



Farewell *CBD News* – but not goodbye

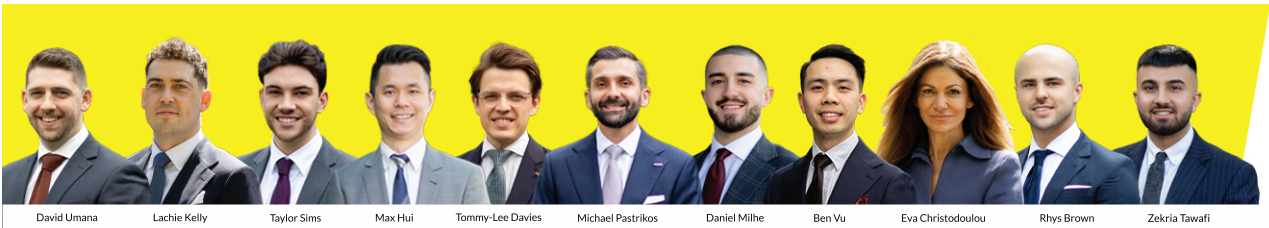
“After 12 years and 133 editions, *CBD News* signs off not with a goodbye, but a new beginning, as it consolidates with its sibling Hyperlocal mastheads under a new citywide publication, *The Melburnian*.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR

When *CBD News* first landed in letterboxes back in 2014, Melbourne’s CBD was already changing fast. There were more residents, more students, more workers, more cranes, more arguments about planning, more small businesses taking risks, and more people beginning to realise that postcode 3000 was not just a commercial centre, but a genuine local community. Twelve years and 133 editions later, this masthead has told thousands of those stories. And now, with this final edition of *CBD News*, it is time to say farewell.

Not goodbye, thankfully. Just farewell to this particular name, this particular chapter, and this particular monthly ritual of producing five separate local newspapers for different parts of the same great city. From September, *CBD News* will be reborn as part of *The Melburnian* – a new consolidated monthly print publication bringing together *CBD News* and its four sibling mastheads: *Docklands News*, *Southbank News*, *Inner City News* and *North West City News*. The aim is simple: the same local focus, the same commitment to print, the same hyperlocal journalism, but with a broader lens across the entire City of Melbourne. *CBD* readers will still have access to a local print publication. It will still be delivered throughout the city. It will still cover the issues, people, businesses, culture, planning debates, council decisions and odd little Melbourne moments that make this place what it is. But *The Melburnian* will also give readers more. More stories from Southbank, Docklands, Carlton, Parkville, East Melbourne, North Melbourne, West Melbourne, Kensington and surrounds. More context. More connections between communities that, in truth, have always had more in common than the mastheads on the front page sometimes suggested. On a personal note, I have loved every minute of this journey. Well, almost every minute. There were probably a few press nights, printer deadlines and distribution dramas I could have done without. However running five separate local news services has, quite simply, run its course.

Continued on page 2.



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The deadline for edition 1 of
The Melburnian is September 4

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Farewell CBD News – but not goodbye

Continued from page 1.

By bringing everything together under *The Melburnian*, we want to build on the wonderful foundations laid over the past 25 years, since this business first began publishing in Docklands. We want to create a stronger print product, lean more heavily into digital growth, and make local journalism more sustainable and more impactful for many years to come.

With *The Melburnian*, we have also tried to build something that feels unmistakably of this city.

Its design has been inspired by Melbourne itself – from motifs in the new masthead that nod to icons such as Her Majesty’s Theatre, the State Library, Parliament House and Fed Square, to a layout system underpinned by the tram network that connects our suburbs.

Each suburb will have its own location marker and tram line identity, helping guide readers through the paper in the same way Melburnians move through the city. It is a design idea, but also an editorial one.

Because while *The Melburnian* brings our five mastheads together, it is not about losing the hyperlocal edge that made them matter. It is about connecting those local stories more clearly – from Docklands to Southbank, Carlton to Kensington, the CBD to North Melbourne – and showing how each community forms part of the same living, moving city.

At its heart, this has always been about connection: celebrating Melbourne, challenging it where needed, and telling the stories that help get the best for the city and its people.

As a relatively new dad, I am also looking forward to what this next chapter might mean personally. Producing five newspapers each month has been a privilege, but it has also been a lot. Like many working



parents, I am learning that time is both precious and wildly unforgiving.

That is part of the reason this change matters. It is not about stepping back from local news. It is about making sure we can keep doing it properly.

Because as publisher and editor, and as someone born and raised here in Melbourne, I care too deeply about this city’s local journalism to let it fade away through fatigue, fragmentation or nostalgia.

All good things need to evolve. And CBD News has reached that point.

When my predecessor, the late Shane Scanlan, and his then business partner

Shane Dighe launched this paper, Shane wrote about John Pascoe Fawkner’s words from 1838: “A very small degree of support, timely afforded, will establish a newspaper here.”

That sentiment still rings true.

This paper was born from a belief that the CBD deserved its own voice. Not a citywide gloss, not a passing mention in a metropolitan daily, but a dedicated local newspaper interested in the detail of this place.

Over the years, *CBD News* has covered the Queen Victoria Market renewal, homelessness and drug dependence, the politics of Town Hall under Lord Mayors Doyle, Capp and Reece, the pandemic years when the city was on its knees and the long road to recovery, the construction and opening of the Metro Tunnel, and countless stories of the people, businesses, events and ideas that have shaped Melbourne.

There are too many people to thank properly, but I will try.

Thank you to our readers, who picked us up, wrote to us, corrected us, encouraged us and occasionally gave us a very direct piece of their mind.

Thank you to our advertisers, whose support made this work possible.

Thank you to the City of Melbourne, community groups, traders, residents, artists, advocates and contributors who trusted us with their stories.

And thank you to my team, past and present – Lauren, Kate, Jenny, Chris, Hanna, and our amazing distributors who have canvassed every corner of this city to make sure the paper gets where it needs to go.

CBD News has been a privilege. *The Melburnian* is the next step.

So, thank you for 12 wonderful years. See you next month.

Sean Car - Publisher and Editor
Hyperlocal News ●

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"Flies in the face": council rejects Town Hall Station tower plan

The City of Melbourne has urged Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny to reject a major expansion of Lendlease's Town Hall Station development, warning the proposal would overwhelm one of Melbourne's most significant civic gateways and cast new shadows over Federation Square and Flinders Street Station.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



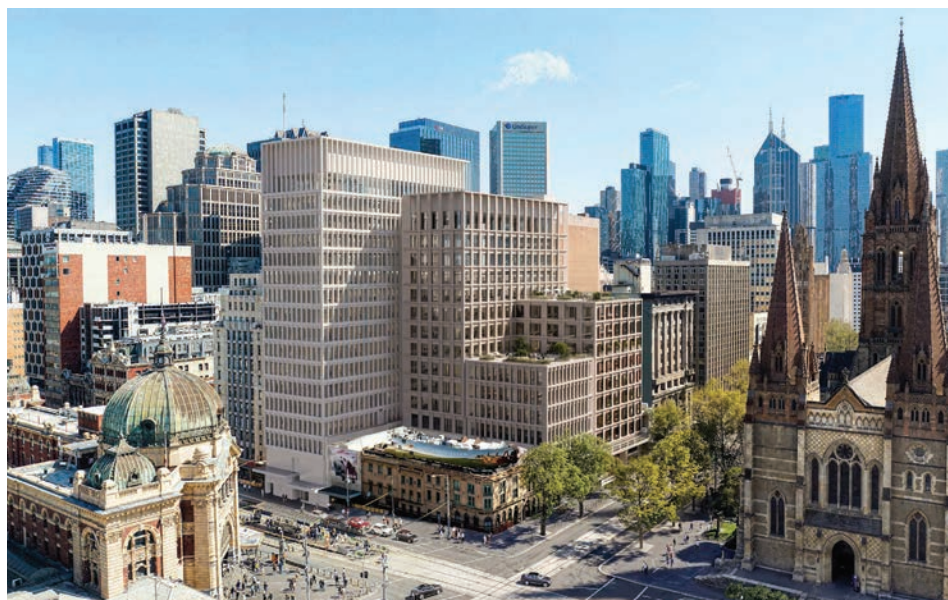
At its July 7 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, councillors unanimously endorsed a position opposing proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C498Melb, which would allow a much larger commercial development above the Town Hall Station entrances at the corner of Swanston and Flinders streets.

The final decision rests with the Minister for Planning, not the council.

The site already has approval for an over-station office development of around 46 metres. But the new proposal, lodged by Urbis on behalf of Lendlease, seeks approval for four connected commercial buildings rising to a maximum height of 76.6 metres, well above the area's mandatory 40-metre height control.

The revised scheme would deliver almost 25,000 square metres of office floor space above the recently opened Town Hall Station, with Lendlease arguing the project is needed to respond to changing market conditions, rising construction costs and the need to secure a major anchor tenant.

Speaking on behalf of Lendlease at the



meeting, Urbis representative Claire Gillies said the site was one of Melbourne's few truly transit-oriented development opportunities and should "do justice" to the state's \$15 billion Metro Tunnel investment by delivering jobs directly above the new station.

She said the original 2017 approval no longer provided the scale needed to deliver the project in the short term, and argued the proposal had been designed carefully by Hassell, with a stepped form intended to reduce its perceived bulk.

But council officers and residents were unconvinced. The council report found the amendment should not be supported due to "fundamental issues", including excessive height, a lack of compelling strategic justification, unacceptable overshadowing and reliance on site-specific controls to bypass mandatory planning requirements.

Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell said the proposal was inappropriate for one of Melbourne's most recognisable corners.

"This proposal flies in the face of planning controls that have stood for more than a century – protecting Melbourne's identity, amenity and liveability," Cr Campbell said.

"Community outrage over this application has been palpable and understandable. The corner of Flinders and Swanston streets is an iconic gateway into our city that deserves to be protected."

Council officers said the proposed height increase would affect key civic views, heritage settings and the Swanston Street public realm, while creating additional shadow over Federation Square and the Flinders Street Station steps.

"We've received no strategic justification for the proposed height increases, which would cause significant overshadowing

of Federation Square and Flinders Street Station," Cr Campbell said.

"This council is undeniably pro-development, however there must be a balance in new builds between ensuring commercial viability and being an appropriate development for the location."

EastEnders president Dr Stan Capp also urged councillors to oppose the amendment, saying residents were despairing at proposals that conflicted with what they believed were "sacrosanct policies".

He said the heritage significance of Flinders Street Station, St Paul's Cathedral, Federation Square and Young & Jackson required "a major intervention" by the City of Melbourne.

Dr Capp was particularly critical of the fast-tracked ministerial process, noting council officers had been forced to undertake only a high-level assessment because the Minister was expected to make a decision imminently.

"Surely the decision on a development of an estimated \$263 million deserves far greater opportunity to analyse, review and consult," he said.

Nearby residents have also raised alarm about the impact of further construction after years of Metro Tunnel disruption. Clement's House resident Jamie Wdziekonski said some apartments would lose morning sunlight, while the block could face construction activity through to 2031.

He also questioned the need for such a large office project at a time when CBD office vacancy remains a major issue.

If the Minister is minded to approve the amendment, councillors have asked that the proposal be substantially reduced, with towers three and four capped at no more than 60 metres, no additional overshadowing of the Flinders Street Station steps, no overshadowing of Federation Square and an updated facade strategy. ●

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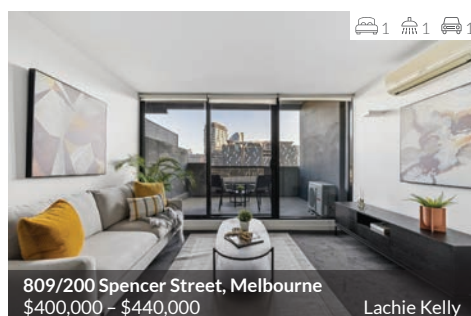
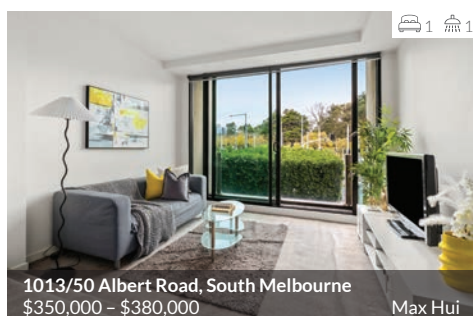
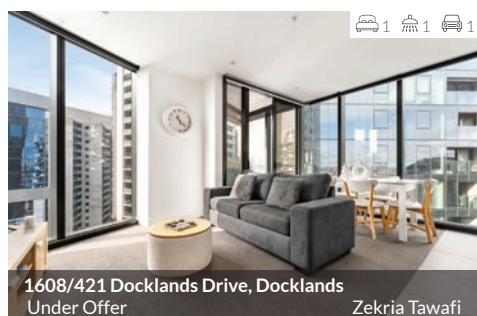
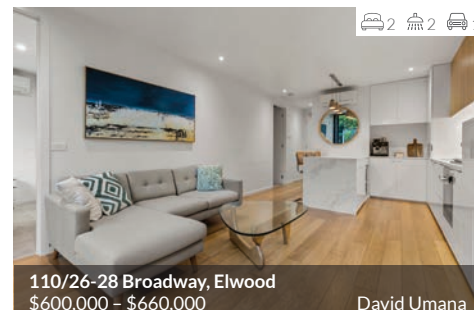
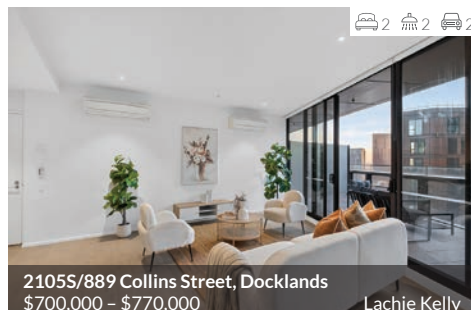
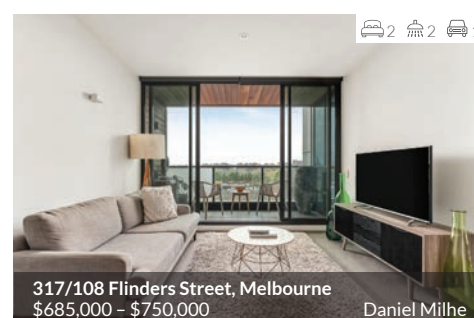
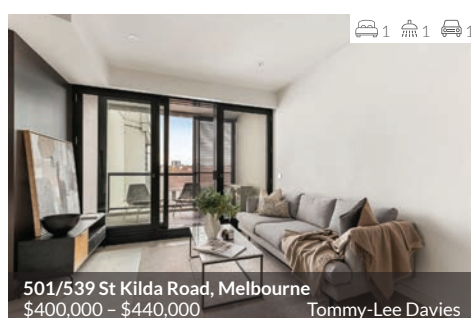
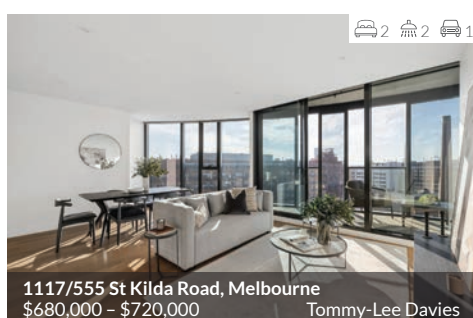
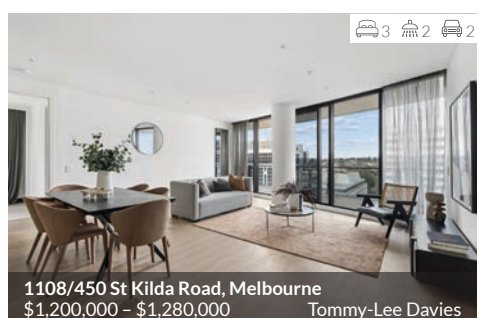


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Why Melbourne Matters

Ahead of November's state election, Melbourne is back in the political spotlight – and we want to make the most of it.

We've launched a new advocacy campaign: Melbourne Matters. Because when Melbourne does well, Victoria does too.

Many of the decisions that will shape Melbourne's future sit outside Town Hall – including housing, schools, transport and other essential infrastructure needed to support growing communities.

Our campaign focuses on 3 priorities: supporting Victoria's growth, creating safe and healthy communities, and protecting Melbourne's place as Australia's cultural capital.

MELBOURNE MATTERS FOR VICTORIA'S GROWTH

Melbourne is one of Victoria's fastest-growing areas and generates 22% of the state's economic output, but we need the right investment and policy support to help that growth succeed.

- We're calling on the Victorian Government to give Melbourne the same level of support and policy attention as other major growth areas as our population continues to grow.
- We also want to work with the Victorian Government to unlock public land and create more green space for our growing community. The Moonee Ponds Creek corridor is one example: 1.3 hectares of locked-up land unable to be accessed by 60,000 nearby residents.

MELBOURNE MATTERS FOR SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

We know that people in our community are currently under pressure to make ends meet, and we're seeing crime and antisocial behaviour escalating in our public places.

Melbourne must remain a city that feels safe, welcoming and accessible for everyone, including the most vulnerable members of our community.

- We need continued support from the Victorian Government

to help keep Melbourne's streets safe, including a more visible and consistent safety presence in busy areas and known hotspots.

- Many people experiencing homelessness are also living with complex mental health challenges. Too often, when someone reaches crisis point, there are only 2 places for them to go: hospital or jail. We're calling for greater investment in crisis accommodation and proven programs like Street to Home that help break the cycle.

MELBOURNE MATTERS AS AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL CAPITAL

Melbourne's arts, music and events scene is a huge part of what makes this city special – and with the creative economy contributing more than \$41 billion to Victoria each year, it's also a major economic driver.

- Major events like our New Year's Eve celebrations play a huge role in bringing the city to life and attracting visitors from around Australia and beyond. An extra \$1 million in state funding

would support the expansion of programming and offerings.

- We're calling on the Victorian Government to restore funding to organisations like Creative Victoria and Visit Victoria. Creative Victoria's funding has fallen by almost one third since 2022, with cuts starting to take a real toll on Melbourne's creative sector.

As we approach the state election, Melburnians should expect ambition from all sides of politics – and politicians should expect to hear directly from the people they represent.

Call your local MP. Visit their office. Ask them what their vision is for Melbourne and whether they are prepared to fight for it.

That matters, because Melbourne matters.



Events like Moomba Festival are major economic drivers for Victoria



Melbourne at dawn, courtesy of Visit Victoria



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Rock rebel Bon Scott given mythical qualities in new mural

“A new and distinct mural featuring former AC/DC singer Bon Scott has been unveiled in the laneway named after the legendary band he fronted.”

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON

Commissioned by Bon Scott’s estate and designed by former Mambo artist Reg Mombassa, the AC/DC Lane artwork depicts Bon as a creature that’s part lion, part winged guitar.

The artist said he had been contacted and asked to design a T-shirt or poster to celebrate what would have been Bon’s 80th birthday on July 9.

“So, I thought ... I’ll maybe try and put together a creature that kind of metaphorically represents Bon somehow,” he said.

“I often do graphic stuff with guitar creatures with big eyes on, so I thought I’d do something along those lines, but I wanted to personalise it more to Bon.”

“It’s got the lion’s head that was a tattoo that he had of a lion holding a microphone singing away, so I put the lion’s head on the guitar-kind of creature body and ... I think it was a Bedford flatbed truck that they played on in Melbourne, so I put the creature on the truck.”

He has also given the Bon figure wings.



▲ Artist Reg Mombassa in front of his Bon Scott mural design. Photo: Lucinda Goodwin Photography.

Reg described the charismatic singer as “the best rock ‘n roll frontman in Australia – even though he was from Scotland”.

Although not originally from Melbourne, AC/DC made their first album, *High Voltage*, here, and recorded the film clip for the iconic song *It’s a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock’n’Roll)* on the back of a truck going down Swanston St in 1975.

Five years later the hard-living, tight pants-wearing lead singer with the powerful

voice and talent for lyrics died in the back of a parked car in London aged 33.

A coroner identified the cause as “misadventure”, finding Bon had choked on his own vomit.

The unveiling of the new mural, rendered onto the wall by street artist “Era”, was also attended by Melbourne Lord Mayor Nick Reece.

“What that band did for this city is the stuff of folklore,” he said.

“We love AC/DC, they’re part of the DNA of Melbourne.”

In November 2025 the band, featuring original founding member Angus Young and Bon’s replacement Brian Johnson, played what was described as a “thrilling”, hit-studded show at the MCG as part of their “Power Up” world tour.

The volume was so loud it reportedly registered on earthquake detection equipment. ●

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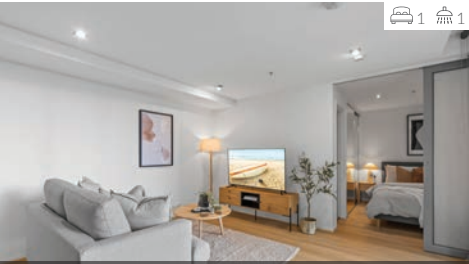
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Council backs Retrofit Melbourne pilot

The City of Melbourne has approved a new three-year Retrofit Melbourne Financial Incentive Scheme, aimed at helping older commercial buildings cut emissions, reduce operating costs and remain competitive amid high office vacancy rates.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Councillors voted at the July 21 Future Melbourne Committee meeting to establish the pilot program, which will begin in the 2026–27 financial year and provide targeted financial support for owners of lower-performing mid-tier office buildings.

All councillors present supported the motion except Cr Owen Guest, who voted against it.

The scheme forms part of the council's broader Retrofit Melbourne Plan, which seeks to accelerate upgrades to existing commercial buildings as the city works towards net zero emissions by 2040.

According to the council report, buildings account for almost 60 per cent of municipal emissions, while more than 80 per cent of the buildings expected to be in use by 2040 already exist.

The report also notes that Melbourne's central city office market is experiencing structural change, with office vacancy sitting at about 18 per cent, the highest of any Australian capital city. Demand is increasingly concentrated in efficient, high-amenity and environmentally sustainable buildings, placing pressure on older,



lower-performing office stock.

The pilot will provide partial reimbursements for three types of retrofit activity: energy performance benchmarking, action plans for energy-saving improvements and electrification, and implementation of energy-saving works.

Eligible building owners will be able to receive up to \$2500 for benchmarking, up to \$7500 for action plans, and up to \$40,000 for implementation works, with reimbursements capped at 50 per cent of eligible costs.

Funding will be targeted at privately owned office buildings more than 15 years old, between 1000sqm and 20,000sqm, with a NABERS energy rating of four stars or below, along with buildings that have never been rated.

The council's environment portfolio lead Cr Davydd Griffiths said the \$800,000

pilot was an important step in ensuring Melbourne retained high-quality commercial buildings while reducing emissions.

He said the program would begin with energy performance benchmarking, before moving to action plans and then the implementation of energy-saving improvements.

"Sixty per cent of the emissions in the municipality come from buildings," he said. "Addressing this is a really important environmental measure."

Cr Olivia Ball, who seconded the motion, described the program as a "win-win-win initiative".

"We know that we need to electrify everything as fast as possible," Cr Ball said. "And 60 per cent of our emissions come from buildings, and building owners are just not retrofitting fast enough."

She said government had a role to play when the market was failing to deliver the

transition at the pace required.

"Retrofitting is about climate adaptation too, because a well-insulated and double-glazed building is more comfortable, more leasable, as well as needing less power to operate," she said.

Cr Rafael Camillo said the initiative was about more than sustainability, describing it as an economic activation measure for a changing CBD.

"We have older office buildings facing high vacancy rates and rising operational costs," he said. "At the same time, those buildings represent a tremendous opportunity if we can help them modernise, improve their performance, and remain competitive."

Cr Phil Le Liu supported the motion but urged the council to also explore its own opportunities around carbon credits, arguing the City of Melbourne should be innovative in how it funds and accounts for climate action.

Cr Guest opposed the scheme, arguing it shifted costs from property owners to ratepayers.

"Poor old ratepayer here is being asked to meet the burden once again," he said.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece defended the investment, saying \$800,000 was "not huge" but had been "very well targeted" to leverage maximum outcomes.

The amended motion also requested that the Lord Mayor write to federal and state ministers seeking targeted tax and regulatory reforms to accelerate commercial retrofits and adaptive reuse, and to the Victorian Planning Minister asking for approval of Planning Scheme Amendment C376, which would introduce stronger sustainable building design standards.

Cr Reece said C376 had been "sitting on the Minister's desk for years" and should be approved so the city could "start taking action".



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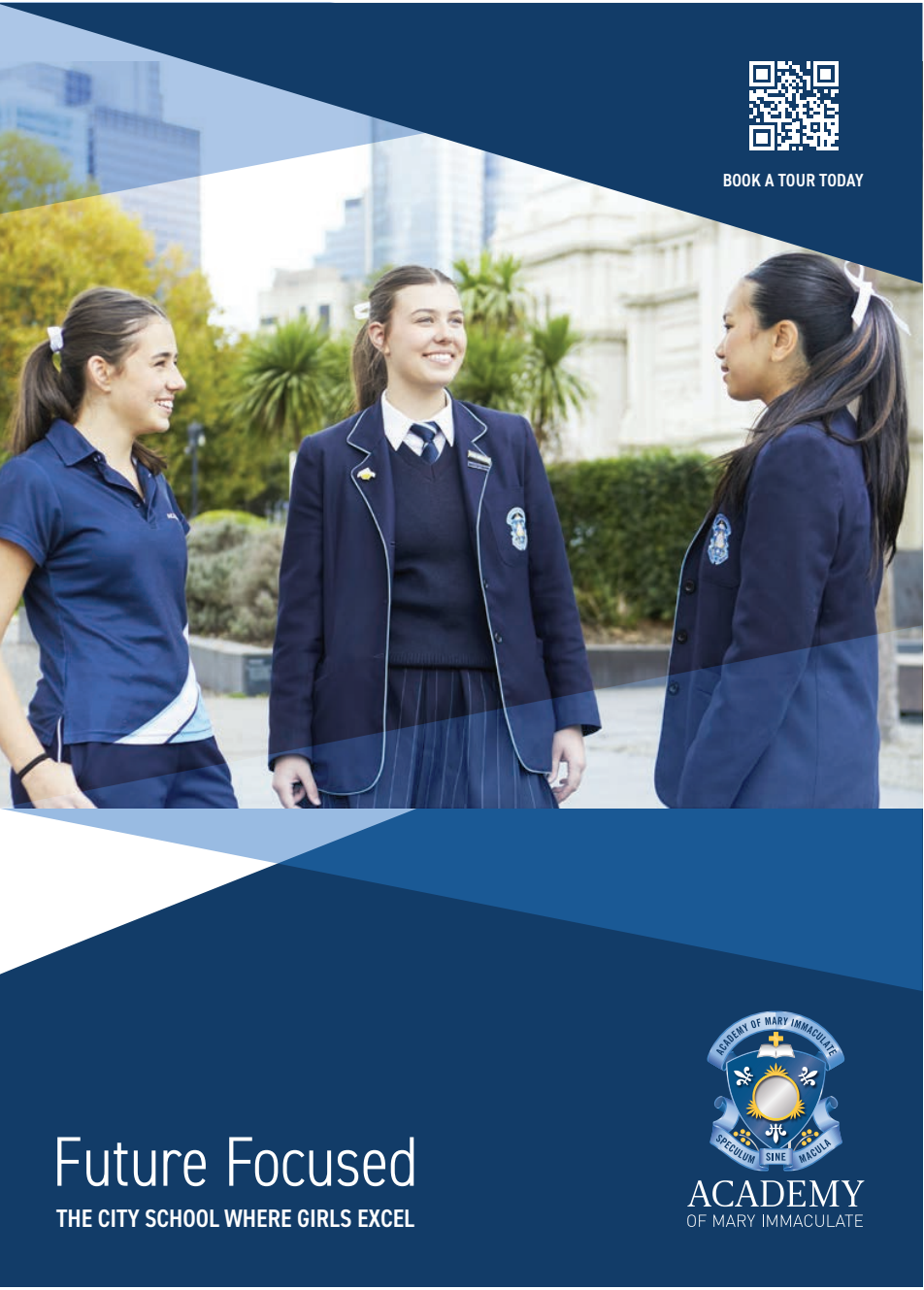
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AGIBOT showcases robotics future in Melbourne

Some of the world's latest robotics technology was on show in Melbourne on July 17, as Chinese embodied AI company AGIBOT hosted its Australia and New Zealand Partner Conference at the Ritz-Carlton on Lonsdale St.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The event marked AGIBOT's official launch in the Australia and New Zealand market and brought together business, government and industry representatives for a showcase of humanoid and quadruped robots, including two AGIBOT robots performing a synchronised Nutbush dance.

Others were seen riding dog-like quadruped robots, while demonstrations highlighted how robotics technology could be used across sectors including retail, service industries, manufacturing, logistics, security, commercial cleaning, research, education and entertainment.

The conference was attended by Lord Mayor Nick Reece, City of Melbourne councillors Gladys Liu and Philip Le Liu, Member for Northern Metropolitan Region Sheena Watt, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China in Melbourne Yang Liu, and representatives from AGIBOT, P&E Family Office and the local business community.

AGIBOT said the conference was an important step in its long-term commitment to supporting local partners, customers and



the deployment of embodied AI across Australia and New Zealand. The company used the event to launch a local Robot-as-a-Service model, aimed at making advanced robots more accessible without large upfront investment.

Gordon Yao, vice-president of AGIBOT's Asia Pacific and Middle East region, said the event was "more than a product launch".

"It is an opportunity to work together, build a strong partnership, and create a complete robotics ecosystem," Mr Yao said.

He said Australia and New Zealand were entering an important period for AI, robotics and smart automation, with strong demand

emerging in industries facing workforce shortages, ageing populations and productivity challenges.

"These challenges create a strong demand for practical and local robotics solutions," he said.

AGIBOT said its product portfolio included humanoid robots, quadrupeds, dexterous systems and commercial cleaning solutions. In June 2026, the company announced that its 15,000th robot had rolled off the production line.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece said Melbourne was excited by the potential of robotics and its role in shaping better cities.

"At the City of Melbourne, we lean into technological innovation," Cr Reece said.

"With the extraordinary advances that are happening in robotics, we see the enormous potential for this technology to deliver better lives for people, more meaningful lives, more prosperous lives."

Cr Reece said Melbourne had a long history of embracing new technology, pointing to the city's role in the invention of the black box flight recorder and the bionic ear.

He said the event also highlighted the growing economic and innovation relationship between Melbourne and China, following his recent visits to cities including Tianjin, Nanjing, Chengdu and Beijing.

"It opened my eyes to the incredible robotics advances being made in China, but also there's so many new grounds for collaboration," Cr Reece said.

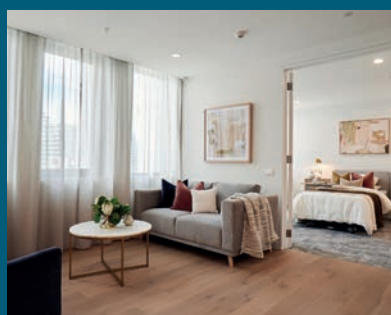
Consul-General Yang Liu said artificial intelligence and robotics were increasingly important drivers of innovation and economic growth, noting that Chinese President Xi Jinping had recently attended a major AI and robotics event in Beijing.

He said Victoria, and Melbourne in particular, had strong advantages in scientific research, advanced manufacturing and technological innovation.

"These strengths are highly complementary to China's robust industrial ecosystem and the vast market for AI and humanoid robotics," Mr Liu said.

He said the Chinese Consulate-General would continue to promote cooperation between Victoria and China in scientific research, talent development, industrial collaboration and business partnerships.

The conference offered both spectacle and substance: dancing robots, rideable robotic dogs and a clear signal that the city's relationship with China remains central to future opportunities in technology, trade and innovation. ●



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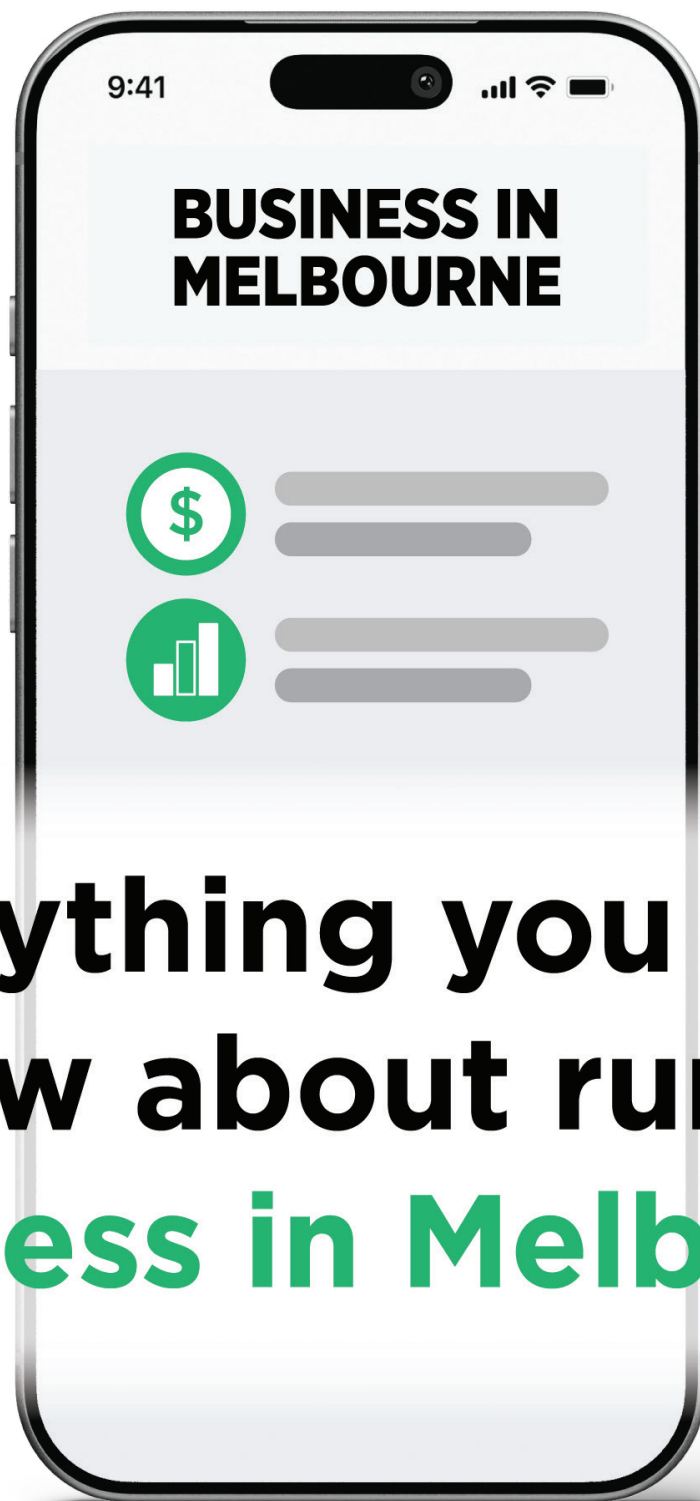
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There’s happiness in a sharp, handmade blade

“ Little Collins St business Zan Shin marks its first anniversary in August. The shop’s owner and manager say its Japanese knives and knife-sharpening service can bring customers fun and happiness. Hundreds of five-star reviews suggest they may be right.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



When Kazuki (“Kaz”) Hanzawa started working in Australian kitchens in 2010 he was surprised to find that other chefs didn’t seem to sharpen their own knives. “From the beginning, obviously, I had my stone set and I sharpened my knives by myself,” the 37-year-old tells CBD News. “I thought it was very basic for a chef, but it was kind of special in Melbourne.”

While at one restaurant the boss paid a mobile sharpener who came every month, the grinding machine they used didn’t suit the finer steel of his Japanese knives, Kaz says.

The knives’ steel is strong but relatively thin and will last longer if sharpened gently with a whetstone.

“So, I started sharing this [whetstone] sharpening with my co-workers, and even started sharpening for customers,” he says. “That was the kind of beginning of the idea.”

Kaz once dreamt of opening his own restaurant in Japan.

But when he finished his studies, he decided to have a working holiday in Australia.

When he was 16, he had come here as an exchange student and lived with a foster family, and the experience left him feeling like he had family in Melbourne.

“I still catch up with them now,” Kaz says.

In Australia he first trained as a Japanese chef in Gippsland then moved into café work in Melbourne.

Before too long he started liking being in Australia.

“So, I stuck with cheffing and I became head chef and I got permanent residency,” he says.

Wherever he was employed, when Kaz took a trip back to Japan he would get requests from co-workers and friends to bring back knives.



There was nowhere in Melbourne to get authentic ones, he says, and in around 2017 he started a side business selling them online.

Then COVID hit and the lockdowns saw the cheffing work fall off while the knife business got a big boost.

When the city opened up again, Kaz and his wife Kanae, who he had met in a kitchen, opened a “a very small, very cosy” shop in Prahran, Kaz’s Knife and Kitchenware.

It was tough going at first.

“But slowly, slowly, people started sharing about my sharpening, my knife quality,” he says.

Last August he decided to open a second shop, in the CBD, to service customers from the city and the north side of town.

It was something he was only able to do, he says, because he had the good luck of finding suitable managers.

One of them, chef Finn Le, was an early customer at the Prahran store, who deeply respected Kaz’s knowledge and had stayed in touch with him.

“I trusted him about everything – knives, stones and advice on sharpening,” she says.

Finn had moved to Tasmania for a restaurant job and had been working there as head chef for three or four years when Kaz called and asked if she would like a job in the new store.

“Something like this it’s very rare,” she says, of both the shop and the opportunity.

When she first came to Australia from Vietnam in 2012 Finn had worked as a nurse.

Then she retrained as a chef.

In the knife shop she started learning a lot more about the making and maintenance of the implements while taking on a new set of skills.

“We have to learn to talk to customers a lot and be patient too,” she says.

“My temper actually got much better since I worked in retail!”

Knowledge that she patiently shares with Zan Shin’s many visitors include information and advice about different types of steel, knife makers and their regions, single-purpose knives versus all-purpose “santoku” ones, price range – from \$150 to well over \$1000 – and the benefits of whetstone sharpening.

The shop stocks a huge range of blades, including Kaz’s own Zan Shin brand, sourced from Sakai, Osaka, and other famous knife-making regions such as Seki and Echizen.

All of them are handmade.

“I think I have 150 kinds of knives at the store, so it’s like a museum,” Kaz says.

“Even if you don’t buy a knife, it’s fun to see them.”

And while the idea of offering a sharpening service at the shop was initially just about looking after the knives it sold to customers, sharpening has emerged as an important part of the business, with many people bringing their kitchen knives in.

Zan Shin also runs four sharpening classes a week, which are generally booked out a month in advance.



While you might expect Kaz to be pleased about this from a business perspective, it’s clearly the increase in knowledge about knives that gladdens him most. “For me it’s very nice to see people start to have more interest in looking after their knives by themselves,” he says.

Also, he thinks, “Japanese knives can make your life happier.”

It’s an outlook shared by Finn, co-manager Stefano and the rest of the passionate team at Zan Shin.

“If you choose the right knife it will last for a lifetime,” Finn says.

“It actually makes your cooking job much easier so you will enjoy cooking and everything along the way much more than before.”

“And seeing customers happy when we sell them the right knife is actually bringing a lot of joy to us also.” ●

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New chapter for State Library Victoria

State Library Victoria has appointed internationally recognised library leader Vicki McDonald AM FALIA as its new chief executive officer following an extensive global search.

Ms McDonald will begin in the role on September 8, taking over from Acting CEO Alistair Mytton.

She joins State Library Victoria after a decade as State Librarian and CEO of the State Library of Queensland, where she oversaw a period of strong strategic direction, expanded public reach and innovative, patron-focused service delivery.

Library Board of Victoria president Helen Silver AO said Ms McDonald brought deep technical expertise and significant experience leading complex cultural and public institutions.

“Vicki McDonald is an internationally recognised library leader who brings both deep technical expertise and extensive experience leading complex organisations to her appointment as CEO of State Library Victoria,” Ms Silver said.

“Vicki’s depth of experience as a CEO and a librarian, and her track record for delivering innovative patron-focused library services, will be integral to shaping the next phase of State Library Victoria.”

Ms Silver said the Library Board looked forward to working with Ms McDonald, staff and volunteers to continue the institution’s mission of enriching the lives of Victorians and visitors, providing access to knowledge, supporting research and conserving its world-leading collections.

Ms McDonald said she was thrilled to be joining State Library Victoria, describing it as an iconic cultural institution with a powerful legacy of impact across Victoria and beyond.

“I look forward to working with Helen Silver AO, the Library Board and all Library staff and volunteers,” she said.

Her appointment brings to Melbourne one of Australia’s most senior library figures.

Before leading the State Library of Queensland, Ms McDonald held senior executive roles at the State Library of New South Wales, where she was responsible for internationally significant collections valued at more than \$2 billion. ●

Knowing more about brain injury

Brain injuries can happen to anyone, and while the Melbourne CBD-based self-advocacy organisation Brain Injury Matters (BIM) faces an uncertain future, it wants to see more public education about this type of trauma.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



BIM told *CBD News* that without adequate, ongoing funding the Ross House-based not-for-profit group struggles to guarantee even the continuation of its vitally important peer support programs.

Nia Giddings was just 18 when she had a car accident that changed her life.

“I was sitting in the back seat, and I flew into the front seat and bashed my head under the steering wheel,” she says.

No-one else was injured in the crash.

The then teenager had amnesia for three months.

She initially lost her speech and couldn’t move her right side.

“You think that you’re the only person this has [ever] happened to,” Nia says, “because it’s not widely known or talked about in the community.”

Marked this year around Australia from August 17 to 23, Brain Injury Awareness Week aims to improve that situation.

Its 2026 slogan: “Brain injury: many pathways, one community” refers to the large variety of different types of acquired brain injuries – not just traumatic ones caused by transport accidents or the chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) suffered by footballers – but also those experienced by stroke sufferers and people with degenerative diseases like multiple sclerosis and dementia.

The slogan also reflects the fact that even for people with similar sorts of injuries the impacts are “very individual and unique,” says Nia, who is deputy chair of the Brain Injury Matters committee.

“But we all have a similar journey.”

“We all experience the same fatigue, physical issues and issues with how people treat us. Loneliness is a big issue. You feel isolated and lonely.”

Despite being “pretty banged up” Nia “got on with life as best [she] could” after her accident.

A determined person, she went on to do a Bachelor of Arts in English literature, then a master’s degree in library and information studies, and is these days a working mother with two teenagers.

But issues she experiences with mobility, balance and language mean she is often looked on by people who don’t know her as “a bit of a halfwit,” she says.



▲ BIM deputy chair Nia Giddings outside Ross House in Flinders Lane. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

“They’re very quick to put me down, which is very, very annoying.”

“And it would be good if there was more education about not judging people as being drunk when they fall over because that’s a common accusation I’ve had all my life.”

Nia noticed a real difference in the way strangers treated her, though, after she started wearing a sunflower lanyard a few years ago.

The lanyard has been adopted internationally as a signal that the wearer has a non-visible disability.

“When I started wearing it, I’d be crossing the road and people started offering me assistance, which was great,” Nia says.

“That doesn’t happen as often as I’d like.”

BIM member and PhD student Nat Linke says brain injury “can happen quickly and can happen to anyone”.

Nat had a cycling accident near St Kilda Rd in 2020 but counts herself lucky to have had a lot of support from her friends and family and workplace and to have suffered an injury that wasn’t as severe as it could’ve been.

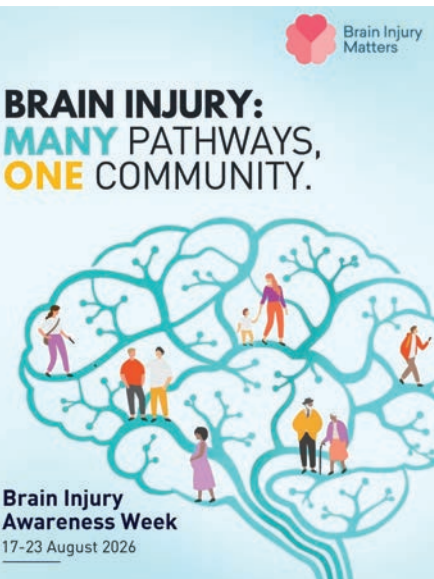
A researcher before her accident, she turned her attention to brain matters after it.

“I thought we really need to improve quality of life for people living with brain injury,” she says, noting that the outcomes when people lacked support were often “diabolical”.

“People are more likely to be unemployed, have substance use issues, housing insecurity or involvement in the criminal justice system if they have a brain injury.”

According to Nat, in Victoria more than 50 per cent of people experiencing homelessness and 42 per cent of men entering prison have a brain injury.

“Not only is that terrible for the individual



but it also impacts society as a whole,” she says, noting that locking a person up costs about \$150,000 a year.

Her research project, driven by BIM, will look at the “total societal costs” of brain injury in Victoria with a view to “how we can improve the way resources are allocated”.

For BIM member Ross, who lost his job, hobby and social life after a debilitating motorbike crash and then developed depression, what has been crucial in “getting [him] back out into the world” has been the BIM peer support group program.

Its meetings enable people with brain injuries to come together in a relaxed atmosphere and share stories about their issues and dramas which other people won’t necessarily understand.

In his group, “everyone’s there for each other,” Ross says, which has seen him make friends for life.

“If peer support groups like BIM don’t survive, then you can guarantee I wouldn’t survive,” he said.

Developed during COVID and set up with grant money that has long since lapsed, the groups have been “growing and growing” since 2022, Nia says.

There are currently four weekly in-person meetings around Melbourne, two that run online and four new groups in regional Victoria.

While the state government is providing some funding for the latter, BIM is struggling overall, Nia says.

Its existing peer support groups and self-advocacy and research work “can’t run on nothing,” she says.

Meanwhile there is also a real need for ongoing education.

“It’s not that people don’t think about us or don’t care,” Nia says.

“It’s just that they don’t know.”

braininjurymatters.org ●

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SilkGear brings curated tech retail to Bourke St

A new premium technology retailer opening on Bourke St next month is promising to give Melburnians a hands-on way to discover the next wave of global consumer technology.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



SilkGear will officially launch its first Australian store at 86 Bourke St on Thursday, August 6, bringing together a curated range of products spanning artificial intelligence, intelligent robotics, smart living, premium workspace solutions and emerging consumer technology.

Located at the Paris End of Bourke St in the premises formerly occupied by the Hill of Content bookshop, the store marks the brand's entry into the Australian market and introduces a retail concept built around its philosophy of "Stay Selective".

Rather than overwhelming customers with rows of similar products, SilkGear says it will focus on a carefully chosen collection of technology that combines innovation, design, functionality and meaningful everyday use.

Founder Yunfei Yang said Melbourne had been a natural choice for the brand's first Australian store.

"Melbourne is undeniably the cultural and innovation capital of Australia," Mr Yang said. "The people here have a profound appreciation for art, design, and a curated lifestyle. When we conceived the idea of SilkGear, we knew it had to be born here."

He said choosing 86 Bourke St, within a



heritage building at the city's Paris End, had been deliberate.

"We wanted to create a striking contrast: placing the absolute cutting edge of future technology, like AI robotics and exoskeletons, inside a space rich with Melbourne's history," he said.

"It beautifully reflects our brand philosophy of blending the past's warmth with the future's possibilities."

SilkGear's collection includes a strong representation of leading and emerging Chinese technology brands entering or expanding within the Australian market, alongside other products from around the world.

Mr Yang said Melbourne customers might be surprised by the quality and design of brands such as DJI, Laifen, XGIMI and AGIBOT.

"The biggest surprise will be experiencing the massive paradigm shift in global hardware firsthand," he said.

"These brands are no longer just participating in the global market; they are actively defining its future."

He said customers could expect "uncompromising premium build quality", close attention to industrial design and intuitive software ecosystems.

The Bourke St store has been designed around discovery and live demonstration,

allowing customers to try products and better understand how technology can fit into everyday life and work.

Mr Yang said this was central to SilkGear's point of difference at a time when most technology discovery happened online.

"You simply cannot understand the empowering sensation of a wearable exoskeleton, the whisper-quiet power of a premium hair dryer, or the immersive thrill of AR glasses just by scrolling through a webpage," he said.

"At SilkGear, our store operates like an interactive gallery. Everything is powered on."

He said staff would act as "Tech Curators" rather than traditional salespeople, helping customers explore and understand the products.

"We believe technology deserves to be experienced, not just sold," he said.

The official launch will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, guided store experiences, product demonstrations, live robotic demonstrations and a Human x Robot Ballet Performance.

Mr Yang said the performance was intended to challenge the idea that advanced technology and robotics were cold or intimidating.

"We want to show that technology is an extension of humanity," he said. "It can be elegant, harmonious, and deeply integrated into our art and daily lives."

He said SilkGear's longer-term ambition was to become a launchpad for global hardware innovation entering Australia, while also serving as a CBD community hub for creators, professionals and technology enthusiasts.

"We want to bridge the gap between brilliant global engineering and the Australian lifestyle," Mr Yang said.

The launch will run from 2.30pm to 5pm, with the official opening at 3pm. ●



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Artist’s bold new show lands at Donkey Wheel House

“
A new exhibition by local artist Maya Tamang has opened at Jump Left at Donkey Wheel House, bringing together a flamboyant and deeply personal series of portraits inspired by classic Hollywood, personal identity and cultural icons.
”



I Ain’t No Fancy Bird is a solo exhibition of new work by Tamang, an early-career and primarily self-taught artist whose practice draws on lived experience, camp humour, theatrical aesthetics and a desire to connect with audiences through honesty and vulnerability.

Presented by Jump Left, the exhibition is now open until August 29 at its ground-floor space at 673 Bourke St, Melbourne, within Donkey Wheel House. The launch weekend also coincided with Open House Melbourne.

The exhibition focuses on portraits of people who are inspirational and important to Tamang, with works that channel the playfulness, exuberance and glamour of old Hollywood.

Jump Left director and exhibition curator Sim Luttin described the show as an “exceptional solo exhibition of deeply personal yet larger than life paintings” by a local artist and “fashionista icon”.

“*I Ain’t No Fancy Bird* exemplifies Maya’s devotion to personal expression and a commitment to the celebration of cultural icons and uninhibited individual identity,” Ms Luttin said.

“This series of portraits captures her admiration for personal flair and flamboyance while also revealing a surprising sensitivity in her subjects, qualities also reflected in the artist’s expressive painting style.”

Tamang said the exhibition was both emotional and bold, reflecting the role art played in helping her express herself.

“This is a deeply emotional and personal show for me,” she said. “My art is a way to express myself and escape from a harsh world.”

“My work is a mix of fun, flamboyance, camp and emotional pieces, and *I Ain’t No Fancy Bird* is a fun, fashionable and bold exhibition with references to old Hollywood.”

Tamang said she hoped audiences would feel inspired and connected to her work, adding that it was important for her to create inclusive artistic spaces, build a professional career and be visible.

“I want to empower and inspire younger female artists,” she said.

Jump Left is a niche arts organisation based at Donkey Wheel House, creating opportunities for artists with disabilities



Photo: Astrid Mulder.

and the studios that support them. It works with neurodivergent, intellectually disabled and self-taught Australian artists through inclusive arts projects, partnerships and accessible public programs.

The exhibition is supported by Jump Left, Donkey Wheel House and Impact

Neighbourhoods.

I Ain’t No Fancy Bird is open Tuesday to Friday from 11am to 4pm and Saturday from 11am to 3pm, or by appointment. Admission is free, with wheelchair access, assistance animals welcome, Easy Read materials and a quiet space available. ●

Fund to help Melbourne musicals hit the stage

A new \$1 million fund will support the development and production of original musical theatre works in Victoria, as the state government and City of Melbourne look to build the next generation of homegrown stage hits.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The Musical Theatre Development Fund, jointly funded by the Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne, has been designed to help local creatives take new musicals from early ideas through to production.

Announced on July 24 at the Regent Theatre, the fund aims to strengthen the pipeline of Melbourne-made musical theatre at a time when major international productions continue to play a major role in the city’s cultural calendar and visitor economy.

While imported shows remain a major drawcard, the new program

is intended to give local writers, composers, performers and producers greater support to develop original works in Victoria, with the ambition of reaching larger audiences both locally and internationally.

Half of the fund will be reserved for projects that tell Australian stories, giving local experiences a clearer pathway onto Melbourne stages.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece said the initiative was about backing Melbourne creatives to develop

works with the potential to travel well beyond the city.

“This project has us singing from the rooftops,” Cr Reece said.

“International productions have launched the careers of countless Melbourne creatives. Now it’s Melbourne’s turn to create the next global hit.”

“From *Billy Elliot* to *Hamilton*, some of the world’s most successful musicals started as local stories. We’re backing Melbourne creatives to tell ours.”

The fund will support creative

teams at different stages of development, from early concepts through to more advanced original musical works.

Established creative teams will be able to apply for significant grant funding to develop and progress new musicals, while emerging teams will be supported to stage productions within the City of Melbourne.

The program will also include professional development opportunities such as workshops, masterclasses and access to industry

expertise, helping creatives refine their work and attract national and international investment.

Musical theatre students will also be given opportunities to attend workshops and performances, creating stronger links between training, professional development and the broader industry.

Creative Melbourne portfolio head Cr Philip Le Liu said musical theatre played an important role in the city’s creative economy.

“Musical theatre is a major contributor to Melbourne’s creative economy – supporting thousands of writers, composers, performers, producers, technicians and other skilled creatives,” Cr Le Liu said.

Minister for Creative Industries Vicki Ward said the fund would help Victorian stories reach new audiences. “Musical theatre is big business for Victoria – employing thousands of Victorians and drawing tourists from around the world,” Ms Ward said.

“This Fund gives Victorian stories the chance to shine on stages here and around the world.”

An industry delivery partner will soon be appointed to work with the sector and deliver the program. ●

No passing FAD – Chinatown bar clocks up 31 years

Over three decades FAD Gallery Bar has proved its appeal lies well and truly beyond the dictates of fashion. Times have changed and clearly gotten tougher, but the venue is still serving up the art, relaxed vibes and love of life to its eclectic community.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



On a Thursday night a colourful bunch of regulars are sitting at the bar at quirky Chinatown venue FAD.

Some of them have reportedly been occupying the stools there for decades.

Friendly and curious, they shuffle up to make room for a newcomer as they exchange stories and sledge each other about topics like Trump, AI, the footy and their love lives.

One of them met his partner here many years ago and had a surprise wedding in the bar just two months back.

"It's hard to describe the community in this place," he says.

Manager Oriana Aprico-Wister also found love at FAD.

"I met my better half John here 11 years ago," she tells CBD News.

Secluded in a bluestone laneway still struggling back after COVID, the bar has a rock 'n' roll, "come as you feel" kind of vibe.

Dimly lit, it is jammed with bottles, glassware, lamps, clocks, figurines and knickknacks, with chandelier-style light fittings and disco balls projecting low-brow glamour.

The blue-painted brick walls are hung with a mix of paintings and photographs in a variety of genres, with more than one bare-breasted torso on display.

From under the bar, strings of fairy lights throw a red glow while high on the back wall the blue neon slogan: "Damn fine" hangs.

On the other side of the large, concrete-floored room, members of Melbourne's Got Soul Choir, having finished their weekly session upstairs, have spilled across the retro furniture and are settling in among the artworks to chat over cheese platters and ripped open bags of chips.

Before he started the business in 1995 licensee Johnny Halleday spent a few years in the well-paid corporate world before being urged by a friend to follow his passion and deciding to "live creatively".

After meeting someone who had started one of Melbourne's first photographic galleries, Johnny decided to open a gallery too.

He found the empty former perfume factory in Corrs Lane and cleaned it up, clearing something like 18 bags of accumulated



Photo: Jeff Busby.

pigeon shit from the back and revealing a hidden toilet in the process.

Landing on the name FAD – which stands for Fotographic Art & Design – for his business, he launched it.

Looking back, he was "incredibly naïve," Johnny says.

Four or five months after opening, it hit him that he was going to go broke and he came up with the idea of using his big ground floor space to throw parties and sell alcohol.

"It took a while to get going, but it turned out to be a great place to have a party," he says.

"Eventually I was having so many functions that I had to get a full-time liquor licence". That led to the decision to open a full-time bar downstairs.

Oriana ("Ori") was still a teenager when she first came to the venue.

"I walked in and I haven't left," she says.

"Because I love a chat, obviously, and you just meet people from all walks of life here."

"I went, 'this place is amazing,' and I fell in love with it and with the people and I started working here."

Johnny, she says, is "like my big brother, and one of my best mates too, which works well when ... you spend all your time together".

Over 20 years Ori has brought a contemporary touch to the enduring FAD, notably in changes to the décor, the addition of cocktails and a focus on social media.

The 36-year-old also brings phenomenal

energy and positivity to the enterprise.

"I adore the place, I love it. I think that everything that's good in this world is within these four walls," she says.

"FAD is a bar and it's an art gallery where you can get a great cocktail, a great local wine or a simple tinny, but it's [the fact that it's] that place of assembly where no matter who you are, what you do, you can come in here and just enjoy life amongst people who want to do the same thing which I think really makes it feel like home," she says.

While COVID, which put an end to regular live music and reduced trade long term, has had a real impact, she and Johnny "don't dwell in the past," Ori says.

"We might as well look towards the future and be content instead of being miserable."

And in the past few months the pair have had good news about the future of the business.

"Like anywhere in town, the building is still up for sale, but we've been renegotiating a new lease ... and we're pretty much set to go for another five years, which is quite amazing," she says.

"I think that places like ours and other independently run bars and cafes and businesses make Melbourne what it is."

"So, if a few of us are still going, it's something worth celebrating, in my opinion."

FAD Gallery Bar, at 14 Corrs Lane, plans to celebrate its 31st birthday in September. It has free stand-up comedy on Wednesday nights and happy hour every night until 7pm. fadgallery.com.au •

Scots' Church announces 2026 Organ Recital Series

Scots' Church Melbourne will present its 2026 Organ Recital Series this August and September, celebrating the versatility and beauty of the church's renowned Rieger organ.

Curated this year by Scots' associate organist Jennifer Chou, the series will feature six concerts performed by distinguished Australian organists and the next generation of emerging musicians.

This year's program will also welcome four artists making their debut as part of the annual recital series.

Together, the performers bring a wealth of experience as concert organists, directors of music, church and cathedral musicians, choir directors and educators. Many have received prestigious awards and accolades recognising their contribution to organ performance and sacred music.

Each recital has been designed around a unique musical theme, allowing audiences to experience the Rieger organ in fresh and engaging ways. Programs will showcase a rich variety of repertoire, from timeless masterworks to contemporary compositions, familiar favourites and new discoveries, highlighting the expressive range of one of Melbourne's finest concert organs.

A special highlight of this year's series will be the Organ Students' Concert, which will showcase talented young organists from secondary schools and universities across Victoria. The concert recognises not only the dedication of these emerging musicians, but also the encouragement and support of their teachers.

The 2026 recital series will feature:

- Saturday, August 15, 2pm – Elizabeth-Anne Nixon, St Oswald's, Glen Iris
- Wednesday, September 2, 1pm – Samuel Giddy, Sydney, NSW
- Saturday, September 5, 2pm – Bruce Fethers, president of the Australian Chamber Choir Inc.
- Wednesday, September 9, 1pm – Peter Guy, St Mark's, Fitzroy
- Wednesday, September 16, 1pm – Jennifer Chou, associate organist of Scots' Church Melbourne
- Saturday, September 19, 2pm – Organ Students' Concert

The series is proudly presented by Scots' Church Melbourne with the generous sponsorship of the Organ Music Society of Victoria.

Donations received throughout the series will help support artist fees, ensuring the performances remain accessible to the wider community. Admission to all recitals is free, and audiences are invited to simply turn up and enjoy an afternoon of outstanding organ music.

scotschurch.com/music-events •

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QVM TRADER PROFILE

Soup Factory serves winter comfort at QVM

“ Winter Night Market stall The Soup Factory gets crazy busy on a Wednesday night. Thanks to a pop-up residence in the dairy hall, its unusual offering is currently also on offer to QVM day shoppers. ”

WORDS BY JENNY DENTON 

When former chef and restaurant owner Hormoz “David” Ishaya was asked for an idea for a winter night market stall it didn’t take him long to come up with one. “I said, ‘well, soup would be the best thing,” he told CBD News. And soon after it had evolved into “soup in a roll!”. According to David, the concept offers “the best of both worlds”. “You get the bread and the soup,” he said. “Most people eat the whole lot.” He had heard about it being done in the US but knew that there they were using sourdough. “That bread is very easy to make but it actually changes the flavours of the soup,” he said.



“I wanted to do something that doesn’t change the flavour.” Having previously made a bread he served dips in; he worked to adapt it into a type of white cob loaf that was “basically strong enough to hold boiling water”. Then he went to work on the soups. Twelve years later the business, which David runs with his son, Dylan, is booming. “It’s been a long process,” he said. “But now we’ve got it to a stage where everyone knows the quality, whoever buys something, they always come back, especially if it’s the clam chowder, which is our biggest seller.”

“Every time we take it off the menu people complain.” While earlier on there was a bigger range of soups, the business has “stuck with the top five”: sweet potato and coriander, Asian chicken and corn, potato and leek, pumpkin, vegan lentil and the chowder. During the day, there are heaps of regular customers, many of them taking the separately packaged components of the dish back to their homes or offices. At the night market there are 16 staff on the stall, and the queue can run to close to 300 people. “We make our own bread, we make our



own soups, so that’s why we don’t have any copycats out there,” David said. “No-one knows how to make the bread.” The downside of this is that between the baking, soup-making and selling he has just worked a 112-hour week. “That’s the problem when you can’t give away your recipes, I suppose,” he said with a laugh. “You’ve got to do it all yourself. “It’s a bit of a punishment.” The Winter Night Market runs from 5pm to 10pm every Wednesday until August 26. ●

HISTORY

Craning its neck for all to see

For nearly half a century, a steam crane stood over the Yarra, a hulking reminder of the river’s working life. WORDS BY ASHLEY SMITH 



Photo: Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Sitting on its bluestone throne west of Queens Bridge, the iron behemoth was photographed by Charles Nettleton, probably sometime in the late 1870s. By then, the south bank of the Yarra had been transformed from swampy ground into a growing port precinct, as boats hauled cargo in and out of the city. During this period, work continued on the development of South Wharf, later known as Prince’s Wharf, while the river was widened to make it easier for ships to navigate. Among the major additions was the steam crane, which was instigated by the Chamber of Commerce and the city’s merchants and shipowners, and authorised by then-premier James Francis. It was built by British company James Taylor and Co. at Birkenhead, England, for £6000 before being exported to Melbourne. By unfortunate coincidence, its parts and

fittings were involved in three separate accidents at sea. Some were aboard the *Dunmail*, which sank in the Mersey River in October 1873, while others were on the *John Kerr* when it was dismantled by storms in May 1874. The most tragic incident involved fittings carried aboard the *British Admiral*, which sank in Bass Strait on May 23, 1874, killing 79 of the 88 people on board. With these disasters delaying progress, Taylor reportedly had to borrow parts from a crane on the Clyde River in Scotland. Back in Melbourne, construction of the crane’s foundation began in January 1874. The masonry work was contracted to a Mr Cornwall, though some sources spell the name “Cornwell”. According to the *Australasian Sketcher with Pen and Pencil* on March 20, 1875, the base required an excavation of “44ft by 38ft and 17ft deep” and up to 42,000 cubic feet, or 3360 tons, of bluestone. With the foundation work costing close to

£8000, *The Age* raised concerns on June 20, 1874 that not all of the masonry below the counterpoise was necessary. The installation of the crane was eventually contracted to a Mr Forman of the Yarra Boiler Works. Its jib, or long arm, measured around 62 feet, or 18.89 metres, and soon towered over the river. The crane was powered by a steam boiler that controlled two engines: one for hoisting and the other for turning. Its horizontal length was 93 feet, and by February 1875 it was being tested to lift as much as 63 tons before being approved for use as a 50-ton crane. Soon afterwards, it began work, with its first job reportedly moving the yacht *Janet*, according to *The Herald* on February 14, 1922. The crane was used to lift boilers onto ships and handle other heavy objects as required. By the 1900s it had been reclassified as a 70-ton crane, with an average annual income in 1908 of around £200. The Harbour Trust eventually took possession of the crane from the State Government in the early 1920s, and in 1922 it was moved to No. 20, later No. 16, North Wharf near Victoria Dock. Positioned close to the railway tracks, it remained in use as a 60-ton crane until the 1950s, a period that included lifting locomotives, before being withdrawn altogether in 1962. ●

Camillo says council delivering on safety and cleaning

Two years into the current council term, City of Melbourne safety and cleaning portfolio lead Cr Rafael Camillo says Town Hall has moved beyond “talking about the problems” and is delivering practical responses to the issues that dominated the 2024 election.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



City safety, public amenity and cleanliness were among the headline concerns during the last council campaign, particularly in the CBD, where residents and traders had raised concerns about antisocial behaviour, graffiti, litter, rough sleeping and perceptions of safety.

Cr Camillo, a first-term councillor who is still the current president of CBD residents' group Residents3000, said those issues had been central to his decision to run for council and continued to shape his work inside Town Hall.

The latest council budget doubled the Community Safety Officer workforce from 11 to 22, committed to adding up to 150 new Safe City cameras, invested \$2.3 million in homelessness outreach and complex mental health support, and allocated \$34.3 million for cleaning, graffiti removal and broader amenity works.

Cr Camillo said people wanted to feel safe walking through the city and wanted public spaces that were clean, welcoming and well maintained.

“That’s why we’re tackling antisocial behaviour, graffiti, litter and illegal dumping, while also investing in support for people sleeping rough and those



experiencing complex mental health challenges,” he said.

The council’s Community Safety Officer program has been one of its most debated safety initiatives, attracting criticism from some advocates over human rights concerns, questions about whether the trial was complete before being expanded, and the role officers play in managing safety.

But Cr Camillo said CSOs were not police. “Victoria Police are responsible for law enforcement, and we work closely with them to help keep the community safe,” he said.

“The key difference is that police are often responding after an incident has occurred, while CSOs are focused on prevention.”

He said officers provided a visible presence, deescalated situations, conducted welfare checks, supported businesses and visitors, and connected vulnerable people with services.

According to Cr Camillo, the program has recorded more than 7300 interactions and more than 1300 welfare checks.

The council is also expanding its camera

network, with Cr Camillo describing Safe City cameras as one of its most effective tools to support investigations, deter offending and improve public safety.

He said the City of Melbourne provided more than 2500 pieces of footage to Victoria Police each year, while maintaining tight controls around access.

On homelessness, Cr Camillo said too many people were not receiving support early enough, particularly those experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health issues and complex challenges.

The \$2.3 million investment includes the Melbourne Outreach Team, delivered by Launch Housing and Ngwala Willumbong, and a new Safe Space Program led by VincentCare at Ozanam House.

“A more effective response means earlier intervention, stronger mental health support, better coordination between agencies and clearer pathways into housing and treatment,” he said.

As recently reported by sibling publication North West City News, Cr Camillo said nitrous oxide canisters had also become a

growing amenity challenge, creating health concerns, damaging public spaces and costing ratepayers money to clean up.

He said the council was advocating for a stronger state and federal response while working with other councils on practical solutions.

“These are complex issues and there’s always more work to do,” Cr Camillo said. “But we’ve moved beyond talking about the problems and started delivering practical solutions that are making a real difference across Melbourne.”

His insights come as councillors noted a post-travel report at the July 28 council meeting detailing a series of privately funded overseas engagements Cr Camillo undertook in late 2025 and early 2026 while travelling through North America, South America and Europe.

According to the report, Cr Camillo met with city officials in New York, São Paulo, Campinas, London, Milan and Zurich, and there was no cost to council beyond assistance with program setting.

The safety-related components included briefings with the New York Police Department on the Lower Manhattan Security Initiative and Joint Operations Centre, as well as a visit to Smart Sampa in São Paulo, described in the report as Latin America’s largest urban safety protection system using city and privately owned cameras with real-time AI monitoring.

On cleaning and amenity, the report says Cr Camillo met with Milan officials and waste contractor AMSA Spa – A2A Group to discuss waste management and recycling, including preparations for the Winter Olympics. In Zurich, he met with the city’s Waste Management and Recycling Department and inspected equipment used to keep the city clean, while also discussing “Trash Heroes Zurich”, a volunteer clean-up initiative he expressed interest in adapting for Melbourne. ●

The Melburnian

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EastEnders keeps community conversation alive

EastEnders provides a vehicle for residents to come together, share thoughts on areas of common interest and hear from inspirational guest speakers.

Our values come from no political persuasion. We have an eclectic membership, which means we bring a diversity of views to many matters, but we discuss them in a productive, non-judgmental and collaborative way.

Over the past year we have welcomed some outstanding speakers and traversed a broad spectrum of local issues – from providing input to the City of Melbourne’s new Community Engagement Policy, to understanding the complex area of heritage protection across the city, learning about our 19th century history in the eastern end of the CBD, gaining insight into the work of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, and hearing perspectives from our newest local member of Federal Parliament.

We have also conducted our own form of community engagement, as reported previously in CBD News. Addressing issues such as the City of Melbourne budget, the proposed external review of the Queen

Victoria Market, planning and engagement with affected stakeholders, the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, safety and security on our streets, and health services in the CBD gave our group the opportunity to have its say in a way we believe should be replicated across the city.

The council’s new Community Engagement Policy enables such initiatives, and we await with interest to see whether our experience is valued by decision-makers.

At our July meeting we heard wonderful perspectives from one of our eminent architects, Professor Donald Bates, Chair of Architectural Design at the University of Melbourne. His experience designing the iconic Federation Square, and now inspiring students to creatively design for a better future, was met with great appreciation. We were privileged to hear his story.

Our next meeting will be another highlight when we welcome Lord Mayor Nick Reece and Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell. All are welcome to join us at 10.30am on Monday, August 17. You can be guaranteed a lively discussion.

We also continue to work outside our meetings by commenting on planning and development matters across the CBD where we believe the amenity, heritage and

building implications are significant.

Recently we submitted that the City of Melbourne should not support a fast-tracked proposal to the Minister for Planning for a major development on Swanston and Flinders streets, which would significantly impact this iconic location at a key entry point to the CBD.

A 76.6-metre tower, where the planning scheme has a limit of 40 metres, was clearly worth calling out – and we did so. This was the only opportunity to make a public submission and was enabled by the matter being considered by council’s Future Melbourne Committee. The decision we sought was approved, so while that was a good outcome, the willingness to contemplate a 60-metre tower remains problematic.

The Minister for Planning referring these applications to council for an opinion is vital and provides at least some public engagement opportunity. Having recently attended a meeting of Liveable Victoria, it is clear there is widespread concern across the state about the new planning laws being implemented.

It is time to stand up before all that we know and respect about our planning processes is rendered an interesting historical artefact.

I am quite surprised that the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association have not taken a more aggressive and public position on these matters. Some would say this decline in political and civil liberties is an existential threat to democratic rights and democracy itself. As the level of government closest to the people, strong leadership by local government is expected.

If you like the sound of what we are doing at EastEnders, we meet at 2 Lonsdale St each month and have a token membership fee of \$15 per year. Contact us at east-endersinc@gmail.com

Finally, thanks to CBD News for all it has done to enable a community voice. We look forward to the next exciting chapter. ●

Dr Stan Capp

PRESIDENT

EAST ENDERS INC.



FEDERAL MP

Delivering for Melbourne

Melbourne is one of the world’s great cities because we never stand still. We embrace new ideas, celebrate our diversity and back the people and businesses that make our communities thrive.

WORDS BY
SARAH WITTY – FEDERAL MP



As the Federal Member for Melbourne, I’m focused on making sure our city continues to grow in a way that is fair, sustainable and leaves no one behind.

That means delivering practical outcomes that improve people’s lives.

Cost-of-living relief is making a real difference. Tax cuts are putting more money back into people’s pockets, Medicare is

being strengthened, cheaper medicines are helping families manage household budgets, and expanded Paid Parental Leave is giving parents more time with their newest family members. These are investments that help people today while building a stronger Australia for tomorrow.

We’re also investing in the future of Melbourne.

The Australian Government is backing major infrastructure that will keep our city moving and support future growth. Whether it’s investing in better public transport, building more homes or supporting the transition to clean energy, we’re laying the foundations for a more connected, affordable and liveable Melbourne.

Just as importantly, we’re investing in the people who make Melbourne unique.

Over recent weeks I’ve had the privilege of meeting with community organisations, charities, researchers, artists, educators and small businesses across our electorate.

From organisations supporting young people into employment like Good Cycles, to emergency relief providers, creative spaces like Craft Victoria and Jump Left, neighbourhood groups, and medical researchers at the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery and the Baker Institute developing world-leading treatments, I am constantly reminded that Melbourne’s greatest strength is its people.

Government works best when it listens. Those conversations shape my advocacy in Canberra and ensure local voices are heard when decisions are being made.

Labor understands that a strong economy and a strong community go hand in hand. Supporting local businesses, investing in science, protecting our environment, backing the arts and ensuring everyone has access to opportunity are not competing priorities – they are all part of building a better Melbourne.

There’s always more to do, but I’m proud of what we’re delivering and optimistic about what lies ahead.

Melbourne deserves a representative who is visible, accessible and focused on outcomes. Every week I’m out meeting residents, visiting local organisations and listening to the ideas and concerns that make our city stronger.

Together, we’re building a Melbourne that remains one of the best places in the world to live, work and raise a family. ●

*Proudly representing the
community in Melbourne’s CBD*

Evan MULHOLLAND MP

Liberal Member for the **Northern Metropolitan Region**

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

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



1. Queen Z. Decker and Shaw 3. Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF)
4. Stalagmite 5. Bar Privé 6. Vinegar
7. Studio Ghibli 8. Old Melbourne Gaol
9. Birrarung Valley Walk 10. 20th century
11. Allanson Souvenirs 12. The right to
work from home two days a week

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BESTS, RECAP, AROMA, SIREN, HEEDS

August, 2026

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Secret message: Quenching your thirst

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8 Larger (6)
9 Occurs (7)
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17 – Monroe (7)

18 Type of pasta (8)
19 Having multiple
wives or
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22 Metal disc
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23 Daze; stupor (6)
24 Brook; creek (6)
27 German
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SOLUTIONS



AGIBOT 在墨尔本展示机器人技术未来

7 月 17 日，中国具身智能（Embodied AI）企业 AGIBOT 在朗斯代尔街（Lonsdale St）的丽思卡尔顿酒店举办澳大利亚及新西兰合作伙伴大会，展示了全球最新的机器人技术成果。

Sean Car

此次活动标志着 AGIBOT 正式进入澳大利亚和新西兰市场，并汇聚了来自商界、政府及行业机构的代表，共同观摩人形机器人和四足机器人的展示。其中，两台 AGIBOT 机器人还同步表演了著名的 Nutbush 舞蹈。

现场还有嘉宾体验骑乘类似机器狗的四足机器人，相关演示展示了机器人技术在零售、服务业、制造业、物流、安全、商业清洁、科研、教育及娱乐等多个领域的应用潜力。

出席大会的嘉宾包括墨尔本市长尼克·里斯（Nick Reece）、墨尔本市议员刘淑芬（Gladys Liu）和刘乐（Philip Le Liu）、北都会区议员希娜·瓦特（Sheena Watt）

、中华人民共和国驻墨尔本总领事刘洋，以及 AGIBOT、P&E Family Office 和本地商界代表。

AGIBOT 表示，此次大会是其长期支持本地合作伙伴、客户以及推动具身智能在澳大利亚和新西兰落地的重要一步。公司同时推出本地“机器人即服务”（Robot-as-a-Service, RaaS）模式，旨在降低企业采用先进机器人技术的门槛，无需一次性投入大量资金。

AGIBOT 亚太及中东地区副总裁姚戈登（Gordon Yao）表示，此次活动“不仅仅是一场产品发布会”。

他说：“这是一个携手合作、建立稳固伙伴关系，并共同打造完整机器人生态系统的机会。”

姚先生表示，澳大利亚和新西兰正进入人工智能、机器人及智能自动化发展的关键时期，许多行业因劳动力短缺、人口老龄化及生产力挑战而产生强劲需求。

他说：“这些挑战催生了对实用且本地化机器人解决方案的强烈需求。”

AGIBOT 表示，其产品组合涵盖人形机器人、四足机器人、灵巧操作系统以及商业清洁解决方案。2026 年 6 月，公司宣布其第 15,000 台机器人正式下线。

SilkGear 将精选科技零售理念带到 Bourke 街



一家全新的高端科技零售店将于下月在 Bourke 街开业，SilkGear 承诺为墨尔本人提供一种亲身体验全球下一代消费科技的方式。

Sean Car

SilkGear 将于8月6日（星期四）正式在 Bourke 街86号开设其首家澳大利亚门店，带来涵盖人工智能、智能机器人、智慧生活、高端办公解决方案以及新兴消费科技的一系列精选产品。

该店位于 Bourke 街巴黎区（Paris End），前 Hill of Content 书店旧址。此次开业标志着该品牌正式进入澳大利亚市场，并引入一种围绕“保持精选”（Stay Selective）理念打造的零售模式。

SilkGear 表示，与其让顾客面对一排排相似产品而感到眼花缭乱，品牌更专注于精心

挑选的科技产品，结合创新、设计、功能性以及真正融入日常生活的实用价值。

创始人杨云飞表示，墨尔本是该品牌首家澳大利亚门店的自然选择。

杨先生说：“墨尔本无疑是澳大利亚的文化与创新之都。这里的人们对艺术、设计和精致生活方式有着深刻的欣赏。当我们构想 SilkGear 时，我们就知道它必须诞生于这里。”

他表示，选择位于城市巴黎区历史建筑内的 Bourke 街86号，是经过深思熟虑的决定。

他说：“我们希望创造一种鲜明的对比：将人工智能机器人、外骨骼设备等最前沿的未来科技，置于一个充满墨尔本历史底蕴的空间之中。”

“这完美体现了我们的品牌理念——将过去的温度与未来的可能性融合在一起。”

SilkGear 的产品系列包括众多正在进入或扩大澳大利亚市场的中国领先及新兴科技品牌，同时也涵盖来自世界各地的其他产品。

杨先生表示，墨尔本消费者可能会对 DJI、Laifen、XGIMI 和 AGIBOT 等品牌的品质与设计感到惊喜。

他说：“最大的惊喜将是亲身体验全球硬件领域正在发生的巨大范式转变。”

“这些品牌已经不再只是参与全球市场，而是在积极定义未来的发展方向。”

他表示，顾客可以期待“毫不妥协的高端制造品质”、对工业设计的高度关注，以及直观易用的软件生态系统。

卡米洛表示，市议会正在落实安全与清洁工作

City of Melbourne 负责安全与清洁事务的议员拉斐尔·卡米洛（Rafael Camillo）表示，在本届市议会任期两年后，市政厅已经超越了“只谈问题”的阶段，正在针对 2024 年选举期间最受关注的议题推出切实可行的应对措施。

Sean Car

城市安全、公共环境和清洁状况是上次市议会竞选中的主要关切之一，尤其是在 CBD，居民和商家曾对反社会行为、涂鸦、垃圾、露宿街头以及安全感不足等问题表示担忧。

卡米洛是首次当选的议员，同时仍担任 CBD 居民组织 Residents3000 的现任主席。他表示，这些问题是他决定参选的重要原因，也持续影响着他在市政厅内的工作。

最新市预算将社区安全官员（Community Safety Officer）队伍人数从 11 人增加到 22 人，承诺增设最多 150 个新的 Safe City 摄像头，投入 230 万澳元用于无家可归者外展服务和复杂心理健康支持，并拨出 3430 万澳元用于清洁、涂鸦清除及更广泛的公共环境改善工作。

卡米洛表示，人们希望在城市中行走时感到安全，也希望公共空间干净、友好且得到良好维护。

他说：“这就是为什么我们正在处理反社会行为、涂鸦、乱扔垃圾和非法倾倒问题，同时也在为露宿街头者以及正经历复杂心理健康挑战的人提供支持。”



市议会的社区安全官员计划一直是其最具争议的安全举措之一，一些倡议者因人权担忧、试点是否在扩展前已完成，以及这些人员在安全管理中所扮演的角色等问题提出批评。

但卡米洛表示，社区安全官员并不是警察。

“维州警方负责执法，而我们与他们密切合作，帮助社区保持安全，”他说。

“关键区别在于，警察通常是在事件发生后作出响应，而社区安全官员则更侧重预防。”

他说，这些人员会在现场提供可见的存在，缓和紧张局势，进行福利检查，支持商户和访客，并将有需要的弱势人士转介至相关服务。

据卡米洛介绍，该计划已记录超过 7300 次互动和超过 1300 次福利检查。

市议会也在扩大摄像头网络。卡米洛表示，Safe City 摄像头是支持调查、震慑犯罪以及提升公共安全的最有效工具之一。

他说，City of Melbourne 每年向维州警方提供超过 2500 段影像资料，同时对访问权限保持严格管控。

“有悖常理”：市议会否决市政厅站塔楼方案

墨尔本市政府已敦促规划部长 Sonya Kirkenny 驳回对 Lendlease 市政厅站（Town Hall Station）开发项目的大规模扩建，警告称这一提案将压倒墨尔本最重要的城市门户之一，并在联邦广场（Federation Square）和弗林德斯街车站（Flinders Street Station）投下新的阴影。

Sean Car

在7月7日举行的“未来墨尔本委员会”会议上，市议员一致通过一项立场，反对拟议中的规划方案修正案 C498Melb。该修正案将允许在 Swanston 街与 Flinders 街交界处、市政厅站出入口上方建设更大规模的商业开发项目。

最终决定权在规划部长手中，而不在市议会。

该地块目前已获批建设一座约46米高的跨站办公开发项目。但由 Urbis 代表 Lendlease 提交的新方案，寻求批准四栋相连的商业建筑，最高可达76.6米，远超该区域强制性的40米高度控制。

修订后的方案将为近期开放的市政厅站上方带来近2.5万平方米的办公楼面面积。Lendlease 表示，该项目需要回应不断变化的市场环境、上升的建筑成本，以及争



取一位大型锚定租户的需要。

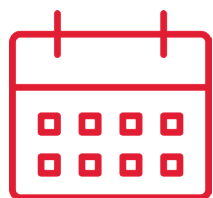
Urbis 代表 Claire Gillies 在会议上代表 Lendlease 发言时表示，该地块是墨尔本少数真正具有以公共交通为导向开发潜力的机会之一，应该通过直接在新车站上方创造就业岗位，来“配得上”州政府150亿澳元的 Metro Tunnel 投资。

她说，原先于2017年获批的方案，如今已不再具备短期内推进项目所需的规模，并称该方案由 Hassell 经过精心设计，采用层层退台的形式，旨在减轻其视觉体量。

但市议会官员和居民并不买账。市议会报告认定，该修正案不应获得支持，理由包括“根本性问题”，其中包括过高的建筑高度、缺乏有力的战略依据、不可接受的日照遮挡，以及依赖针对特定地块的控制措施来规避强制性规划要求。

副市长 Roshena Campbell 表示，该方案对墨尔本最具辨识度的街角之一来说并不合适。

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MELBOURNE RECORD FAIR

Browse more than 20,000 new and used records from Melbourne's leading vinyl dealers, with DJs spinning all day, food and drinks, and a celebration of music at Queen Victoria Market.

D Shed, Queen Victoria Market

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST, 9AM – 4PM



LIBRARY UP LATE X NOW OR NEVER

Explore State Library Victoria after dark with live music, immersive installations, DJ sets, creative experiences and futuristic artworks as part of Now or Never.

State Library Victoria

FRIDAY 21 AUGUST, 7.30PM – 10.30PM



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

MIFF returns with 250+ acclaimed films, premieres, filmmaker Q&As, special events and immersive experiences from around the world.

Venues across Melbourne CBD

6 – 23 AUGUST, 10AM – 10.30PM



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



SCOTS' CHURCH ORGAN SERIES

Join Scots' Church every Saturday at 2 PM and Wednesday at 1 PM from August 15 to September 19 for the annual Organ Series, featuring world-class organists. Admission is free!

The Scots Church, Cnr Collins & Russell St

15 AUGUST – 19 SEPTEMBER



I AIN'T NO FANCY BIRD: MAYA TAMANG

Maya Tamang's *I Ain't No Fancy Bird* presents vibrant portraits of inspiring figures, blending classic Hollywood glamour with expressive storytelling in a celebration of identity and influence.

Jump Left, 673 Bourke St Melbourne

UNTIL 29 AUGUST, 11AM – 4PM



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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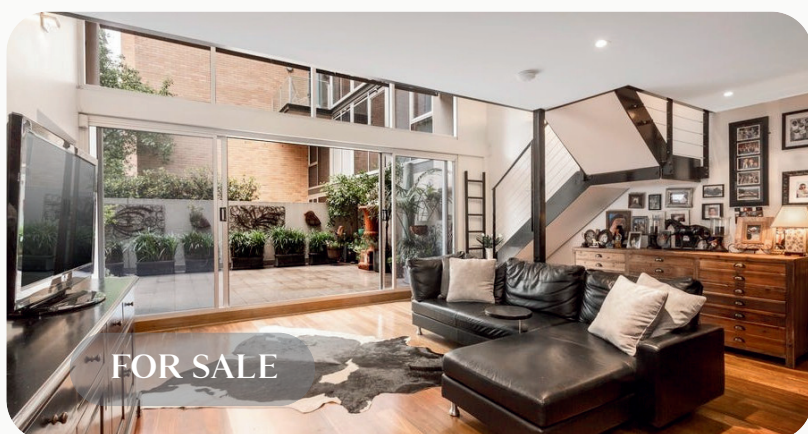
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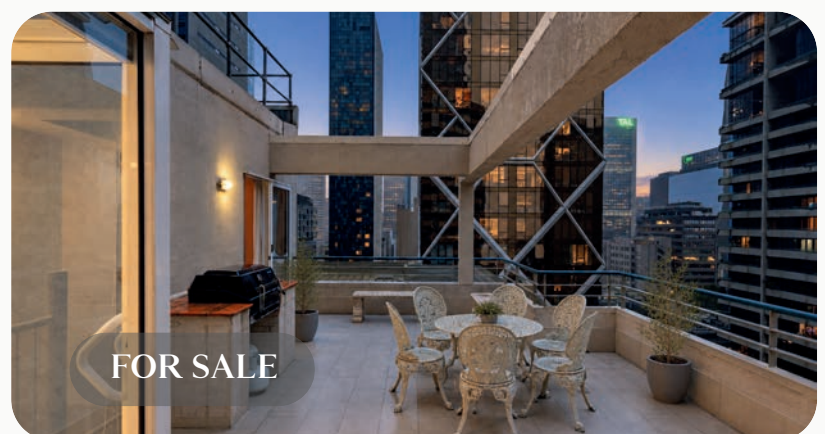
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