandalism and rough sleeping.

In a statement to parliament on June 18, Minister for Local Government Paul Hamer said the number of properties of specific concern to the council in 2026 was around 20 to 30.

The proposed rate settings are intended to give property owners a stronger financial incentive to develop, clean up or otherwise improve neglected sites.

For the City of Melbourne, the reform follows years of frustration over prominent vacant buildings, including the former Cancer Council building on Rathdowne St in Carlton.

The site, opposite the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, has sat boarded up, vandalised and repeatedly breached by squatters since being sold to private interests more than a decade ago.

It has become one of the most high-profile examples of a broader issue that Lord Mayor Nick Reece and councillors have been pushing to address.

Cr Reece previously described the former Cancer Council building as “one of the great eyesores of the city” and said it was unacceptable for buildings to fall into such disrepair that they posed risks to the community.

Acting Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell welcomed the state government's reform, saying the change would bring Melbourne into line with other councils across Victoria.

“Changes to the *City of Melbourne Act* will finally bring our municipality in-line with all local governments across the state on how differential rates can be applied,” Cr Campbell said.

She said the measure was not about raising extra money for the council but about changing behaviour.

“This does not generate any additional revenue for the council – but it does allow

us to crack down on some of the city's worst eyesores, while offering an incentive for others to do the right thing,” she said.

“We'll explore how we can best use these changes over the coming months.”

Cr Campbell said the council wanted to see sites such as the Cancer Council building cleaned up and redeveloped as quickly as possible.

“Council will also continue to chase every policy lever and intervention we have available to crack down on the dilapidated and vacant sites that are a blight on our city because we know that's what Melburnians expect,” she said.

The reform builds on work already under way at Town Hall.

In September last year, councillors backed a motion calling for a comprehensive review of how the council deals with vacant, unsafe or unsightly premises.

That review included consideration of the city's Activities Local Law, graffiti management, planning and building enforcement powers, cost recovery options, demolition orders, interim green space and potential use of differential rates, levies and charges.

While the new laws will not automatically resolve long-running problem sites, they would give the council a sharper tool to target owners who leave buildings vacant and deteriorating.

For a city still working to restore confidence, activity and safety in its central areas, the test will now be whether the new power is strong enough to turn land banking from a passive strategy into an expensive one. ●

Melbourne “in character” as San Francisco for US film

Local residents and business owners were alerted late in May to the upcoming filming of “an exciting new international drama feature” in Melbourne's CBD.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



A letter sent to Eastenders and Residents3000 groups warned that the shooting of interior scenes at Melbourne Town Hall and the Hotel Windsor on June 22 would see up to 150 cast and crew in the area, with a large number of vehicles, including production trucks, parked in nearby streets.

It politely apologised in advance for any

inconvenience and promised crews would do their best to minimise the impact on the neighbourhood.

“Without the support of local communities such as yours it would not be possible for the Victorian screen industry to contribute \$500 million in economic activity to Victoria and support 8000 local jobs across creators, crews and screen businesses,” it said.

The company behind the letter, Golden Gate Productions, would say nothing ahead of an official announcement.

On June 19 VicScreen revealed that the production in question was *Fog City*, written and directed by US billionaire Dan Pritzker, which is set in Depression-era San Francisco against the backdrop of the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Pritzker, a musician as well as director, has previously made films about jazz pioneers Buddy Bolden (*Bolden*) and Louis Armstrong (*Louis*).

“With the support of the Victorian Government through VicScreen, *Fog City*



is utilising many of Melbourne's heritage landmarks and the first-class stages and converted ‘backlot’ at Docklands Studios to recreate 1930s San Francisco,” the agency said.

These included not only the Windsor, Town Hall and Trades Hall, but further

afield Rippon Lea Estate, the Palais and Labassa Mansion.

The production would inject \$60 million into the Victorian economy, VicScreen said, with benefits including the creation of 365 jobs for local crew and 2645 roles for cast, casuals and extras while 250 local businesses would be supported.

The production had been incentivised to set up in the state by VicScreen, through the Victorian Screen Incentive and was also accessing the Federal Government's Location Offset, VicScreen said.

It joined “a strong pipeline of high-profile projects choosing Victoria this year,” with recent productions including Michael Shanks' *Hotel Hotel Hotel* starring Oscar® winner Daniel Kaluuya, action thriller *Empire City* starring Gerard Butler and Hayley Atwell, drama series *The Airport Chaplain* starring Hugo Weaving and Shabana Azeez, comedy series *Separated at Birth* starring Nazeem Hussain and Urzila Carson, and children's series *Little Lunch: New Class*. ●

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City overwhelms in MIFF premiere *Mad Rush*

“

A feature premiering at MIFF in August showcases Melbourne's CBD as the dystopian backdrop to a young woman's mental decline as she confronts economic insecurity and is pursued by scammers and self-doubt over a 24-hour period.

”

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



Made with support from the MIFF Premiere Fund, *Mad Rush* is an “Alice in Wonderland-esque” film about a young woman, Madisha, who is lost and “trying to forgive herself and her past mistakes whilst battling financial instability, job insecurity, and all the aspects [of life] that us younger generations are coming up against,” 29-year-old writer-director Maddelin McKenna says.

Through gritty streetscapes and unsettling angles, the film creates a sense of estrangement, surveillance and Madisha's paranoia.

After she “falls down the rabbit hole” of a scam – something that happened in real life to a friend of McKenna's – Madisha “meets all these different characters, and “her reality sort of starts warping and twisting and turning, and she goes a little bit mad,” the director says.

Shot in 10-and-a-half days, with the cast and crew “moving very fast”, the very low budget production involved Madisha following “a rough track” west to east through the CBD from the Southern Cross end of Collins Street to the steps of Parliament House, taking in locations including the Gothic Bank, Hardware Lane, Flinders Lane, the Flinders St underpass and the Department

of Treasury and Finance building. “We were all over the place,” McKenna says.

“And it was full on. It was go, go, go.” The director, who grew up in Eltham, still finds the noise and busyness of the CBD challenging at times, and frames the city in her film as a “kind of overwhelming force”, with the wintry conditions it was shot in playing a role.

But as Madisha struggles against the scammers and a money-focused society, beautifully real characters cross her path – a Mauritian Uber driver, played by Bert La Bonté, and a couple who clean churches – bringing warmth and hope to her desperate situation.

McKenna says the roles in the film were all played by people she knew, with the lead, Senuri Chandrani, the least known quantity initially.

“But I just had a really great feeling about her and thought that she would be amazing for the lead role,” she says.

Other actors included her brother, William, a “rising star” of the stage and screen who has appeared in *Heartbreak High* and the Melbourne stage show of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, as well as her mum, Michelle, a performer and singer, who McKenna remembers from her childhood often dressed in a bear suit or Cheshire cat costume for a pantomime.

Her maternal grandmother was an opera singer and in fact on both sides of the family McKenna is “surrounded by a lot of people who perform and who do music”.

“I grew up around it in a small humble way,” she says.

But no-one else does writing and directing.

While *Mad Rush* is her first feature, McKenna has made several award-winning short films and took part in the MIFF Accelerator Lab program for short films.

“That was such a great program, and for MIFF to now support my feature film as well is really amazing to me,” she says.

Mad Rush is one of six MIFF Premiere Fund films and 25 titles altogether named in the festival's “first glance” announcement in the second week of June.

Another local world premiere is drama



Senuri Chandrani as Madisha with Hannah Camilleri as her friend Jo.

series *The Airport Chaplain*.

Set at Tullamarine and based on the airport's real life chaplain, it stars Hugo Weaving and Shabana Azeez.

Among other MIFF Premiere Fund films are documentaries about Perth alt rock band Jebediah (*Jebediah: Are We OK?*), a mixed-gender para-ice hockey team from WA (*The Garden Island Pirates*) and an indigenous fight to preserve sacred knowledge and protect the forest in the Ecuadorian Amazon (*Death of a Shaman*) as well as a drama about a young trans man trying to fit into a remote country town (*Sweet Milk*

Lake).

A highlight festival special event at the Arts Centre, *Hear My Eyes: Memento*, will see restored 2000 cult thriller *Memento* reimaged with “a blistering live score” by Michael “CAVS” Cavanagh from King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard, set to be performed “across multiple drum kits and a suite of electronic instruments”.

The full MIFF program, set to be announced in early July, will include more than 300 films.

The festival opens on August 6 and runs until August 23. ●

New queens take the throne as *SIX* returns to Melbourne

The global musical phenomenon *SIX* will return to Melbourne this July, bringing a new Australian cast of queens to the Comedy Theatre.

Opening from July 24, *SIX* the Musical will once again remix 500 years of history into an 80-minute pop-concert spectacle, with the six wives of Henry VIII reclaiming their stories as contemporary pop icons.

The Australian return marks another major season for the record-breaking production, which continues to play to packed houses around the world. After Melbourne, the show will travel to Theatre Royal Sydney from October 9 before opening at QPAC's Playhouse Theatre in Brisbane from January 2, 2027.

Written by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss, *SIX* turns Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anna of Cleves, Katherine Howard and Catherine Parr into a high-energy girl group, each stepping out from the shadow of their infamous husband to tell her own version of history.

Taking on the role of Catherine of Aragon is Sarah Murr, a Townsville-born Queensland Conservatorium graduate whose credits include *Les Misérables*, *Hadestown* and *& Juliet*. She will be joined

by Melbourne-based Victorian College of the Arts graduate Mia Paris Scalise, who makes her professional stage debut as Anne Boleyn.

Cara Bessey, originally from Canberra and a NIDA graduate, will play Jane Seymour after credits including *Mary Poppins* and the Australian tour of *Sister Act*.

The unapologetic Anna of Cleves will be played by Kadesa Honeyhill, whose stage credits include *MAMMA MIA!* and *TINA: The Tina Turner Musical*, while Angela Brischetto, originally from Far North Queensland, will take on Katherine Howard following her professional debut in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Lorinda May Merryppor, best known for her starring role as Juliet in *& Juliet*, will play Catherine Parr. Her stage credits include *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *American Idiot*, *The Sapphires* and Sydney Theatre Company's recent production of *Picnic at Hanging Rock*.

The cast will also include swings Lauren Goetz and Geena Hutton, alongside returning cast members Thalia Smith as dance captain and swing, and Cristina D'Agostino as associate choreographer, assistant to the director and alternate swing.

Producer Louise Withers said the new cast would bring fresh energy to the show's



Australian return.

“We are thrilled to introduce this extraordinary new cast of queens — each bringing their own unique talent, energy and individuality to these iconic roles,” she said.

“The passion and energy of the *SIX* audiences and fans are such a vital part of what makes this show special, and we know they are going to absolutely love this dynamic new cast.”

Since debuting at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2017, *SIX* has become one of musical theatre's biggest international success stories, moving from the West End to Broadway and productions across Australia,

Canada, the US, Europe and Asia.

The show has won 38 international awards, including two Tony Awards, and its platinum-certified soundtrack has been streamed more than 5.5 billion times.

Its devoted online fan community, known as the Queendom, has also helped turn the musical into a digital cultural force, with songs, fan art and performances spreading across TikTok and YouTube.

SIX the Musical opens at the Comedy Theatre from July 24. Tickets are on sale now. ●

Now or Never returns with sleep concerts, river lights and Philip Glass tribute

Melbourne's winter festival **Now or Never** will return this August with a city-wide program spanning art, ideas, sound and technology, headlined by a rare overnight concert inside the Royal Exhibition Building and a series of large-scale light installations along the Yarra River.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Photo: Marie Davidson.

Running from Wednesday, August 19 to Sunday, August 30, the City of Melbourne festival will bring together more than 250 local and international artists and creatives across 12 days.

Now in its fourth year, the multi-award-winning festival will feature more than 150 events across iconic Melbourne venues and public spaces, including 20 premiere works and festival exclusives.

This year's theme, "A Whole New World", explores cultural shifts driven by immersive technologies, artificial intelligence and digital storytelling, blurring the lines between installation, performance, reality and imagination.

One of the program's most

unusual offerings will be *SOMNIA*, an overnight durational sleep concert under the dome of the Royal Exhibition Building by William Basinski from the US and Bendik Giske from Norway.

The World Heritage-listed venue will also host a tribute to American composer Philip Glass, with Orchestra Victoria performing *In the Upper Room* and Japanese pianist Maki Namekawa performing his *Piano Etudes*.

The Breath Haus will also present a live breathwork and sound bath ritual inside the building, featuring First Nations artists David and Daniel Wilfred from the

narrm-based ensemble Hand to Earth.

Acting Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell said the festival had become a major winter drawcard for the city.

"Now or Never embraces Melbourne's cool, grey winter atmosphere and turns it into something extraordinary – using light, sound and technology to completely reimagine the city," Cr Campbell said.

"Our programming team continues to create experiences you simply won't find anywhere else – from the rare chance to sleep beneath the Dome at the Royal

Exhibition Building to a trail of large-scale light installations along the Yarra River."

Along the Yarra River – Birrarung, a free public program of large-scale light works will include *Multimmersion Upside Down V2* by Taiwanese light artist AKA Chang, a monumental laser installation reflected on the water.

Local artist Emily Parsons-Lord will present *The Falls Before Us*, an illusionary work in which Evan Walker Bridge appears to vanish into mist, while Jess Johnson and video director Simon Ward will project *XYZZY REDUX* onto the lower façade of Hamer Hall in partnership with Arts Centre Melbourne.

Melbourne Town Hall will also become a major festival site, with Chunky Move presenting the world premiere of *Time Remaining*, a hypnotic dance work combining bodies, lasers and light.

Australian audio-visual artist Robin Fox will take over the Main Hall with *PRESENCE*, while *Revivification* will present a sound and sculptural exhibition that attempts to posthumously extend the life of experimental composer Alvin Lucier using his biological material.

The Town Hall forecourt will also host works by South Korean artists Jung Haejung and HKASON in partnership with Arts Korea Lab.

The festival's late-night music program will run across three nights at Melbourne Town Hall,

with local and international artists including A.Chal, Slim Soledad, LIZZ, Dinamarca, Zalina, Octave One, Sleep D x Hybrid Man, JNETT, Baby G, Robin Fox, MY DISCO, Jeho Yun and Kyoungjin So.

A talks program will explore technology, culture and possible futures, including sexual historian Mindy Seu's *A Sexual History of the Internet* at State Library Victoria and technology critic Cory Doctorow's *Enshittification*, which examines the decay of online platforms.

Derrick Gee will present a live edition of *Derrick Gee's Radio Hour*, with guests including Julia Jacklin and record label founder Michael Kucyk, while First Nations Futures will explore storytelling, visual language and creative resistance with Axel Garay, April Phillips and Allara Briggs Pattison.

Returning festival favourites include the XR headliner collaboration with MIFF, *Library Up Late* at State Library Victoria, *Friday Night Social* at Science Gallery Melbourne and *Queer PowerPoint* at Fed Square.

Tourism and events portfolio head Cr Mark Scott said *Now or Never* showed how arts and culture could help energise Melbourne during winter.

"Whether its world premieres, international artists or free public installations along the river – this year's program offers something for everyone," Cr Scott said.

Tickets are on sale now. ●

The Torch and QVWC come together for NAIDOC Week exhibition

A new exhibition at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre will bring together powerful paintings and intricate weavings by First Peoples women with lived experience of incarceration.

Presented in partnership with The Torch, *We Sit in Circle* will run from July 3 to 30 at QVWC's Birnbeal Rainbow Exhibition Space on the ground floor of its Lonsdale St home.

Now in its second iteration, the exhibition explores women's strength, hope and survival through works by First Peoples artists who are mothers, aunts, grandmothers, daughters and sisters.

The exhibition is being presented as part of NAIDOC Week and reflects the shared commitment of The Torch and QVWC to creating spaces for First Peoples storytelling, women's voices and artistic

self-determination.

For generations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have used symbols as a visual language to pass down stories, preserve cultural knowledge and express spiritual beliefs.

The exhibition takes its name from the circle, a symbol that can represent a meeting or resting place, reflecting how people come together to sit, yarn and share. Lines extending from the circle can signify journey paths, showing movement to and from a place of connection. Curated to reflect the circle and a resting place, *We Sit in Circle* places works by artists in the community near the entrance and exits of the gallery, while works by artists currently in prison are positioned at the centre.

The design reflects each artist's journey, with those in the centre "regrouping, reconnecting and resting" until they can return to community and continue on their own paths after release.

The exhibition has been curated by Flick

Chafer-Smith, a Ngarrindjeri artist and First Peoples arts mentor at The Torch.

Flick said her own art practice had helped give her an identity to build on, allowing her to connect with family on Country and continue learning more about culture.

"The Torch has given me so much, much more than I ever thought possible," she said.

"When I was in jail, I was identified by my crime, by my CRN, by my surname. But now I have my own identity, I am creative, I am an artist, I am Flick."

The Torch is a First Peoples-led not-for-profit based in Carlton that supports artists with lived experience of incarceration to strengthen cultural connection and earn income through art.

All artworks in *We Sit in Circle* will be available to purchase in the gallery or online, with 100 per cent of the artwork price going directly to the artist.

We Sit in Circle runs from July 3 to 30 at QVWC, 210 Lonsdale St, Melbourne, Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. ●



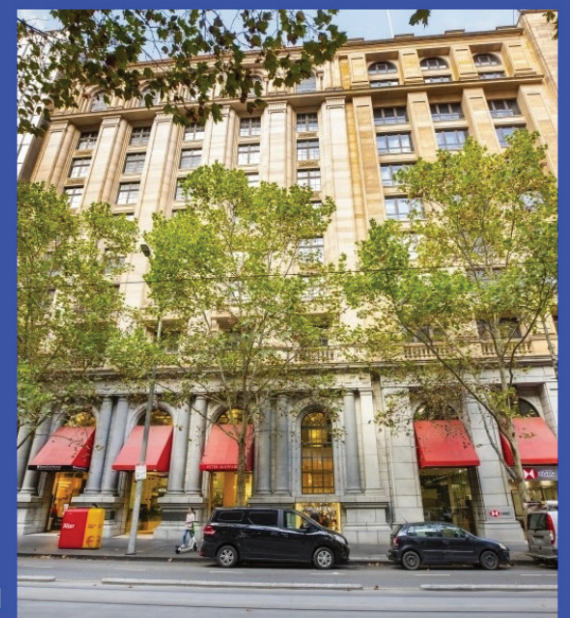
L-R: Kelly Flanagan (Wiradjuri artist), Flick Chafer-Smith (Ngarrindjeri artist and curator), Thelma Beeton (Palawa artist), Stacey Edwards (Taungurung/Boon Wurrung/Bunurong artist), Narnz (Gunaikurnai/Barkindji/Wurundjeri/Bundjalung artist), Alisha F (Wadawurrung artist). Photo: Tiffany Garvie.

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Rebecca Yazbek (Edition Group Founder & CEO)

New cocktail bar to open inside historic Queen St building

A new cocktail bar and private dining venue will open on Queen St next month, adding another hospitality offering to Melbourne's historic Gothic Bank precinct.

Edition Hospitality Group has opened reservations for Bar Privé, a new cocktail-led destination opening on July 15 within the former Melbourne Safety Deposit building at 90 Queen St, beside Reine & La Rue.

The venue forms part of the broader Privé concept, which also includes dedicated private dining spaces designed for celebrations, corporate events and more intimate gatherings.

Created in response to growing demand for private dining and event experiences at Reine & La Rue, Privé is located just around the corner from the two-hatted restaurant within the same historic precinct.

Occupying the ground floor of the

Melbourne Safety Deposit building, the venue shares many of the architectural qualities of Reine & La Rue's Stock Exchange Cathedral Room, but on a more intimate scale.

At the centre of the venue is Bar Privé, a moody public-facing cocktail bar inspired by the building's concealed vault chambers and the private clubs associated with Melbourne's late 19th century boom years.

The bar will be open to walk-in and reserved guests, while also being available for private functions and full venue takeovers.

Across the hallway sits The Dining Room, Privé's principal private dining space, which can accommodate up to 32 guests. The room can also be divided into two smaller spaces, The Verdon Room and The Wardell Room.

Edition Hospitality Group founder and CEO Rebecca Yazbek said Privé had been designed to complement Reine & La Rue while offering a more intimate style of hospitality.

"We've seen strong demand for private dining and event experiences at Reine & La Rue, but we also wanted to create a destination people could enjoy in a more flexible way," Ms Yazbek said.

"Bar Privé gives us the opportunity to create a cocktail experience that stands on its own while also sitting naturally alongside Reine."

She said the building had strongly shaped the concept.

"There's an intimacy and warmth to these rooms that naturally lends itself to cocktails, private dining and smaller gatherings, while still carrying the character and history of the precinct," she said.

"We wanted guests to feel as though they had been invited to a private dinner party."

The beverage program, led by group bar manager Felix Woods, will focus on classic cocktail culture, drawing on premium local and European producers, French brandies, fortified wines, Martinis, Champagne cocktails and Sazeracs.

The food offering from group culinary



director Michael Greenlaw and Reine & La Rue executive chef Andy Roche has been designed to complement the drinks and private dining experience.

Bar snacks will include pork scratchings with French onion dip, duck liver and foie gras parfait, panisse with roasted garlic aioli and a French dip baguette, while private dining menus will feature selected Reine & La Rue signatures.

Privé will open Tuesday to Saturday from 5pm until late at 90 Queen St, Melbourne. ●

Fed Square features in plans for a 220km Birrarung Valley Walk

A long-term plan for a 220km "connected, whole-of-river trail" along the Yarra, or Birrarung, has been publicly announced, with the walk, from Williamstown to the Upper Yarra Reservoir, expected to open in 2029.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



The Birrarung Valley Walk will feature Federation Square and Birrarung Marr as key stops and take in highlights such as Herring Island, the Abbotsford Convent, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Warrandyte and Mount Lofty and finish close to the source of the river in the forested Yarra Ranges.

As with Victoria's 250km Great South West Walk and the 164km Grampians Peaks Trail, it is envisioned walkers would tackle the trail either in one trip over a couple of weeks or in combined or individual stages.

Unlike the state's remote rural walks, though, the route would offer accommodation at the end of each stage.

According to the organisation established

to pursue the initiative, it is a collaboration between "all the Traditional Owners, state entities and local government associations" along the river, which is being created "in deep partnership" with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, with "First Nations knowledge ... shaping every decision."

A key aspect of the plan, Birrarung Walk Inc. says, is the development of a companion

app for walkers that will provide separate streams of environmental, First Nations and "post-colonial" stories while also enabling people to report dumped rubbish or environmental issues.

While 80 per cent of the 220km trail, including its city sections, already exists as publicly accessible pathways, new or upgraded sections need to be built beyond Warrandyte, Birrarung Walk Inc. executive director Nichola Lefroy said.

In the first two, CBD-linked, sections of the trail, the work to be done now with land managers and Traditional Owners would be in gathering and curating the stories to be told through the app.

City of Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell expressed great enthusiasm for the process.

"It's a privilege for the City of Melbourne to work alongside Traditional Owners, our council peers and land managers to shape a world-class experience for Melburnians and visitors," Cr Campbell told *CBD News*.

"It's an historic project and a bold vision that will change the way we experience our city."

Environment portfolio lead Cr Davydd Griffiths said the walk offered an extraordinary opportunity.

"Few cities can connect people to a living river corridor on this scale – taking walkers from the heart of Melbourne into some of Victoria's most significant natural

landscapes," he said.

"Whether it's a short walk through the city or the full 220km journey, this walk will offer a chance to better understand the environmental, cultural and historical significance of the Birrarung."

Ms Lefroy said the founder of the walk was the late Dr Maudie Palmer AO, the founding director of what is now Heide Museum of Modern Art and the champion of countless projects relating to art, the Birrarung, First Nations peoples and the environment.

The idea reportedly gathered momentum during the COVID years and gained the support of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Traditional Owners in 2023, after which formal planning between Birrarung Valley Walk, local governments and public land managers began in 2024.

The vision for the walk fits with a "50-year-community vision" for the river developed in response to 2016 laws making it a "single living entity".

The Birrarung Valley Walk was announced at Heide on Monday, June 15.

Melbourne Water manager Matthew Daley told *CBD News* the authority was working with steering committee members on the next stages of planning "to help define access routes, clear pathways and appropriate signage and make sure the project proposal protects the river and drinking water supply while enabling community use". ●

Haileybury marks 10 years as catalyst for Melbourne's vertical school boom

“

When 17 children walked into Haileybury's new City campus in April 2016, they became part of a major shift in the way Melbourne thinks about schools.

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The repurposed 10-storey King St building, once home to the NAB, became Melbourne's first vertical school and one of the first campuses of its kind in Australia.

A decade later, those first early learning students are approaching graduation, while Haileybury City has grown into a campus of 755 students from early learning through to Year 12.

For Melbourne's inner city, the milestone is more than an anniversary for one independent school. It marks the start of a broader change in education planning, as population growth, higher-density housing and limited land force schools to move upwards rather than outwards.

Haileybury City's success has helped demonstrate how multi-storey schools can work in dense urban environments where traditional sprawling campuses are increasingly difficult to deliver.

Caroline Merrick, head of Haileybury City since 2019, said more vertical schools were likely to emerge across Australian cities.

"I think, in coming years, we will see more vertical schools in Australian cities and that's a positive step forward," Ms Merrick said.

"Vertical campuses can offer students so many unique experiences, close connection to the diverse community around them, and an excellent education."

She said the model required schools to think differently about space, learning and their relationship with the city.

"A lot of schools focus on their history and try to replicate what has been done in the past, but it may be time to do things differently," she said.

That shift is already evident across the inner city.

South Melbourne Primary School on Ferrars St in Southbank opened in 2018 as Victoria's first government vertical school. The campus was designed to respond to rapid population growth in Southbank, South Melbourne and Fishermans Bend, where apartment living has transformed the local demographic.

Docklands Primary School followed in 2021, opening as another vertical government school in one of Melbourne's fastest-growing urban renewal areas.

Both South Melbourne Primary and Docklands Primary have since had funding announced in the recent state budget for new campuses to help meet rising demand, underlining how quickly inner-city enrolment pressure can build once new schools open.

In North Melbourne, the new Molesworth St campus of North Melbourne Primary School opened in 2023, adding another vertical campus to the city's education landscape. And there are more to come, including a new secondary school in Arden.

Together, the schools show how the vertical model has moved from an experimental idea to an increasingly common response to Melbourne's growth.

Haileybury deputy principal of student wellbeing Nathan Chisholm, who was inaugural principal of Melbourne's second vertical school, Prahran High School, said the



concept was still sometimes misunderstood in Australia.

"We're seeing a shift in how people think about schools in urban environments," Mr Chisholm said.

"If we were living in New York or Hong Kong and talking about vertical schools, people wouldn't think it was odd."

But he said Australian families could still be unsure about whether a school without a traditional oval or swimming pool could feel "normal".

For Mr Chisholm, the answer lies in how vertical schools connect with their surrounding neighbourhood.

"The key to a successful vertical school is working with the community around you," he said.

"Vertical schools are typically in urban areas and that opens up a lot of opportunities because they are surrounded by interesting businesses and by organisations like the NGV, the Immigration Museum, the law courts and Hamer Hall."

He said students could also make use of nearby green spaces, such as Flagstaff Gardens in Haileybury City's case.

That relationship with the city is one of the defining features of the vertical school model. Instead of containing every facility within a fenced campus, schools rely on carefully designed internal spaces, outdoor terraces, public parks, nearby institutions and transport connections.

At Haileybury City, there are 1500 square

metres of recreation space across three outdoor terraces, alongside the 18 hectares of Flagstaff Gardens on the campus's doorstep.

The school's outdoor areas include a natural-feel play space, planting areas, a dry creek bed, vegetable gardens, sand play and shaded multi-purpose spaces.

Ms Merrick said clever use of space was essential, with a single area often serving many purposes across the day.

"A single space at Haileybury City can have different uses throughout the day – it will be an assessment space for a SAC, an assembly space, later in the day it may host an English class and a visiting poet and it may also accommodate a parent information night," she said.

But both Ms Merrick and Mr Chisholm said successful vertical schools could not simply be high-rise versions of traditional campuses.

Research suggests they must be intentionally designed to support connection, inclusion and wellbeing, with architecture, teaching and school culture working together.

"Successful vertical schools combine architecture, wellbeing and pedagogy that work together to create a genuine sense of connection and community," Mr Chisholm said.

That challenge is only becoming more urgent. Southbank, Docklands, North and West Melbourne, Kensington and the CBD are all absorbing more families into high-density neighbourhoods, while land for conventional school campuses remains scarce and expensive.

Haileybury City's 10-year anniversary shows how quickly the vertical school model has moved from a novelty to a necessary part of Melbourne's education future.

As Ms Merrick put it, a successful vertical school is not defined only by its architecture, but "by its culture and people". ●

Rotary delivers winter warmth to people sleeping rough

Rotary Central Melbourne has delivered 228 winter-grade sleeping bags to help people experiencing homelessness stay warmer and safer during the colder months.

The club once again partnered with two frontline homelessness support organisations, Youth Projects in Melbourne's CBD and St Mary's House of Welcome in Fitzroy, to distribute the sleeping bags to people sleeping rough across the city and inner north.

Both organisations provide a wide range of services to people experiencing homelessness, including those sleeping rough in the CBD, Fitzroy and Collingwood.

As temperatures fall and demand for support continues to rise, access to warm, good-quality sleeping bags becomes increasingly important for people without secure shelter.

Rotary Central Melbourne initially set a goal of collecting and distributing at least 170 winter-grade sleeping bags before winter.

Funding was raised through the generosity of Rotary members, their families, friends and corporate supporters. These contributions were then matched dollar-for-dollar through a Rotary Foundation grant, allowing the club to significantly increase the impact of its fundraising.

The Rotary Foundation's grant program enables donations raised by Rotary clubs to be reinvested into eligible community and humanitarian projects, helping local clubs multiply the value of their work.

Thanks to the support received, Rotary Central Melbourne exceeded its target, collecting and distributing 228 sleeping bags.

For Rotary members, each sleeping bag represents practical help for someone facing winter without a safe place to sleep.

Rotary Central Melbourne is one of several Rotary clubs serving Melbourne's CBD and inner suburbs. Its volunteers contribute their time, skills and resources to strengthen local communities and support people in need, both locally and around the world. ●



The Imperial unveils new-look rooftop

One of Melbourne’s best-known CBD pubs has opened its refreshed rooftop, marking the latest chapter for The Imperial Hotel Bourke St.

The iconic venue, located on the corner of Spring and Bourke streets, officially unveiled its new-look Rooftop on June 5, just in time for the 2026 World Cup.

The open-air space now features a new feature bar, fresh furniture, updated styling and temporary covered areas for guest comfort, with a fully retractable roof set to be completed in coming weeks.

The rooftop upgrade forms part of a broader refurbishment across the venue, including refreshed finishes and updated interiors in the ground floor public bar, dining areas and function spaces.

While the works give the venue a renewed look and feel, The Imperial says the refurbishment retains the classic pub character that has long made it a favourite among city workers, residents, sports fans and visitors.

To celebrate the launch, The Imperial hosted a Rooftop opening event on Wednesday, June 10 from 4pm to 6pm, offering guests a first drink on the house via The Pass app, alongside snacks from the new menu and live music.

The reopening also comes as the venue prepares for a major World Cup program, with The Imperial positioning itself as a CBD home of sport throughout the tournament.

The pub will screen every World Cup match live and loud across all levels, including on a mega-screen on the Rooftop and multiple screens throughout the venue.

The tournament kicked off at The Imperial on Friday, June 12, with an opening match watch party from 5am featuring a live screening of the opening ceremony, a live band, halftime giveaways, breakfast



Photos: Zennieshia.


service and complimentary brekky sliders between 5am and 6am.

Across the tournament, matchday dishes will include a Giant Yorkie Lamb Roast, bratwurst hoagie rolls and Croque Monsieur, alongside breakfast offerings such as the Big Breaky Roll and The Imperial Big Breakfast.


Beyond sport, the refreshed food offering keeps classic pub favourites at the centre of the menu, including schnitzels, burgers, steaks, Sunday roasts, beef cheek and beef and mushroom pie.

The Rooftop menu is designed around share plates and lighter dishes suited to cocktails, spritzes and social grazing.

With live music from Thursday to Sunday, trivia, locals’ nights, DJs and weekly specials, The Imperial’s refreshed rooftop is set to become a year-round destination for drinks, dining and sport in the heart of the CBD. ●



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QVM TRADER PROFILE

Queen Victoria Market stalwart marks 50 years

A family-run Queen Victoria Market business is celebrating 50 years of trading, with a third generation now taking the reins.

WORDS BY
DANIEL GAWNE



Allanson Souvenirs, located at the corner of L Shed and Queen St, has been a familiar market presence since 1976, offering a wide range of Australian-made souvenirs and gifts including clothing, soft toys, art, bags, homewares, skincare products and more.

This year marks both the business's 50th anniversary and a significant family milestone, with Hayden McLennan taking over from his mother, Drita McLennan.

The change means Allanson Souvenirs has now operated under three generations of the McLennan family.

The business was founded by Hayden's grandfather, Michael Besim, who began trading in 1976. While the family operated stalls at other markets in the early years, Hayden said Queen Victoria Market had always been the place that worked best for them.

Drita joined the business in 1981 after leaving school at 15 and took over the Queen Victoria Market stall in September 1988. She has now run the stall for 37 years.

Hayden joined the business shortly after finishing high school and, according to Drita, has been "instrumental" in its development, both in-store and online.

While Allanson Souvenirs is a popular destination for tourists, it also attracts many locals looking for gifts to send to family and friends overseas.

Hayden said Melbourne's multicultural character meant many customers were proud to share Australian products with loved ones around the world.



Because Melbourne is "such a multicultural city", he said people are often "quite patriotic" when choosing gifts.

According to Hayden, Allanson Souvenirs offers one of the "largest ranges of Australian-made souvenirs", including clothing, boomerangs, skincare products, genuine kangaroo products, Aboriginal art and other locally themed items.

The business has also expanded beyond the market through its online store, which ships worldwide. Many of the products available at the market can also be purchased online, alongside some web-exclusive items including selected shirts.

Hayden said he was excited to take over the business and continue building on the family's legacy.

He said he was looking forward to helping Allanson Souvenirs "grow and expand into the future" and particularly enjoyed working with people who brought different knowledge and skills to the business.

"You can learn so much from other people," he said.

Drita said her parents had built the business with the hope of creating "something lasting for our family".

She said she and Stephen were delighted that Allanson Souvenirs would continue with Hayden, while she was also looking forward to stepping back and spending more time with family and friends.

After 50 years at the market, Allanson Souvenirs remains focused on providing quality Australian products and gifts to locals, tourists and customers around the world.

Allanson Souvenirs can be found at Queen St, L Shed, stalls 108 to 112 at Queen Victoria Market. It is open from 8am to 3pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 8am to 4pm on weekends. ●

Victoria needs a fresh start

Over the past decade, Victorians have watched our state drift further away from the opportunities and prosperity that once made it the envy of the nation.

WORDS BY
EVAN MULHOLLAND – NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION MLC

Families are facing higher costs, businesses are struggling under growing tax burdens, crime is at record levels and government debt continues to spiral out of control.

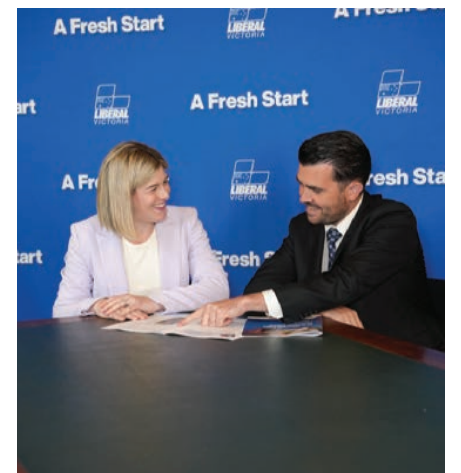
Wherever I go across Melbourne's northern suburbs, people tell me the same thing: Victoria is not working the way it should.

That is why the Liberals and Nationals are taking our positive plan for Victoria's future directly to the people through Jess Wilson's Fresh Start Tour. Over the coming weeks, Jess and our team will visit every one of Victoria's 88 Legislative Assembly districts to listen to communities, hear their concerns and outline our vision for getting Victoria back on track.

Too often under Labor, decisions are made from Spring St without understanding the realities facing local communities. Victorians deserve a government that listens, engages and responds to their needs. Whether you live in the suburbs, regional Victoria or the heart of Melbourne, your voice matters.

The Fresh Start Tour is about reconnecting government with the people it serves and demonstrating that there is a credible alternative to the failures of the Allan Labor Government.

Our team has developed a comprehensive plan to address the challenges facing our state. We have a 10-Year Economic Plan that will reduce taxes, support businesses, restore budget discipline and begin the task of reducing



Victoria's massive debt burden. We know that economic growth is not created by government spending alone; it comes from backing businesses, workers and entrepreneurs to succeed.

We also have a clear plan to make our communities safer. That means recruiting more police, reopening closed police stations, restoring Protective Services Officers to train stations, and ensuring serious offenders face serious consequences.

Housing affordability remains a major challenge, particularly for young families and first-home buyers. Our plan will fast-track housing approvals, support greater housing choice and help more Victorians achieve the dream of home ownership.

Importantly, we are committed to cleaning up corruption and restoring integrity to government through stronger oversight and accountability measures.

Victoria has enormous potential. We have world-class industries, vibrant communities and hardworking people. But after years of Labor mismanagement, we need a fresh start.

The Liberals and Nationals have a positive plan to reduce crime, lower costs and restore hope and prosperity to our state. And in the coming weeks and months, we are taking that message directly to the people of Victoria. ●

EASTENDERS

Planning needs more than box-ticking

The way we plan and design our city has lasting consequences, and Melbourne's recent planning history offers some useful lessons.

WORDS BY
DR STAN CAPP – PRESIDENT

For some time, the City of Melbourne has operated under planning laws that give the Planning Minister decision-making power over developments exceeding 25,000 square metres. While the council's views are sought, the Minister is not obliged to agree.

Heritage decisions can also contradict expert advice. Shell House at 1 Spring St comes to mind, as does concern about the impact of Gurrowa Place on Queen Victoria Market. The unoccupied Shangri-La Hotel and Sapphire by the Gardens development in La Trobe St, which significantly affects the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens,

is another example many regard as poor decision-making.

The new planning environment also means the City of Melbourne can often avoid giving public notice. The Comedy Theatre environs development is a telling example. Despite years in the planning phase, neighbouring residents and local small businesses had little opportunity to comment until the matter came before councillors. To its credit, the council did raise it, but by then the chance for meaningful engagement had largely passed.

Another development in Exploration Lane, approved by council officers, did not comply with the council's own policies, yet "considering" those policies was deemed sufficient. An adjacent resident was unaware of the approval until advised by EastEnders. This lacks fairness and any principle of natural justice.

Wesley Place in Lonsdale St may now be seen as a creative precinct, but it came at a cost, including the demolition of the heritage-listed Princess Mary Club. It has also left residents of 72 nearby apartments with

reduced light, privacy and clear air. Even now, promised access to meeting spaces for community purposes has not occurred. The Brady Hotel saga in Little Lonsdale St may now be history, but those who witnessed how it unfolded, with the acquiescence of the City of Melbourne, do not easily forget. Several councillors declared conflicts of interest, leaving no quorum for a formal councillor-led resolution.

Despite these examples, we have also seen some outstanding developments in the CBD, and good outcomes should make us proud. But as Activity Centres are rolled out across Victoria, fast-tracking development and often limiting public scrutiny, there is a risk that some of the CBD's mistakes will be repeated elsewhere. Developments may be approved so long as the necessary boxes are ticked, but planning should be about more than compliance.

We are told there are thousands of approvals under the "old" rules that have not been acted upon. The market will ultimately decide whether they proceed, but construction costs and capital constraints

are clearly influencing these decisions. Building affordable homes remains difficult, and those who need affordable housing continue to struggle.

Meanwhile, the need for social and public housing remains urgent. The decision to demolish public housing towers across inner Melbourne leaves a void that cannot be filled without major public investment. Relocating residents while keeping them connected to their communities will be a daunting task. We rely on architects, developers and town planners to create homes that are liveable, sustainable and cost-effective. Perhaps AI will assist, but so will meaningful engagement with communities.

Creating forums where all stakeholders can discuss planning collaboratively may offer a better pathway forward. The labels NIMBY and YIMBY create artificial divisions when many of us want similar outcomes.

At our next meeting on Tuesday, July 21, EastEnders will welcome Professor Donald Bates, Chair of Architectural Design at the University of Melbourne. All are welcome at 10.30am at 2 Lonsdale St. ●

Healthy, happy you

CBD residents should be a healthy lot. We walk across the city, enjoy great restaurants, have access to parks, gyms, yoga, tai chi, dance, sport and world-class medical services. But is that enough? What does the science say about staying well?

Health is a topic we are constantly told to think about: what we eat, how much we move, our strength, flexibility, mental health, stress, supplements and disease prevention. It can be difficult to know how to get the balance right.

At previous Residents 3000 events, we have explored the difference between "lifespan" and "health span". Lifespan is not entirely within our control, but maintaining the best possible health for our age is something we can work towards.

That will be the focus of the next Residents 3000 forum, Healthy You!, on Thursday, July

2 from 6pm to 7.30pm at the Kelvin Club.

The event will feature three speakers. Dr Arman Rashid, a Residents 3000 committee member and mental health professional, will discuss mental health self-defence and resilience techniques.

Darren Templeton, founder of Run the Tan and chair of Run for Mental Health Ltd, will speak about the importance of movement, connection and community.

Hamish McConnell, senior exercise scientist at Kieser, will explain the science of strength training.

Darren will share his personal journey and the story behind one of Melbourne's most iconic community participation events. Through the lens of movement, connection and community, he will explore how simple everyday actions can improve wellbeing, strengthen resilience, foster belonging and help create healthier people and stronger communities.

Hamish will represent Kieser, a long-term sponsor of Residents 3000, and provide insight into why strength training becomes

increasingly important as we age.

Many of us notice everyday tasks becoming harder over time: getting up from a low chair, carrying shopping or climbing stairs. These small challenges can increase with age, but they do not have to.

As we age, muscles naturally lose strength. Staying busy is important, but walking, gardening and daily chores are usually not enough to build or maintain muscle strength. Muscles need the right kind of challenge.

That does not mean pain or pushing too far. With guidance from an exercise physiologist or physiotherapist, strength training can be safe, targeted and effective. The reward can be more energy, better balance and greater confidence to keep doing the things we enjoy.

It is never too late to start. Many older Australians begin strength training in their 70s, 80s and beyond. Some want to manage pain or recover from injury, while others want to travel, cycle, volunteer or spend more active time with family. Two sessions

a week can be enough to see meaningful change.

Residents 3000 is also considering a special visit to the recently renovated Kieser Melbourne CBD clinic on the corner of Collins and King streets. Members would be introduced to the clinic's calm, scientific approach and specialist training equipment.

Members should also note the upcoming "AGM with a difference" on Thursday, August 6 from 6pm to 7.30pm at the Kelvin Club. The evening will include entertainment, formal proceedings, a city update with Lord Mayor Nick Reece and refreshments.

Further details are available at residents3000.org.au

Dr Sue Saunders
VICE PRESIDENT



HISTORY

A pioneering experiment at the Menzies Hotel

Taken around the 1870s, this image shows the Menzies Hotel at the corner of William and Bourke streets.



WORDS BY
ASHLEY SMITH

The image here makes it look rather grand in spite of the dusty, unpaved roads flanking it, and it would only become grander when two extra floors were added in the late 1890s.

The hotel was owned by Scottish migrants Archibald and Catharine Menzies, who initially started their business at La Trobe St in 1853 (where Melbourne Central now sits), before using their earned wealth to build a new hotel at the William St corner in 1867. Built by David Mitchell (Dame Nellie Melba's father), the hotel in its time hosted many guests, from Mark Twain, to Alexander Graham Bell, Herbert Hoover (decades before he sat in the Oval Office), Anna Pavlova and General Douglas Macarthur.

Then on September 30, 1929, it hosted a

peculiar demonstration.

The London-based Major J.M. MacLulich, the foreign director of an emerging company, hosted the event before an audience of leading citizens and journalists to show off what they'd been developing. Before them was a device resembling a cabinet that had recently been tested in England. Months prior, similar devices had been imported from England and had gone through some experimental tests at the 3UZ and 3DB radio stations in Melbourne.

MacLulich discussed the various components of the device, before using a phone to request an operator to bring an artist in. Then before everyone's awe-struck eyes, a woman's face appeared within the cabinet!

Her visage flickered, threatening to fade into ether, until McLulich adjusted a knob to focus on the image. Through a loudspeaker the woman, singer Miss Molly Mackay, asked, "would anyone like to hear me sing?" (*Daily Standard* (Queensland), October 16, 1929).

The audience was then treated to some singing from Molly, while a Miss Coral Tranberry was also present, playing violin (even if her face reportedly wasn't as clear as she played her instrument), and Katie Liddie also performed on piano.

A puppy (reportedly from the Eastern Market) was also featured. This technological miracle was all thanks to a transmitter located on the top floor of the hotel, with MacLulich using telephone lines to help with the transmission. During the luncheon, MacLulich would state that he'd received news that with recent advancements, broadcasting stage groups would soon be possible.

When the audience left the hotel after the demonstration, they had borne witness to a sight they'd never seen before: the first performance of live television in Australia, courtesy of the Baird International Television Company.

Television experiments continued in Australia into the 1930s but due to the war,

economic concerns and the government sorting out the logistics and laws, it took another 27 years for television to become available domestically in Victoria. The initial transmission tests in Melbourne were made in July 1956, then on November 4, 1956 the Herald Sun and Weekly Times-owned channel, HSV-7 (or Channel 7) would officially open from its studio at Dorcas St, South Melbourne (while it's now demolished, it would've sat opposite the Fox Footy studios). Unlike the first Sydney broadcast from a couple of months prior there was no Bruce Gyngell to welcome people, but Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies was among the first people to be widely broadcast around Victoria.

70 years after that momentous day, television has produced many cherished memories of huddling around the lounge after dinner, providing water cooler moments for the next day, or (for better or worse) keeping the country in awe at news both at home and beyond our shores.

While it has evolved to the point anything can be watched on your phone or tablet, it would also outlive the Menzies Hotel. The building was acquired by BHP in the 1960s and demolished by 1969, with the BHP House skyscraper taking its spot on the corner. ●

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Liberal Member for the **Northern Metropolitan Region**

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“Now or Never”冬季艺术节回归：睡眠音乐会、河畔灯光秀与菲利普·格拉斯致敬演出亮相墨尔本

墨尔本冬季艺术节 Now or Never 将于今年8月回归，以横跨艺术、思想、声音与科技领域的全城活动为特色。亮点包括在皇家展览馆 (Royal Exhibition Building) 举行的罕见通宵睡眠音乐会，以及沿亚拉河 (Yarra River) 设置的一系列大型灯光艺术装置。

Sean Car

本届艺术节将于8月19日 (星期三) 至8月30日 (星期日) 举行，由墨尔本市政府主办，汇聚超过250位本地及国际艺术家与创意人才，为期12天。

迈入第四年的 Now or Never 已屡获殊荣。今年将带来超过150场活动，遍布墨尔本多个标志性场馆及公共空间，其中包括20项首演作品及艺术节独家项目。

今年的主题为“一个全新的世界” (A Whole New World)，聚焦沉浸式科技、人工智能及数字叙事所推动的文化变革，探索装置艺术、表演、现实与想象之间日益模糊的界限。

本届最特别的节目之一是 SOMNIA——一场在皇家展览馆穹顶下举行的通宵沉浸式睡眠音乐会，由美国实验音乐家威廉·巴辛斯基 (William Basinski) 与挪威萨克斯风演奏家本迪克·吉斯克 (Bendik Giske) 联袂呈现。

这座被列入世界遗产名录的历史建筑还将举办向美国作曲家菲利普·格拉斯 (Philip



Glass) 致敬的演出，由维多利亚交响乐团 (Orchestra Victoria) 演奏《In the Upper Room》，并由日本钢琴家滑川真希 (Maki Namekawa) 演绎其《钢琴练习曲》 (Piano Etudes)。

此外，The Breath Haus 将在皇家展览馆内带来一场结合呼吸练习与声音疗愈的现场仪式，由来自墨尔本 (Narrom) 原住民音乐团体 Hand to Earth 的第一民族艺术家 David Wilfred 和 Daniel Wilfred 参与演出。

代理市长罗谢娜·坎贝尔 (Roshena Campbell) 表示，这项艺术节已成为墨尔本冬季的重要文化盛事。

她说：“Now or Never 将墨尔本凉爽、灰蒙蒙的冬季氛围转化为非凡体验，通过灯光、声音和科技重新塑造整座城市。”

“我们的策展团队持续打造独一无二的活动体验——从难得一见的皇家展览馆穹顶下过夜睡眠音乐会，到沿亚拉河展开的大型灯光艺术装置步道，这些都是其他地方难以体验到的。”

维州居家办公法引发墨尔本CBD复苏之争再度升温

维多利亚州政府推动立法保障居家办公权利的举措，再次点燃了围绕墨尔本后疫情时代经济复苏的激烈争论。墨尔本市议会、商业团体及住房行业警告称，这项政策将增加行政负担、削弱市中心活力，并为雇主带来新的不确定性。

Sean Car

州长杰辛塔·艾伦 (Jacinta Allan) 于6月16日宣布，工党政府的居家办公法律将于9月1日生效，相关法案已提交议会，拟修订《2010年平等机会法》 (Equal Opportunity Act 2010)。

根据拟议中的法律，凡是工作性质合理允许居家办公的维州居民，将依法享有每周两天居家办公的权利。长期临时工和兼职员工也将纳入保障范围，政府未来将发布有关按比例计算权益的具体指引。

员工人数少于15人的企业则享有过渡期，法律将于2027年7月1日起才适用于这些小型企业，让它们有更多时间做好准备。

州政府表示，此项改革将把工作灵活性正式纳入法律保障，为家庭节省开支，并提高劳动参与率。政府估计，居家办公可为维州员工平均每周节省110澳元、每年节省5308

澳元，同时每周减少超过三小时的通勤时间。

艾伦女士表示：“居家办公有利于家庭，能够节省时间和金钱，也能让更多家长重返职场。”

“这就是为什么我们要通过立法来保护居家办公权利。”

劳资关系部长杰克林·赛姆斯 (Jaclyn Symes) 则表示，居家办公“有利于家庭、有利于生产力，也有利于整体经济”。

然而，这项宣布立即招致墨尔本市议会的批评。市议会长期以来一直主张，灵活办公安排应由雇主与员工自行协商决定，而非通过州政府立法强制实施。

代理市长罗谢娜·坎贝尔 (Roshena Campbell) 表示，市议会的立场非常明确。

“灵活办公安排已经受到联邦法律保障，本应由雇主和员工自行协商决定。”坎贝尔议员说。

“州政府这项立法不仅毫无必要，还会为本已艰难经营的小企业制造繁琐的行政和法律困境。”

坎贝尔表示，政府更应该专注于“提振市场信心、吸引投资以及推动经济活动”。

“这项立法无助于促进维州经济增长，从长远来看，它还会威胁维州每一位劳动者，因为能够在家完成的工作，同样也可能被外包到海外。”她说。

历史悠久的Queen Street大楼将迎来全新鸡尾酒吧

一家全新的鸡尾酒吧兼私人餐饮场所将于下月在Queen Street开业，为墨尔本历史悠久的哥特式银行区 (Gothic Bank Precinct) 再添一处高端餐饮目的地。

Edition Hospitality Group已开放 Bar Privé 的预订。这家以鸡尾酒为主打的新场所将于7月15日正式开业，地点位于90 Queen Street 的前墨尔本安全保管库大楼 (Melbourne Safety Deposit Building) 内，毗邻知名餐厅 Reine & La Rue。

该项目属于更广泛的 Privé 概念的一部分，除了酒吧外，还设有专属私人宴会空间，可用于庆祝活动、企业聚会及更私密的社交场合。

Privé 的诞生源于市场对 Reine & La Rue 私人用餐及活动体验日益增长的需求。新场地距离这家获得“两顶厨师帽”评级的餐厅仅数步之遥，同样位于这一历史文化街区内。

场地坐落于墨尔本安全保管库大楼的一层，保留了许多与 Reine & La Rue 标志性“证券交易所大教堂厅” (Stock Exchange Cathedral Room) 相似的建筑特色，但整体规模更为精致和私密。

整个空间的核心是 Bar Privé——一家氛围感十足的鸡尾酒吧。其设计灵感来自建筑内隐藏的金库空间，以及19世纪末墨尔本经济繁荣时期盛行的私人俱乐部文化。

酒吧将同时接待散客和预约客人，也可作为私人活动场地或整场包场使用。

走廊另一侧则是 The Dining Room，这是 Privé 的主要私人餐饮空间，可容纳最多32



位宾客。该空间还可分隔成两个较小的独立包厢——The Verdon Room 和 The Wardell Room。

Edition Hospitality Group 创办人兼首席执行官丽贝卡·亚兹贝克 (Rebecca Yazbek) 表示，Privé 的定位是在与 Reine & La Rue 形成互补的同时，提供更私密、更灵活的餐饮体验。

她说：“我们看到市场对于 Reine & La Rue 私人用餐和活动体验的需求非常强劲，同时我们也希望打造一个让顾客能够以更灵活方式享受的全新目的地。”

The Imperial全新屋顶酒吧亮相 CBD 地标酒馆焕新升级

墨尔本市中心最知名的酒馆之一 The Imperial Hotel Bourke St 近日正式开放翻新的屋顶酒吧空间 (Rooftop)，为这座历史悠久的城市地标揭开全新篇章。

这家位于 Spring Street 与 Bourke Street 交界处的经典酒馆于6月5日正式揭幕全新屋顶空间，恰逢2026年世界杯即将到来。

经过升级后的露天屋顶酒吧新增了特色吧台、全新家具及现代化装饰风格，并增设临时遮盖区域以提升宾客舒适度。未来数周内，还将完成安装可完全开启和关闭的伸缩式屋顶。

此次屋顶改造属于酒馆整体翻新计划的一部分，范围涵盖一楼公共酒吧、餐饮区及活动空间，包括全新的室内装潢和细节升级。

尽管整体面貌焕然一新，The Imperial 表示，翻新过程中仍保留了其经典英式酒馆风格，这也是长期以来吸引上班族、市区居民、体育迷及游客的重要特色。

为庆祝新屋顶开放，The Imperial 于6月10日星期三下午4时至6时举办开幕活动。宾客可通过 The Pass 应用程序领取免费迎宾饮品，同时享用全新菜单小食并欣赏现场音乐演出。

此次重新开放也正值酒馆为世界杯赛事进行全面准备之际。The Imperial 希望在整个赛事期间打造成为墨尔本CBD的体育观赛中

世界期间，酒馆将在所有楼层直播全部



赛事，包括屋顶区的大型屏幕以及场馆内多个观赛屏幕，为球迷提供沉浸式观赛体验。

世界杯活动已于6月12日星期五凌晨5时正式启动。开幕战观赛派对包括赛事开幕式直播、现场乐队表演、中场抽奖、早餐供应，以及上午5时至6时期间免费提供早餐汉堡 (brekky sliders)。

赛事期间，特别菜单将推出多款观赛美食，包括：

巨型约克郡羊肉烤餐 (Giant Yorkie Lamb Roast)

德式香肠长面包 (Bratwurst Hoagie Roll)

法式火腿芝士三明治 (Croque Monsieur)

早餐菜单则包括：

丰盛早餐卷 (Big Breaky Roll)

The Imperial 经典全套早餐 (The Imperial Big Breakfast)

随着全新屋顶酒吧启用及世界杯活动展开，The Imperial 正以崭新面貌迎接来自全城的球迷和食客，同时延续其作为墨尔本 CBD 经典酒馆的传统魅力。

WHAT'S ON July



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



SCOTS' OPEN CHURCH
Explore historic Scots' Church during Open House Melbourne with self-guided tours, stained glass, heritage displays, the renowned Rieger Organ, and a special Sunday service.
Scots' Church, Melbourne
24 - 26 JULY, 10AM - 4PM



BLUEY'S BIG PLAY
Bluey's Big Play returns to Australia, bringing the beloved Heeler family to life with puppets, original music and a new story in this fun-filled live theatre adventure.
Comedy Theatre, 240 Exhibition St
1 - 12 JULY, 9.30AM - 10.30AM



SYNTH 101 WORKSHOP
Learn synthesiser basics in this beginner-friendly workshop, exploring sound design through hands-on exercises with oscillators, filters and envelopes. No experience required.
Melbourne Electronic Sound Studio
UNTIL 18 JULY, 3.30PM - 6.30PM



WE SIT IN CIRCLE
We Sit in Circle showcases paintings and weavings by First Peoples women impacted by incarceration, exploring connection, resilience, culture & healing through powerful storytelling and art.
Queen Victoria Women's Centre
3 - 30 JULY, 9AM - 5PM



WINTER NIGHT MARKET
Queen Victoria Market's Winter Night Market runs Wednesdays June - August, offering global street food, drinks, shopping, live music, artisan stalls and interactive "Keys to Winter" performances.
Queen Victoria Market
WEDS UNTIL 26 AUGUST, 5PM - 10PM



PRETTY WOMAN: THE MUSICAL
Pretty Woman: The Musical brings the beloved romantic comedy to life with dazzling performances, original music, glamour, and unforgettable Broadway-style entertainment.
Regent Theatre, 191 Collins St
UNTIL 6 SEPTEMBER, 7.30PM - 10PM



SONGBIRDS
Songs, rhymes and stories will engage your budding bookworm's mind and introduce them to the fun and rhythm of language. Age: newborn to 18 months. Programs run during school terms.
City Library, 253 Flinders Lane
UNTIL 11 DECEMBER, 10.30AM - 11PM

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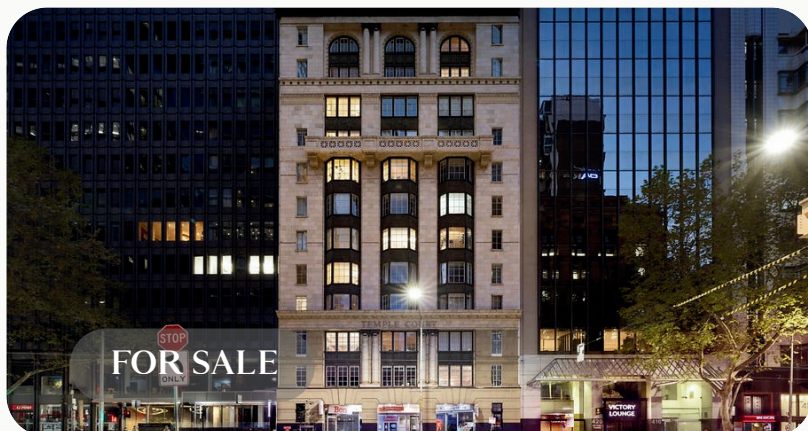
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Off Market

We currently have a selection of off-market opportunities available to qualified buyers, along with a strong network of active purchasers seeking the right property.

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