

CBD NEWS

cbdnews.com.au

Forever Free

Twitter @CBD_News_3000



Powering on under
Photo by Nina Ivanovic

With foot traffic in the CBD at an all-time low, crews from CitiPower are taking the opportunity to accelerate their inspections of the city's underground electricity infrastructure. *Continued on page 10.*

Council elections: what we know

While electoral rolls were due to close in only a number of days when the September edition of CBD News published, a lot was still unknown about the makeup of the October 24 City of Melbourne council elections.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
ELECTIONS

August saw a spanner thrown in the works by the state government after a great deal of indecision around whether to postpone local government elections amid rising concerns around COVID-19 in Victoria.

While the way in which candidates can campaign wouldn't change whether Victoria was under stage 3 or 4 lockdowns, with doorknocking, leaflet dropping and public meetings all banned, the indecision was understood to be centred around voting.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) had expressed concerns to the state government around a "COVIDSafe election plan", which was eventually released on August 19 with Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane reaffirming the October 24 election date.

Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately reassured Victorians that postal voting was safe and of "high integrity," and that the VEC was ready to respond to the changing environment.

"The situation remains dynamic and the VEC continues to actively monitor conditions and restrictions," Mr Gately said.

"Additional measures in place include increased distancing in election offices, limiting face-to-face contact, enforcing mask wearing where mandated by the Victorian Government, and moving operational activity online whenever possible."

Measures to further safeguard voters and VEC staff include the removal of counter service for replacement ballot packs and unenrolled votes for

these elections. Mr Gately said requests could be made over the phone and replacement packs would be sent by mail.

Voters will still be able to hand deliver completed ballot papers to the election office if they miss the mail collection times with "strict social distancing measures in place."

The indecision drew criticism from the likes of Greens councillor and board member of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Rohan Leppert, who said the move was "reprehensible" and had proven paralyzing for many candidates.

"The MAV and local government sector was extremely clear with the state government: whatever you do, ensure that we can hold free and fair local council elections, and if there is a delay, make the decision by no later than the end of May 2020," he said.

"We have advised the government for months that it is not possible to hold free and fair elections in October 2020, as this will only benefit incumbents and wealthy candidates that can afford to direct mail every voter - distorting the will of voters."

"The idea that the government is only now thinking beyond the logistics of postal ballot safety and about how a free and fair election can be conducted is astonishing."

While the late uncertainty around the elections wouldn't have instilled confidence in the campaigns of many candidates in the City of Melbourne, the lack of disclosure around who is running and where has also been met with some criticism.

Labor's Phil Reed, who is vying for Lord Mayor on a ticket announced in July, said voters should rightly be

Continued on page 4.

High-rise not told of COVID cases

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HEALTH

Central city owners' corporations (OCs) are on high alert after news that managers at one of Melbourne's largest high-rise apartment buildings were not informed by health authorities that residents had tested positive to COVID-19.

After two residents tested positive at Southbank's 72-floor Prima Tower, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) did not inform building management, according to the tower's OCs managers Melcorp Strata.

It is believed that privacy is at the heart of the issue, with the department only passing on details about individual cases when they deem there is wider public health concerns.

Melcorp Strata general manager Donna Rowe confirmed with *CBD News* that a Prima Tower resident had

tested positive last month, something they discovered independently of health authorities.

Soon after, the partner of the positive case was also found to have contracted COVID-19.

The building's biosecurity and outbreak control plan was enacted once the OC became aware of the case, which included the immediate sanitisation of all relevant areas and the tracing of fob activity.

Residents on the respective floor were advised of the case and the OC committee decided, by majority decision, to inform all other high-rise owners and residents of the positive case, withholding both the floor and apartment number.

The department then advised that all casual contacts had been traced and contacted.

In response, the DHHS told *CBD News* that "public exposure sites" were contacted in the instance of a positive case.

But all non-essential public areas in residential *Continued on page 2.*

TRANSPORT, PAGE 03
A Extended Free Tram Zone "cost blow-out"



HEALTH, PAGE 07
B Vaping banned in CBD's smoke-free zones



COMMUNITY, PAGE 11
C The business of staying alive



HERITAGE, PAGE 14-15
D Hoddle Grid heritage review completed



MELBOURNE CITY SALES

The Melbourne City Sales team maximises value and accelerates the success of our clients which is unmatched by any competitor in the Melbourne CBD market. Visit us at colliers.com.au/melbournecitysales for more information.



CONTACT

Suite 108, 198 Harbour Esplanade
Docklands 3008
cbdnews.com.au
Tel: 8689 7980

EDITOR

Sean Car

PUBLISHER

Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd
ABN: 57 623 558 725

ADVERTISING

Hyper-local print works for advertisers in our digital world because local people are interested in local news. To sell to the CBD community, contact Jack Hayes on 0401 031 236 or jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au

Reader contributions are welcome. Send letters, articles and images to: news@cbdnews.com.au

The deadline for the October edition is September 17.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Twitter
@CBD_News_3000

Like us on Facebook
cbdnewsmelbourne

Follow us on Instagram
@cbdnews

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by the publisher.

hyperlocalnews.com.au
admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au

High-rise not told of COVID cases

Continued from page 1.

accommodation are currently ordered closed under stage 4 health directions, including playgrounds, gyms, pools and barbecues.

Department guidelines for multi-dwelling properties states it "may" contact building managers of COVID-19 cases in their buildings, but only when "more information is required to assess risk, or that additional public health actions are required".

A spokesperson did not say what circumstances would trigger this.

"Building managers of residential multi-dwelling developments are provided support to develop plans to help stop the spread of coronavirus, including developing an environmental cleaning schedule to ensure routine cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces and essential communal areas," the spokesperson said.

OC chair at Docklands' Watergate Apartments Barbara Francis, who recently took part in a briefing session with the DHHS, said she would want to know if a resident tested positive in her building.

"We believe it should be mandatory. The building should be notified of the case in their building so they can manage it properly. Only people that absolutely need to know should know," she said.

"We don't approve of divulging any information that jeopardises privacy but there needs to be a few measures put in place to make sure that there's no chance of any spread of the virus to the rest of the building."

Ms Francis said it was also about managing the spread of unhelpful information.

"I always think you should let people know as much as they can know, rather than them getting wind of it and rumours start to spread. That is worse."

But Dr Stan Capp, the president of CBD residents group EastEnders, backed the health authority's discretion.

"I think it's a matter for the DHHS to advise as they see fit," Dr Capp said.

"If nothing changes (by informing all residents) then what's the point? What we don't want to do is get into the environment where people are named and shamed because they have the virus. And that sort of is inherent in wanting to know all the details. I'm not of that mind - I would favour the retention of strict privacy and respect the rights of individuals to deal with it as we would expect people to deal with it in every environment, whether they're in apartment towers or they live in a house in the suburbs. The same rules prevail."

Dr Capp acknowledged, however, that this system relied on COVID-positive residents abiding by the rules.

"I always think you should let people know as much as they can know, rather than them getting wind of it and rumours start to spread. That is worse."



"One relies upon the infected person doing the right thing. Even if you tell them that a person in the tower has got it, you still don't know whether the infected person will do the right thing ... I would err on retaining the good faith of individuals to respect what they need to do. We have to respect their privacy, too."

At the time of publishing the City of Melbourne local government area had recorded a total of 854 confirmed cases of coronavirus, with 119 active cases, according to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

On August 24, Victoria recorded a total of 116 new active cases - the lowest daily total since July 5.

Premier Daniel Andrews announced on the same day that his government would seek to change laws so that Victoria's state of emergency could be extended by a further 12 months.

Under the state's *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, a state of emergency, which must be declared in four-week blocks, can only be extended for a consecutive period of six months.

The state of emergency allows the Chief Health Officer to be able to make legally enforceable directions to protect public health, and Mr Andrews said it was clear it needed to be extended beyond the current period due to end on September 13 ●



David Schout

JOURNALIST

DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



We need your support more than ever

WORDS BY Sean Car

BUSINESS

The CEO of Queen Victoria Market (QVM) Stan Liacos said market traders needed the support of local shoppers more than ever to weather the "major economic storm".

Like so many, the impacts of COVID-19 have been unprecedented for the market's traders. But Mr Liacos said that current rules around staying within a 5km radius imposed under stage 4 lockdowns had been "absolutely debilitating".

"There are virtually no city workers and no students," he said. "Our research shows that about only 32 per cent of our usual customer base live within five kilometres of the market."

With patronage down to between 25 and 30 per cent of usual traffic flows and only 120 of the market's more than 600 traders currently operating, he said the market had extended a 75 per cent reduction in rent relief for traders until the end of November.

QVM Pty Ltd has taken a major hit during this period, with around 50 per cent of its staff temporarily stood down or made redundant and Mr Liacos said it had been forced to draw on borrowings for the first time.

But he said he was proud to continue providing generous support to traders of which he said without, there would be no market.

"The market has never, ever experienced anything like this before," he said. "Our company has had to sustain 90 per cent less revenue through this economic storm but we've done this because we're driven by an absolute commitment to support the traders."

"We need everybody that does live within our core catchment at the moment to support the market. We're not getting the degree of local custom that we'd hope for at the moment and we'd urge you all to support the market now more than ever."

The City of Melbourne said it was using the quieter times to fast track its renewal program for the market, with workers onsite to deliver the \$30 million restoration of the 12 heritage sheds. One hectare of solar panels will also be installed across the sheds and market buildings, with works due to be completed by mid-2022 ●



Celebrating 25 Years.

Changing Owners Corporation Management, made simple.

Experience the difference.

1300 553 613 newbusiness@theknight.com.au

Exclusive COVID-19 offer to CBD Owners Corporations.

During this uncertain period, an Owners Corporation's financial position should be front of mind. To help Owners Corporations who make a change to The Knight we will:

- ◆ Waive charges associated with handover
- ◆ Reimburse an Owners Corporation for handover charges incurred from the outgoing Manager*

*Total reimbursement value of \$5,000. Offer valid until 30.11.2020

Extending free trams would double costs and lead to “busier service”

WORDS BY *David Schout*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*
 TRANSPORT

Extending Melbourne’s free tram zone to include the sports, arts and biomedical precincts would cause further congestion and leave the state government \$15 million out of pocket, according to the Department of Transport.

At the public inquiry into expanding the zone established by the Andrews Government in 2015, the department’s now former head of transport services Jeroen Weimar said modelling indicated the move would increase patronage by around 13,700 a day.

And he said it could worsen periods of the day that were already “beyond capacity”.

“It would of course potentially lead to a busier tram service,” Mr Weimar said of extending the free zone, which currently covers the CBD and Docklands.

“We would generate new patronage. People who are currently either walking or cycling or taking alternative transport modes are now choosing to use a tram and displacing therefore people who are relying upon the normal tram service. I think that we will see an increase in congested and busy travel.”

Mr Weimar said extending the zone to include major destinations such as the MCG, Arts Centre Melbourne, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne Zoo, and key institutions like the Alfred and Royal Children’s Hospitals, would also more than double the current cost.

“The revenue loss of the current free tram zone is around \$10 million to \$13 million a year,” he said.

“We estimate then that the extension of the free tram zone would take a further \$15 million—14.8—out of the existing fare box.”

In June 2019, Transport Matters MP Rod Barton passed an upper house motion to consider extending the zone.

Over 15 key bodies presented at the inquiry in recent months.



Some of these planted themselves firmly in either camp, of either outspoken support or strong rebuke of expanding the zone.

The Public Transport Users Association not only disagreed with extending the zone, but with the zone’s existence altogether.

The group cited issues with overcrowding, a lack of benefits to paying public transport users, and a disincentive for “active” modes of transport (walking and cycling) in their arguments against the zone.

Committee member Cameron Tampion said the cost of providing the free tram zone should be redirected.

“There is an urgent need to prioritise investment in under-serviced areas rather than making it free for those areas that already have fairly good public transport access,” he said.

But other key figures in the debate said costs of extending the zone were outweighed by long-term benefits.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp, presenting in a personal capacity rather than as a representative of the City of Melbourne, said there was a significant economic benefit of expanding the zone.

“Expanding the free tram zone can increase the options for travelling around our city at a time when we need to be encouraging people back into our city,” she said.

“Expanding the free tram zone connects more workers and students across our knowledge and healthcare economic precincts. It will encourage more visitors and tourists to our cultural and sporting attractions.”

Martine Letts, CEO for lobby group Committee for Melbourne, agreed and said it was essential the zone was expanded to include “five iconic stops”: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, MCG, Melbourne Museum, and Melbourne and Olympic Parks.

“We believe that such an extension will significantly improve our city’s reputation as a national and international destination as well as its ability to attract and retain talent,” Ms Letts said.

“It would also benefit the visitor economy and have accessibility and participation benefits for Victorians and visitors alike.”

A report from the inquiry will be provided to the government later this year ●



Greenline council rift

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
 COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A leak from within the City of Melbourne regarding a “top secret” plan to connect the inner city with new green spaces and cycling paths has highlighted a divide within the senior ranks of council’s management.

On August 16, the *Herald Sun* exclusively revealed details and renders of the council’s “top secret” project, which would see Royal Park connected with Port Phillip Bay via North Melbourne, Docklands, the Yarra River’s North Bank in the CBD and Southbank Boulevard.

The renders showed pedestrians and cyclists through the streets of West Melbourne and Docklands (featured image). Known as “Greenline”, the *Herald Sun* reported that the concept “combined elements of city council planner ideas with Lord Mayor Sally Capp’s election pledge for Melbourne to have its own version of New York’s High Line Park”.

The plans were leaked prior to a council forum in August, and sources within the council said the presentation from senior management delegitimised the Lord Mayor’s own Greenline vision emphasising the Yarra River’s North Bank. While the source of the leak is unclear, CEO Justin Hanney is understood to have put all councillors and staff on notice regarding leaking information to media outlets.

Former councillor Stephen Mayne said he wasn’t surprised by what he described as “professional jealousy” within senior ranks. “I don’t think Sally has felt that supported by administration and there is a bit of a ‘blow-ins’ culture from some who’ve been there for too long. This is the ultimate manifestation of that concept,” he said ●

QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

PRE-ORDER & PICKUP

TUE, THU, FRI, SAT & SUN

Order & pay with your favourite Queen Vic Market traders
 Collect at the designated pickup zone on Queen Street

QVM.COM.AU/PICKUP

PRE-ORDER
 it's that easy
 & PICKUP

Council elections: what we know

Continued from page 1.

upset that candidates were continuing to “play games” and not disclose their tickets.

“They’ve largely known they were running and who was on their tickets for six months,” he said.

“These are extraordinary times and people who are putting themselves forward for election need to meet the challenges with the same level of flexibility and resilience we’ve seen from local families and businesses.”

“Our Labor team has already been hard at work throughout lockdown doing phone canvassing and running online community meetings.”

As one of the only tickets to have been revealed, Labor’s team includes Wesa Chau for Deputy Lord Mayor, while former Melbourne MP Jennifer Kanis’s partner Davydd Griffiths, Glen Eira councillor Mary Delahunty and Carlton Legal Service coordinator Hamdi Ali fill the councillor spots.

With nominations to stand as a candidate formally opening on September 17, here’s what we know about the rest of the field ...



Sally Capp

The Lord Mayor has made no secret of her intention to seek re-election after her by-election success in 2018 following the demise of former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

While the council has rightly had its hands full dealing with a raft of incredibly challenging issues, namely a once-in-a-generation pandemic, many are still surprised by Capp’s delay in revealing who will join her on her ticket.

What we can say with near certain confidence is that you can put your house on Labor Party member Cr Nicholas Reece running alongside Capp as deputy. There has also been strong evidence to suggest that former Team Doyle councillor Kevin Louey will feature first on the ticket.

While other names have been thrown around behind-the-scenes, the remainder of Sally’s ticket remains a mystery.

But what is fair to say, is that it’s her election to lose.

No sitting Lord Mayor has ever been beaten in the City of Melbourne and Capp has won many fans in helping rebuild the council’s battered reputation since the resignation of Robert Doyle.

As Rohan Leppert said, COVID-19 also suits incumbents heavily and Sally’s apolitical nature will likely prove a strength among voters.



Arron Wood

The former Team Doyle councillor did an outstanding job as acting Lord Mayor in 2018 following the resignation of Robert Doyle and probably never got the due homage for his good work he deserved.

The feeling within the council is that this notion is perhaps partly attributed to what has been, at times, a difficult working relationship between Cr Wood and Lord Mayor Sally Capp ever since.

This has very much been on public display in recent months, with Arron challenging Sally on a number of contentious issues including the safe injecting room near Queen Victoria Market (QVM) and, more recently, her high-powered business advisory group.

These public exchanges, which have received good airtime in mainstream media, coupled with a Queen’s Birthday Honour and a TV appearance on *Filthy Rich and Homeless*, have seen Arron’s name in the spotlight in the past few months. But, in election terms, many have been asking, what does it all mean?

Speaking to *CBD News* on August 24, Cr Wood said he still hadn’t confirmed whether he would challenge Cr Capp for the top job and he knows his time is quickly running out. He said a definitive answer either way would be left no later than mid-September.

While he too remains a staunchly apolitical candidate, his Malcolm Turnbull-left approach might prove a challenge to convey as a discernable point of difference to voters.

If anything, his point of difference rests firmly in his belief that the position of Lord Mayor should be “less authoritarian” and “more about the team.”

Pointing to Cr Capp’s business advisory group, he said there were too many examples of “big visions” replacing true representation of ratepayers.

“This isn’t about what the Lord Mayoral vision for the city is, but actually what people want. Big visions have to be acted on,” he said.

“If I see another beautiful render I’ll almost scream. We need less shiny new pictures, more hard work and delivery. The recovery is going to be really important and I want to become a true voice of ratepayers. There’s a nuance we’ve missed in actually getting things done.”

While his ambition to be part of the city’s recovery is clear, he said was looking seriously at the “reality of running” during COVID-19

and what will be an entirely digital election campaign for all candidates.

“The easier decision would be to say, ‘I’ve done my time’ and walk away after eight years of civic service,” he said. “But at the same time, I’ve been working with so many people through this pandemic and walking away from what I believe would be disappointing.”

“If I choose to run, it will be less about the support but how do I engineer an election run. There’s a small part of me that hopes things will change. I don’t have the big end of town networks that others have ... that’s a bit intimidating.”

While he’s been “talking to lots of people”, former Team Doyle running mates Beverley Pinder and Susan Riley are veering towards retirement. But both have said they might reconsider should Arron decide to run, with the latter telling *The Age* she remained “loyal” to him.

While a bid for Lord Mayor at the 2018 byelection would have left his position as Deputy open, one wonders whether he should have struck then while the iron was hot.

Alas, the window of opportunity this time around is closing fast ...



Jennifer Yang

The Labor Party’s political gun for hire is no stranger to Melbourne, coming incredibly close to becoming Lord Mayor at the 2018 byelection after harnessing the support of the city’s Asian community.

Having come within a whisker of claiming the federal seat of Chisom in 2019 election, which was eventually won by fellow Chinese-Australian Gladys Liu from the Liberal Party, it was widely believed her shift to the national arena meant council was no longer on her radar.

But in August, Ms Yang reemerged suggesting to the *Herald Sun* that she was considering throwing her hat in the ring again off the back of the Lord Mayor and City of Melbourne’s handling of parking infringements during COVID-19 lockdowns.

The former Manningham mayor highlighted the case of ICU doctor Katarina Arandjelovic who got a fine due to parking in a red zone after a long shift at Royal Melbourne Hospital, which was later revoked following a long Twitter exchange (see full story on page 24).

While the policy platform of parking seems somewhat dubious motivation for an election campaign, Ms Yang is believed to have the

backing of Labor’s “industrial left”, which includes a number of unions.

As talk of an “unofficial” Labor Party ticket spearheaded by Yang continues, she was still yet to confirm her intentions by deadline. What is interesting to note is that Dr Arandjelovic is understood to be a Labor Party member ... coincidence?

Nevertheless, her entrance to the discussion should present some concern for Sally Capp, as one would point to a likely preference deal between the two Labor tickets, stealing votes away from the Lord Mayor.



▲ Rohan Leppert.

The Greens

While the grassroots political experts know they don’t quite wield the power and influence for a serious Lord Mayoral push, they will once again be going around in an effort to get two councillors elected.

The experienced and classy operator in Rohan Leppert will once again sit as number one on the ticket, and will likely be re-elected. Leppert has proven to be an undisputable asset to the City of Melbourne over his three terms on council.

His fellow colleague Cathy Oke will not be recontesting, having also gone the three-term journey alongside Leppert. It’s understood that Dr Olivia Ball, who ran as the Greens Lord Mayoral candidate in 2016, will assume her position on the ticket.

An announcement on the identity of their Lord Mayoral candidate is expected to be revealed in the coming weeks, but who the Greens preference could have a telling impact on who ends up in the Lord Mayoral robes.

SALVATION ARMY’S MAJ BRENDAN NOTTLE LAUNCHES SPECIAL PHONE SERVICE FOR THE LONELY AND ISOLATED

Major Nottle and his wife Sandra, who run the Salvos’ Project 614 program in the CBD, will be available to take calls from 8pm to 10pm weeknights during the pandemic.

“It’s not a crisis line, it’s not a counselling service. It’s simply an opportunity for lonely people to have a chat with a friend,” Says Brendan Nottle.

Call the Salvos Friendship Club, we’re up for a chat!
03 9653 3277 8pm to 10pm Weeknights.



614
THE SALVATION ARMY
Plans Hope Future



Philip Le Liu

The Liberal Party member represents one of the only conservative voices on the current council and he is keen for that to be reinstated after the election for the sake of a “diversity of views”.

Unlike the Labor Party, the Liberals don’t endorse local government candidates, however Cr Le Liu has formed an unofficial “moderate conservative” Liberal Party ticket for the upcoming elections with himself running in the first councillor spot.

Speaking to *CBD News* prior to the state government’s final confirmation of the October 24 election date in early August, he like many lamented the indecision as being “bad for democracy.”

“There will be less and less people voting. I think it goes against democracy,” he said.

While we won’t know the names on his ticket for another few weeks, he said it consisted of some “seasoned campaigners” who had experience at both federal and state level. It’s understood Lauren Sherson, who ran for Melbourne in the last state election, is on the ticket.

Le Liu also wields strong influence in Melbourne’s Asian community and that combined with the experience of four years on council places him personally in a strong position to be re-elected as a councillor.

councillor will rest largely on preferences, Gary Morgan told *CBD News* he wanted to become Lord Mayor and tackle the state government “head on”.

“This Premier has gone crazy,” he said. “I’m the only business person standing, Victoria is in a very bad state at the moment and the issue is we need to go back to stage 2 restrictions.”

“We need to copy what they’ve done in Taiwan. If not saying get rid of face masks and allow rock concerts, but there’s no reason why cafes, bars and restaurants can’t stay open with social distancing.”

“There are a lot of amateurs in council sucking up to the Premier. Sally Capp is a wonderful person but she hasn’t stood up to the state government. It’s not right.”

Mr Morgan said he would be preferencing Sally Capp ahead of Labor and the Greens, who he accused of wanting to control the council.

“I don’t want that to happen,” he said.

“Jackie [Watts] is so sensible. The heritage work she has done, and with the waterways and the maritime museum, IT and knowledge, is just remarkable.”

The rest ...

Former City of Melbourne councillor and journalist Stephen Mayne has re-entered the conversations as an independent councillor candidate.

Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) member and Southbank Sustainability Group leader Artemis Pattichi has also thrown her hat in the ring as an independent, while reports have suggested ex-politician Phil Cleary is weighing up a nomination.

Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley told *The Age* that he was not standing but said he was in conversations with a number of potential Aboriginal candidates he hoped to support to run.

The Victorian Socialists Party has also formed a ticket for this election, and you can read more about its bid on this page.

Transparency motions – Hyperlocal News

Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd, which is responsible for publishing *CBD News*, *Docklands News* and *Southbank News* has agreed to host a donation register for all candidates on its website (hyperlocalnews.com.au) for this year’s elections.

Under the motion raised by Cr Jackie Watts at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on August 25, candidates will be asked to voluntarily disclose all donations and gifts within five business days, with current legislation only requiring it be disclosed 40 days after the election.

In a separate motion, Cr Watts will also ask candidates to disclose their positions and any beneficial interest they have in a company or body.

For more electoral and voting information on the upcoming postal elections refer to the VEC advert on page 8 of this edition ●

VEC COVIDSafe plan:
vec.vic.gov.au/voting/2020-local-council-election/providing-safe-elections.



▲ Daniel Nair Dadich, Kath Larkins and Chris di Pasquale.

Socialists set sights on city council

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
 ELECTIONS

In the upcoming City of Melbourne election on October 24, a fresh ticket will attempt to place socialists in the council chamber for the first time.

The Victorian Socialists (VS) have launched a campaign with candidates for Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and councillor positions – promising to “challenge big business and fight to give workers a say in how their city is run.”

If elected they promise to campaign to remove the business and non-resident landlord vote and instead give city workers voting rights, support protest and social movements like Black Lives Matter, and campaign for an expansion of public housing.

Kath Larkin, the VS Lord Mayor candidate and a worker at Flinders Street Station, said the party’s candidates would stand out among this election’s spread – being neither professional politicians nor business-insiders.

“Our candidates are rank-and-file trade union activists, anti-racist fighters, and leaders in LGBTI organising,” she said.

Ms Larkin is a rank-and-file trade union leader and was the first woman to be elected as workplace delegate at Flinders Street Station with the Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) in 2013.

“I’ve been elected twice as RTBU Women’s Officer twice, a position from which I’ve organised workplace campaigns for women workers in a male-dominated industry,” she said.

In 2015 she played a leading role in the first mass strike in rail in Victoria in almost two decades – when Metro workers stopped work across Melbourne and won better pay and conditions, including trauma and family violence leave.

But her political life started long before her work in the city’s public transport sector.

“My earliest memories of activism are from 2001 when, as a primary school student, I was politicised by the atrocious ‘children overboard’ lies from John Howard that demonised refugees,” she said.

“I organised collections and refugee support through my Church for the Asylum Seeker

Resource Centre.”

As a university student she was elected the National Union of Students (NUS) LGBTI Officer and was on the organising committee for Equal Love – the group that set up the Marriage Equality campaign.

She will be joined on the ticket by Daniel Nair Dadich for Deputy Lord Mayor and Chris di Pasquale for a councillor position.

Mr Dadich is a first-generation Australian living in Kensington, the child of migrant and refugee parents, and works as a youth worker with refugees.

Mr Di Pasquale works in the CBD teaching English as a second language and shares a history in LGBTI activism with Ms Larkin – he was NUS LGBTI Officer in 2017, the year marriage equality was won. He has also been a leading member of Melbourne’s Campaign Against Racism and Fascism (CARF).

Ms Larkin said the city’s politics needed to be re-set.

“We have a strange situation in Melbourne. This is the most left-wing city in Australia, but council elections are rigged to amplify the voice of the wealthy and shut out the workers and residents who make our city run,” she said.

“Melbourne, is the only council in Victoria in which non-resident landlords and businesses get a vote. This accounts for 60 per cent of votes, meaning workers and residents struggle to have our voices heard.”

She said the current Lord Mayor Sally Capp was emblematic of that situation – being a former head of the Property Council.

“If elected, I would slash the current \$200,000 Lord Mayoral salary and strip the title of ‘Lord’ from the office,” Ms Larkin said.

“I’d take an average worker’s wage and use the office to provide resources to community and activist campaigns.” ●



Meg Hill
 JOURNALIST
 MEG@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

Labor for City of Melbourne

ADVERTISEMENT

Working together to lead Melbourne out of lockdown

Secure & affordable housing

Local jobs

Supporting small business

CONTACT US:



MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2020

Get ready to vote

Did you know it's a Melbourne City Council election year? This year's election will be held by postal vote in October. Ballot packs will be mailed to everyone on the Melbourne City Council voters' roll from Tuesday 6 October.

Voting is compulsory, so - to avoid a fine - voters must post their ballot material by 6pm on **Friday 23 October**.

You can check if you're on the voters' roll by calling the Elections Helpline on **1300 735 427** or using the 'Check your enrolment' tool at melbourne.vic.gov.au/elections



Interpreter services We cater for people of all backgrounds. Please call 03 9280 0726.

03 9280 0717	廣東話	03 9280 0722	Soomaali	03 9280 0726	한국어
03 9280 0719	Bahasa Indonesia	03 9280 0723	Español	03 9280 0726	हिंदी
03 9280 0720	Italiano	03 9280 0725	Việt Ngữ	03 9280 0726	All other languages
03 9280 0721	普通话	03 9280 0726	عربي		



CITY OF MELBOURNE



Fed Square review released

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PLANNING

On August 22 the state government released its recommendations from the review of Federation Square initiated last year and announced an upgrade to the square.

The review, which more than 1800 people participated in, found that Federation Square was valued as a place to experience arts and culture, to participate in exciting events and festivals, and to come together and celebrate as a community. Its recommendations and key initial actions included:

- Greater recognition and celebration of First Peoples culture and continuing connection to the site;
- Adoption of a community-driven vision emphasising Federation Square's cultural and civic impact and the need to enliven the space with captivating experiences;
- A commitment to embrace the Yarra and better connect with the adjacent arts and sports precincts;
- Adherence to design principles and strategies to ensure any future physical changes "must aspire to match the quality of the original", to be enabled in part by the creation of a design advisory board; and
- Incorporating Federation Square in the government's creative industries portfolio alongside other cultural and civic icons such as National Gallery Victoria, Arts Centre Melbourne and State Library Victoria.

The Government said the accompanying upgrade was the biggest in the square's history and encompassed a "new vision for the iconic site as a civic and cultural hub that embraces the Yarra and showcases the best of Victoria to locals and visitors".

The upgrade will see \$20 million injected into the Square from the Government's Building Works stimulus program and include a new "immersive Regional Experience Centre showcasing the state's best food and wine".

Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley said Federation Square's importance as a cultural and civic heart of Melbourne had grown this year.

"These things that were important to Victorians pre-COVID will be more critical than ever as we reconnect

and recover as a community and rebuild our creative and visitor economies," he said.

"Federation Square will continue to evolve as a dynamic cultural destination that reflects the best of Melbourne and our creative state."

Citizens for Melbourne, who initiated the Our City, Our Square campaign last year in opposition to an Apple store proposal in the square, welcomed the review's recommendation.

"The Fed Square review is a big step forward for public space in Melbourne," president of Citizens for Melbourne Tania Davidge said.

"The review recognises that civic, cultural and community values – rather than commercial and corporate interests – must guide the future governance and use of Fed Square."

"It's fantastic that Fed Square has been brought into the Creative Industries portfolio, recognising its civic and cultural contribution to our state."

"Fed Square will not be managed and valued as a public institution. We hope that this new arrangement will allow Fed Square to access the ongoing government funding it needs to ensure its future as our city's town square."

During the review process, the City of Melbourne had made a public bid for governance of the square – asking the State Government to consider a partnership with the Council.

But Chair of the Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage portfolio Cr Rohan Leppert said the recognition of the square's civic and cultural space was the most important outcome.

"The City of Melbourne did put in a bid but that's secondary I think," he said.

"The main thing is making sure the government has the principles right for the future uses and management of Fed Square and I think they have."

"Even though we don't have all the details yet, the values and principles that have been articulated and putting Fed Square into the creative industries portfolio shows that the government understands that this is a civic and cultural space."

"Who manages it, whether it's the council or the state government, is secondary to that – the main thing is that the state finally agrees with the people of Melbourne and recognises the civic and cultural importance of the space." ●

Council passes vaping ban in the CBD

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
HEALTH

The City of Melbourne has unanimously passed a motion that bans e-cigarettes and vaping in 11 smoke-free areas of the CBD.

The move extends the definition of smoking under local laws to include using an e-cigarette, which is in line with the state government's *Tobacco Act 1987*.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood said that "on balance" he was supportive of the vaping ban in selected areas of the city.

"There's vaping which still has nicotine involved, and then there's vaping which is, supposedly, in some cases a stepping stone to quitting," Cr Wood said.

"So, I'm comfortable in the fact that this is restricted to our smoke-free areas as they stand, but I am worried about the alignment with the tobacco act if we keep pushing for more smoke-free areas."

Currently, there are 11 designated smoke-free areas within the City of Melbourne including Bourke Street Mall, Goldsbrough Lane, The Causeway, QV Melbourne, Equitable Place, Howey Place, Block Place, the Tan and Princes Park running tracks, Collins Way and Fulham Place.

With this ban now passed, anyone caught vaping in those areas will now be subject to a fine of \$100.

Cr Rohan Leppert said that he was "surprised" the council hadn't had a larger debate on the topic due to the small number of submissions, however he was convinced by the evidence.

"It helps to avoid catching people out who don't know the difference between the local law and the Tobacco Act, which is a lot of people, so it makes sense to harmonise the two," Cr Leppert said.

"I was completely open to being persuaded otherwise, but on the basis of the strength of medical experts arguing in both directions I think the precautionary position is right."

Although almost two thirds of submissions to the council supported banning vaping in the non-smoking precincts, some members of the community believe the ban will hinder smokers who are trying to quit via vaping.

Andrew Whittle, who recently quit smoking with the help of e-cigarettes, said he could not overstate the importance of vaping to him quitting smoking.

"I have tried patches, gums, cold turkey and had no success. It was only with vaping and nicotine-based e-liquid that I have not had a cigarette in three months," he said.

"Most vapers understand that it is



not completely harmless, but it's been shown time and time again to be considerably safer than cigarettes."

Civil Liberties Australia also questioned "the legal standing and legitimacy of local government to regulate the choice of citizens who 'vape'".

"Restricting vaping in the Melbourne CBD would be an additional unjustified intrusion into consumer free choice and autonomy," the submission read.

"If council wishes to act on 'preventative health grounds', then it should bar vehicles using diesel fuel from the CBD 24/7, because incessant diesel particulate is proven more dangerous than smoking, let alone vaping."

As an advocate of the ban, Quit Victoria director Sarah White rejected the claim that that vaping is 95 per cent safer than smoking cigarettes and said the public health evidence against vaping was "indisputable".

"The tobacco industry and e-cigarette proponents rely heavily on the discredited claim that use of e-cigarettes is '95 per cent safer' than using traditional cigarettes," Dr White said.

"Smokefree spaces help smokers to quit, help prevent former smokers from relapsing back to smoking and ensure children do not view smoking as part of normal social behaviour."

Taking into account the conflicting submissions, Cr Nicholas Reece said the debate over whether vaping was a gateway to smoking was a very complicated one and thus much like Cr Wood he "wouldn't support a CBD-wide ban" at the moment.

"I have come to the view that [vaping] is not as harmful as smoking and there are scenarios where it can have a positive health impact on some individuals, particularly those who are addicted to smoking," Cr Reece said.

"But I do support the ban because it's only in those smoke-free areas of the city so it's quite contained."

The ban is now in effect as of August 6 ●

NEED TO HEAR A FRIENDLY VOICE?

Call the Salvos Friendship Club!
03 9653 3277 8pm to 10pm Weeknights.



Melbourne City Council postal elections

Your Melbourne, your vote



Two simultaneous elections will be held for Melbourne City Council this October—one to elect the Leadership Team (Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor) and the other to elect nine councillors.

Voting

Ballot packs will be delivered to enrolled voters from Tuesday 6 October 2020. Your completed ballot papers must be returned in the mail ASAP or hand-delivered to the Election Manager by the close of voting at **6 pm** on **Friday 23 October 2020**.



If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Friday 28 August 2020, your ballot pack can be redirected by writing to:

Election Manager
Melbourne City Council elections
C/- Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Alternatively, you can email your request to:

redirections@vec.vic.gov.au

Please include the address for redirection. Each voter requesting redirection must sign their request.

Requests for redirection must be received by **Thursday 17 September 2020**.

Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision—please register by **Tuesday 15 September 2020**. To register, call (03) 8620 1222 during business hours.

Request an early postal vote

To apply for an early postal vote, contact the Election Manager from **Wednesday 23 September 2020** on (03) 8619 1444 and make an application. You must provide a valid reason.

How to nominate as a candidate

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Melbourne City Council **AND**
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected **AND**
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

To nominate, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the Election Manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from **Thursday 17 September 2020** until **12 noon** on **Tuesday 22 September 2020** at:

Drill Hall Multicultural Hub
51-57 Victoria Street, Melbourne

Candidates for the Leadership Team must nominate in pairs. Candidates nominating for a councillor position must nominate as individuals, but can request to be grouped with other candidates under a group name.

Visit vec.vic.gov.au for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from **Thursday 3 September 2020**.

If you use the online Candidate Helper, print your pre-completed form and make an appointment to lodge it with the Election Manager along with the nomination fee.

Call the Election Manager from **Monday 7 September 2020** on (03) 8619 1444 to make a nomination appointment.

Online candidate information sessions

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Victorian Electoral Commission's candidate information sessions will be conducted online at:

- **7 pm** on **Thursday 10 September 2020**
- AND**
- **1 pm** on **Monday 14 September 2020**

To watch an information session, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Nominations close

12 noon Tuesday 22 September

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

@electionsvic   

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

• ግዕዝ 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • دري 9209 0193 Dari
• Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian
• 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish
• Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-n 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.



Small business grants revealed

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUSINESS

Small businesses based in the CBD, Docklands and Southbank will benefit from grants ranging \$5000 to \$15,000 in the latest round of state government support for those adversely affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The \$20 million package will be divided into two, with \$10 million dedicated to small hospitality operators and the other \$10 million for what has been termed “bricks and mortar” traders.

Business owners in postcodes 3000 (Melbourne), 3005 and 3008 (Docklands), and 3006 (Southbank) will be eligible under the package, which until now had contained few details since the July announcement.

In that announcement the government acknowledged that central-Melbourne businesses had faced “an even larger and sustained shock to their trading environments” than other Victorian businesses since the onset of stage 3 and 4 stay-at-home directives.

The \$5000 grant is available for hospitality venues with a food service capacity of 11 to 100 seats, and all others small businesses that employ up to 50 full-time equivalent staff.

They must also be a participant in the federal government’s JobKeeper payment scheme.

The larger \$15,000 grant is available for hospitality venues with a food service capacity of 101 seats or more.

Non-employing sole traders, political organisations, fundraising groups and government departments were ineligible, along with venues seating 10 or less.

Grants for larger hospitality businesses within the inner-city (with a payroll of more than \$3 million but less than \$10 million) are eligible for assistance under a separate grant.

The allocations are part of the state government’s wider business support package, worth more than half a billion dollars.

In July, Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Martin Pakula said the government was well aware of the distinct problems faced by local business owners.

“[Central Melbourne] has in some respects been uniquely hit by the fact that stay-at-home directives have particularly kept people away,” he said.

“And the absence of foot traffic in the CBD has meant many businesses in the city, and Docklands and Southbank, have been particularly affected by the restrictions that have been imposed on Victorians.”

Mr Pakula said Melbourne’s famous night-time economy had “suffered greatly”.

“It is a very important part, not just of Victoria’s economy, but of Melbourne’s culture. It is one of the things that has set Melbourne



apart over many years; our bars, our restaurants, our laneways, our theatre district.

“And it’s why we’re providing specific support because we want to see all of those businesses, or at least as many of them as possible, though to the other side. They’re going to be a crucial part of returning us to the Melbourne we love

The council’s chair for small business, retail and hospitality Susan Riley said downturn in foot traffic was having a huge impact on traders.

“Up to 90 per cent fewer people have been coming into the city, which has affected businesses like our retailers, galleries, gyms, dance studios, homewares stores and more,” she said.

“The new grants will support many of our bricks and mortar businesses that have a thriving presence in popular precincts and will welcome customers back once restrictions ease.”

New research revealed in August showed that the City of Melbourne’s economy was worth \$104 billion prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said early data from the Census of Land Use and Employment (CLUE) for 2019 showed Melbourne reached a record \$104 billion Gross Local Product (GLP) after passing the milestone \$100.3 billion GLP for the first time in 2018.

“When Melbourne is strong we know that Victoria is strong. Before COVID-19 hit, our local economy was bigger than Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the ACT combined.”

“Our central city economy is usually home to almost 500,000 jobs. These jobs are substantially from professional workers across business services, professional services and research institutes.”

“People are drawn to the city economy, with the CBD alone supplying more than 240,000 jobs.”

The Lord Mayor welcomed the \$20 million in targeted support for CBD businesses announced by the State Government but said further stimulus will be needed in the coming months to kick-start Melbourne’s recovery ●

City of Melbourne business concierge hotline: 9658 9658
Business Vic hotline: 13 22 15

Landlords are suffering as well

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
PROPERTY

Five levels of 19th century brick in Hardware Lane were a dream investment for almost 40 years for the Halat family.

Vivienne’s mum Sylvia lived off the rent of 75 Hardware Lane after her husband John died. Sylvia, now 94, is ailing and was about to enter an aged care facility.

Then the pandemic hit, wiping out her income as all of the businesses in the building shut down, including a Mexican restaurant at ground level.

“She’s fallen through the cracks,” Vivienne said. Her mum is not eligible for the pension because of the value of her assets but she’s not receiving any income.

Vivienne and her sister Jenny are negotiating with a facility and will be able to use Sylvia’s savings but it’s the family’s proud history that has taken a hit, like those of many with strong connections to the CBD.

As businesses face crunch time this month, many expecting eviction notices, the Halat situation shows the other side of the equation. The COVID-19 crisis has ripped into the livelihood and memories of landlords as well.

Vivienne has fond memories of visiting her dad in the city when he shifted his solicitor business here during the ‘80s.

“He was a sociable man,” Vivienne said. “I remember. I was working at 500 Bourke St. It’s still there. I walked up for lunch. His office was on the second floor. On the ground floor and basement was a restaurant run by Hermann Schneider.”

The restaurant was very classy. Her dad was “dead proud”. Hardware Lane was just being discovered. “It was still a thoroughfare. There were no bollards or tables.”

For postwar immigrants John and Sylvia, who met in Prague in the enrolment queue for university, the building was a statement of the couple’s success in a new country.

“He studied and worked. Mum also worked. He had an office at home, came then into 406 [Lonsdale St] then here.” He did commercial law, mostly for the migrant community, then bought the building with his partner, who still owns half. He worked here until he died in 1992.

The Halats reduced the rent but now they’re receiving no income. Vivienne doesn’t know what will happen to the building and is afraid that the cost of upkeep will make it “a white elephant”.

Sylvia’s decline has coincided with the pandemic and her move into aged care has been fraught.

“She’s been kicked out of the respite place and we were just about to put her into the aged care facility. The night before, a staff member



▲ Vivienne Halat in Hardware Lane.

“
As businesses face crunch time this month, many expecting eviction notices, the Halat situation shows the other side of the equation.

”
had a COVID test.”
Vivienne is trying to be philosophical. “We’ve just hit a snag, a significant snag.”
She wonders about the future value of commercial property. The spaces are open plan on each level. The original use was a warehouse. “Maybe we could turn it into a gallery and artists’ studios,” she said ●



Rhonda Dredge
JOURNALIST
RHONDA@CBDNEWS.COM.AU

Connect with your local community

The CBD Community Hub is a free online space to connect with fellow CBD locals, stay in the know, post requests for help, share skills and local knowledge, ask for recommendations, discover local services, classes, retailers, events and more!

This Facebook group is owned by **CBD News**.

If you’re a local resident or business you can join up here:

www.facebook.com/groups/melbournecbdcommunityhub/





▲ Mason Thomas at a menial but satisfying task in the print shop.

Wedding invitations on the go

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
BUSINESS

From the outside, Print City in Flinders Lane looks a bit like a dungeon and during the lockdown it has often been occupied by a lone worker, eerily condemned to a life of toil underground.

The Gothic setting does not worry manager Mason Thomas who is on the morning shift.

He began his working life as a reporter and has written chapter one of a spy novel.

During the pandemic there's been more time for writing but the business side of Print City has grown to dominate Mason's outlook.

There's JobKeeper to look after Mason's staff, whom he wants to keep on. There are small business grants from the state government and a code of conduct for managing rental repayments.

It's a wonder he has any time for print jobs, what with the way every one of us has become an economic unit in the fight to save the working culture of the city.

Mason is not complaining. He's seeing the pluses rather than the minuses. "We're lucky because we're on a four-year lease," he told *CBD News*, "so we'll have time to pay back rent."

He said they'd paid \$2000 instead of \$14,500 and turnover was down by 85 per cent, but other businesses in this little patch of Flinders Lane have closed. "The future is very unknown," he said.

There have been some new products to keep them going and even some work from overseas that has tapped into their connections with designers and created new opportunities.

Lockdown Lager labels lie on the table, having just been printed for a new two litre stubby, twice as big as the original, to be released by a brewery in the country. New vinyl materials were ordered for the job.

Materials are changing in the print industry

as well as processes. There's a great two-colour Heidelberg press by the window. Offset used to make up 95 per cent of the business but the machine has been operated just five days in the past six months by a press man from the outer suburbs. Another press man changed occupations and became a bus driver just before the pandemic.

The rest of the business is now digital and it has been evolving. While the old-world imagery of the print shop still lives on, Mason's not wearing a leather apron nor moving around pieces of lead. In fact, he doesn't expect employees to wear uniforms like they do in other franchises.

If he has any beef at all, it is about the way work is marked up. "If only people would give me trim marks with a three millimetre bleed so they don't end up with a white line," he said.

Generally, he just fixes the problem. Gone are the days when printers ruled the publication process and launches of expensive reports had to be postponed because of some demarcation disputes over what "print ready" really means.

"Fifty per cent of our files aren't print ready at all. It used to frustrate me when I started. Now I see this as a challenge. I turn around and fix the problem and worry about payment later."

In the 24 years Mason has been with the family business, he claims to have rarely lost a client. Corporate reports, restaurant menus and flyers, cocktail lists for bars and, more recently, takeaway menus are their main trade.

Print City was started by Mason's dad in 1972 and after an "aimless" start as a reporter for *Leader* local newspapers in Cheltenham, Mason moved into print.

"I got sick of reporting on 10th anniversaries and birthdays," he said of the paper. "I hated council meetings." Now he's printing up and folding wedding invitations, albeit for an event in Malaysia. That's print for you – evidence that something is happening somewhere ●

Bid for 3am licence denied

WORDS BY David Schout
PLANNING

A rooftop bar in the CBD's east end has had its bid to operate until 3am denied for a second time after the state's liquor regulator deemed it would "detract from or be detrimental to the amenity of the area".

In the wake of the ruling, one local said the decision should set a precedent for what CBD residents expected.

Owners at Loop Rooftop on Meyers Place had appealed a 2019 decision by the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) that denied it the ability to extend its current license from 1am to 3am.

The premises operates as both a project space downstairs, which opened in 2003, and a rooftop bar upstairs which began operating in 2013.

The owners argued that the extra income generated from the upstairs bar would subsidise the loss made by the project space, which is billed as a "creative hub at the heart of Melbourne's music and arts community."

They believed a trading hours extension would better fund initiatives for artists, filmmakers and writers and according to the hearing document, argued the application represented "an economic and social benefit" for the local economy on the back of additional supply contracts, rostered staff and tourist expenditure.

But after hearing evidence from four objectors, each either a resident or landlord at 25 Windsor Place situated approximately 30 metres east of the bar, the commission decided to reject the application.

The commission was not satisfied that noise from patrons leaving the bar at 3am would not cause disturbance to locals, nor that the bar had an adequate strategy to control the noise.

It also noted evidence that noise complaints had not always been adequately addressed or resolved by the owners in past years.

Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo, one of the four objectors, said he believed the right decision had been made.

"I think it's a balanced and fair decision and sets the perfect precedent for what the residents in the CBD expect," he said.

"No one's against business, no one's against rooftop bars, but what residents want is balance."

In response, Loop co-founder and director Adam Bunny said he accepted the decision, and noted that balancing the needs of venues and residents was a delicate topic.

"A disappointing result for us," he said.

"But amenity is a complex issue, particularly in the heart of the CBD. It is important both venues and residents' interests are considered. VCGLR heard both sides of the argument and we accept the umpire's decision."

Loop is currently closed due to the state

“
I think it's a balanced and fair decision and sets the perfect precedent for what the residents in the CBD expect.
”



▲ Loop Bar on Meyers Place, located in the CBD's East End.

Powering on underneath the city

WORDS BY Marco Holden Jeffery
CAPITAL WORKS

With foot traffic in the CBD at an all-time low, crews from CitiPower are taking the opportunity to accelerate their inspections of the city's underground electricity infrastructure.

The electricity distributor's pit inspection program planned to examine 500 pits across their network over the next seven years, with 60 already inspected this year.

CitiPower project manager Gerson D'Costa said the limited foot and vehicle traffic in the CBD would allow their crews to operate safely and across longer hours.

"The purpose of the inspections is to examine the structural integrity and condition of the pit, allowing us to conduct any necessary upgrades or repairs," Mr D'Costa said.

"Normally we try to do most of this work earlier in the morning or on weekends to minimise the impacts as much as possible, and the City of

Melbourne has indicated there is flexibility for us to work a little later into the morning now with lockdowns on."

To inspect each pit, specialist crews would use Lidar scans - a method utilising illuminating lasers to measure distances - and thermographic imaging of cables to identify any issues or required maintenance.

If a cable fault, a structural issue or a future problem was identified, crews would then venture down into the pits to undertake works and repairs.

Melbourne is famously home to one of the oldest and most significant systems of underground infrastructure in the country, with a network of stormwater pipes and electricity maintenance tunnels thought to stretch more than 1500 kilometres.

It has long been rumoured that beneath the CBD there is still a system of walkable blue-stone tunnels - one former State Electricity Commission worker claimed employees at the commission would regularly use an

“
Normally we try to do most of this work earlier in the morning or on weekends to minimise the impacts.
”

underground tunnel to walk from the old commission building on William St to 750 Collins St in Docklands.

CBD News reported in June a sinkhole that had opened up on Collins St in the early hours of the morning was caused by a pinprick leak in a stormwater drain - part of the city's underground sprawl of tunnels and pipes.

CitiPower's important works could be ensuring another section of road doesn't suddenly fall away beneath our feet in the future ●



▲ A worker inspects a CBD pit.



▲ Left to right: Saurabh Jain, Soham Chopra, Liheng Pan, Richa Jhegun, Dan Kuei Chow and Zihang Pi.

International students reach out to residents

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
EDUCATION

A group of international students has recently launched a project aimed at connecting their communities to local resident groups in the City of Melbourne.

International students have been hit hard by the pandemic and lockdown in Australia. Lockdowns have pushed many out of work and, unlike Australian citizens, international students are ineligible for government support programs like JobSeeker and JobKeeper.

The City of Melbourne is home to 30,000 international students. In May the council announced a food voucher program for international students but was forced to cap the program – which was intended for 1000 students – after 17,000 applied.

The international student community was already vulnerable to social isolation pre-pandemic. With in-person university life swept aside, as with most other social and work opportunities, the situation has become extreme.

The group of students from the University of Melbourne were asked to assist the City of Melbourne to address difficulty integrating the local international student and residential communities, through a program run by Study Melbourne.

Soham Chopra, an international student from India who worked on the initiative, only moved to Melbourne weeks before the pandemic began.

“I came to Australia in February to study my master’s in management. Australia seemed like one of the best countries for education and the University of Melbourne ranked really high,” he said.

“It’s been a very unexpected start to life here. The first four weeks, before lockdown, I was making friends and going out, but after that it’s been very start and stop.”

“I haven’t really seen Melbourne properly.”

Mr Chopra said, although he felt supported by the university and had received a university grant, the situation was still tough.

“Financially it’s been tough because obviously back home in India they’ve been hit really hard as well. I was planning to work here but the pandemic started too soon, and I wasn’t able to make any concrete arrangements.”

The team of six students – from

India, Taiwan and China – reached out to the five biggest residents’ groups in the area and surveyed the international student community.

“We had meetings with the Parkville Residents’ Association, the Carlton Residents’ Association, the Southbank Residents’ Association, the Kensington Residents’ Association and East Enders residents’ group,” he said.

“Through this research we eventually suggested five initiatives for the City of Melbourne.”

He said the first was to encourage residents’ groups to include formal representation for international students.

“The existing committee of the resident groups had a lot of people from the community but there were no students,” he said.

“We felt that this representation of international students in the committee could help as a bridge to convey to them what the students in the area really needed and how they could cater to that.”

Second was to encourage residents’ groups to promote themselves at university events.

“We found that for international students, one of the main sources of info is the university, so we felt that residential groups could be more involved in o-days at universities and events like that,” he said.

The third and fourth suggestions were for the groups to set up mentoring and friendship programs – to create formal and educative relationships but also to address social isolation.

The fifth suggestion was for the residents’ groups to have centralised information programs, on websites or apps, to promote and list initiatives and activities for students to access. The group even suggested that students studying relevant skills could curate and run the programs.

Mr Chopra said the team enjoyed the opportunity to engage with the residential community through their project and work to bridge a gap for future students.

“The entire experience for us was absolutely amazing because we ended up having a conversation with different members of the community who make up the residents groups, and they all have different experiences and backgrounds, and we got to present our research to the City of Melbourne who we think will play an active role in trying some of the initiatives,” he said ●

The business of staying alive

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
COMMUNITY

For some in the CBD, it’s a challenge making ends meet so news of a “Need Help” sign on the front of the Cross Culture church in Swanston St spread quickly.

Ploypailing has two shifts a week as a cashier, enough to pay her rent but that’s all.

Nawaphorin hasn’t had a job for two months and is waiting for a flight back to Thailand.

Both girls are international students and they’ve just stood in a line for two hours to get their food supplies for a week.

“We supplement them with fresh vegetables,” Ploypailing said.

This is their third week in line and news is spreading. “It’s getting longer every week.”

The food distribution centre for international students and temporary visa holders is open each Sunday at the Cross Culture Church on the corner of Swanston and Little Lonsdale streets from 1pm to 3pm.



▲ Wen Wen at the food distribution centre on Swanston St.

“The queue started from 10 am,” manager and former international student Wen Wen said. “The line went all the way around the block to La Trobe St.”

He said the people of Melbourne were very generous. “I know what it’s like to be poor. Many students are struggling.”



▲ Thai students Ploypailing and Nawaphorin with supplies.

This is no formal charity, although the church donates \$3000 each week, but a groundswell of self-determination run by volunteers with students helping.

Vanessa Nng, a finance and banking student from Malaysia, rushed down with a donation but dropped her supplies on the footpath in her eagerness to help.

“I only found out about it two days ago,” she said. She had a box and trolley full of her favourite treats, plus some sensible items such as toilet rolls and noodles.

“I don’t have a lot of money but I have savings,” she said.

Even though the food is advertised for visa holders, anyone with a need is accepted, Wen Wen said. “There’s no visa check but there is a temperature check.”

The number of volunteers has increased from less than 10 to 75, he said, and supplies are also being donated by ALDI in Franklin St and Melbourne Central Coles.

Ploypailing decided to stay on in Melbourne where she’s studying childcare but doesn’t have enough money for her school fees.

Nawaphorin, who is studying English, said she would come back when things got better here.

These students, who often remain hidden during normal city hours, are now a stark reminder of the business of staying alive.

People are encouraged to donate white rice, Indomie noodles, pasta and sauces, long life milk or soy milk, cereal, canned food, chips, chocolate, biscuits, vegetable oil, toilet paper, shampoo and body wash ●

Emergency shelter extended, but housing needed

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
HOUSING

Council to Homeless Persons CEO Jenny Smith has called on the state government to announce a plan for permanent housing amid rising homelessness in Melbourne due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In July the State Government extended funding providing emergency housing in empty hotels for people experiencing homelessness, including roughly 1000 people currently sheltering in CBD hotels.

The initiative was brought-in at the start of the pandemic and the new round of funding will extend the program until April next year and will also cover the cost of leasing 1100 private rental properties for permanent homes.

Jenny Smith, who presented to CBD residents’ group EastEnders in late July, said she had previously warned the temporary hotel housing would create a “bottleneck” and has urged the state government to announce a plan for permanent housing.

“We’re absolutely delighted the government has announced the transition piece, capitalising on vacant rental properties and looking at medium term tenure for people is fantastic,” she said.

“But what we need to come up and meet to make it a successful outcome is social housing; housing people will be able to afford on the lowest income in our communities.”

Ms Smith said the sector had asked the government to provide 6000 new social housing properties a year for the next 10 years, to bring Victoria to the national social housing average of 4.5 per cent.

Victoria currently has the lowest proportion of social housing stock in the country – 3.2 per cent of all housing.

Ms Smith said that in the first couple of months of the pandemic 4500 people were placed into hotels around Victoria.

“That showed that people who are rough sleeping do want the opportunity to have safe shelter and will say yes when offered accommodation of modest quality and that is safe, and we really should be able to capitalise on this and give people a long-term outcome.”

“One of the downsides is that while at this point its mid-August, some people might have been in hotels from mid-March and they’ve lived with uncertainty that whole time – with deadlines approaching and then funding being extended.”

“

What we need to come up and meet to make it a successful outcome is social housing; housing people will be able to afford on the lowest income in our communities.

”

Ms Smith also said that given the low stock of social housing and the high number of people experiencing homelessness or on a public housing waiting list, vulnerable people were being prioritised.

“Even now when we know we have the funding until April it’s not enough for everybody and our sector is having to prioritise the most vulnerable people.”

“It’s more than 2000 people but with 25,000 people experiencing homelessness in Victoria every right, according to the last census, even with this effort from the government we are having to prioritise.”

“We prioritise for vulnerability, so women and children we often prioritise.”

There is an estimated 80,000 people on the public housing waiting list in Victoria.

“I think the announcements in Victoria have made have led the country in terms of a response, and the maintenance and renovation package the government announced – 23 social housing properties being renovated – will keep some properties that would have gone offline going and bring some that are offline waiting for maintenance online,” Ms Smith said.

“So, that will increase social housing to some extent, as well as the additional 148 social housing properties announced in the recent package.”

“What’s important now is that the state government and the federal government act on social housing now as an economic stimulus when they do need to provide that in this downturn.” ●

ADVERTISEMENT
Your City of Melbourne Community Update



The City of Melbourne is working with the Victorian Government to roll out a \$10 million support package for businesses

BUSINESS NEWS

NEW BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION GRANTS

More support is on the way for small businesses doing it tough in the CBD, Docklands and Southbank, where foot traffic has fallen up to 90 per cent due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Earlier this year, the City of Melbourne launched a local economic package to support businesses with grants and rate relief. Now, the council is working with the Victorian Government to roll out an additional \$10 million in support for central-city businesses.

The funding includes \$8 million in transformation grants of up to \$5000 to help businesses adapt and create new revenue streams, and \$2 million to provide mentoring and other support services through the City of Melbourne's COVID-19 Business Concierge Hotline.

Grant applications are now open and close at 11.59pm on Thursday 3 September.

The transformation grants are part of the Victorian Government's \$534 million business support package, which also includes grants specifically for hospitality businesses in the CBD.

If you're a business owner or employee and need information or advice to navigate the business support options available, contact the COVID-19 Business Concierge Hotline on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business).

Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

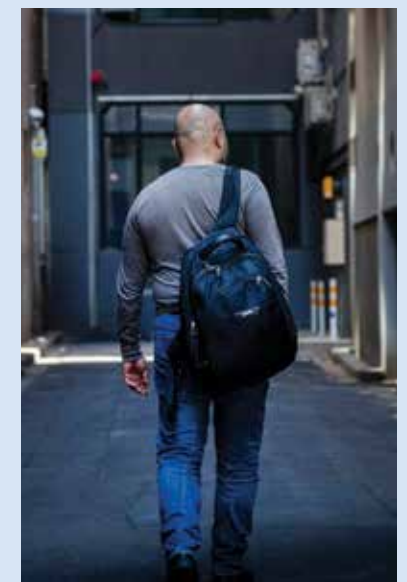
BUSINESSES GIVE BACK

Local businesses – from tiny cafes to major corporations – have come together during COVID-19 to donate goods and funds to agencies that support people experiencing homelessness.

Donations have included more than nine tonnes of food, 750 meals per week, 160,000 face masks, 500 hand sanitiser pumps, 100 laptops and 50 mobile phones.

This goodwill shows how Melburnians step up to support each other in times of crisis, even when so many of us are facing great challenges. Thank you for your generosity.

To find out more about supporting people in need, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/homelessness or subscribe to Melbourne magazine at [magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/magazine) to read more good-news stories.



QUICK TIPS FOR BUSINESSES

Diverse sectors are rallying together to offer all kinds of practical support to businesses affected by COVID-19 including one-on-one advice about funding opportunities, work safety guidelines and wellbeing resources.

Here is a snapshot of some key support on offer from the City of Melbourne and other leading agencies.

City of Melbourne support

COVID-19 Business Concierge Hotline

The City of Melbourne's Business Concierge Hotline is here for all businesses affected by COVID-19. Simply phone 9658 9658 and press 1 for business from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday. You can also submit your query anytime online at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

Business in Melbourne e-newsletter

To receive the latest news in your inbox, subscribe to the City of Melbourne's business e-newsletter, which includes timely information about funding, support, training and ways to connect with the business community. Subscribe at melbourne.vic.gov.au/businessnewsletter

Free promotion

Do you know of a business located in the City of Melbourne municipality that is operating in a new or innovative way during COVID-19 restrictions? What's On Melbourne might be able to offer free promotion through its popular blog and social media channels. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/marketing-support

Rates Financial Hardship Policy

The City of Melbourne is supporting ratepayers within its municipality who are experiencing difficulty paying their rates, fees and charges due to COVID-19. If you are experiencing financial hardship, you may be eligible for a waiver, suspension or reduction of these payments. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/rates

Other key support

Victorian Government support

Read about funding opportunities, operating guidelines for restaurants and cafes, how to develop a business continuity and recovery plan and more on the Victorian Government website at business.vic.gov.au/coronavirus or call 13 22 15.

Australian Government support

Find the latest information on financial assistance and other federal support for businesses, tenants, employers, sole traders and more on the Australian Government website at business.gov.au/coronavirus or call 13 28 46.

Safe Work Australia

Make sure your workplace is COVID-19 safe. Find industry-specific information about work health and safety, mental health resources, downloadable posters and much more on the Safe Work Australia website at safeworkaustralia.gov.au



La Petite Crêperie

ADVERTISEMENT
Your City of Melbourne Community Update

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

SIX WAYS TO STAY WELL WHILE YOU STAY HOME

Restrictions in place in Melbourne due to COVID-19 affect each of us in unique ways. As we stay home to help stop the spread, it is important for us to take care of ourselves and each other.

Here are a few tips and resources from the City of Melbourne to help you focus on your wellbeing.

1 Make healthy food choices

Eat plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables, and avoid processed foods that are high in fat, salt and sugar. Queen Victoria Market is one great place to access seasonal produce, with some traders offering home delivery.

Many of Melbourne's food businesses have adjusted their operating models due to COVID-19. For help finding healthy and affordable food in your local area, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/communityfoodguide



2 Stay connected

Social isolation is unsettling for most people, and some will feel this more than others. Be sure to check in with family and friends regularly by phone or online, and keep an eye on vulnerable neighbours.

The City of Melbourne is also running a range of activities online and over the phone for older people, including a community call club, live music and gentle exercise classes. To find out more, call 9658 9190 or visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/olderpeople

3 Exercise daily

Keep moving while the City of Melbourne's recreation centres are closed by using the Active Melbourne app and attending virtual classes, such as yoga and pilates.

Trainers from Melbourne City Baths and North Melbourne Recreation Centre are also running virtual experiences throughout the week, from cooking classes to yoga. Learn more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne



4 Get free entertainment

Enjoy free access to e-books, audiobooks, music, films, online courses, conversation clubs and storytimes (for children and adults) using your City of Melbourne library membership. Find out more and sign up online at melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

To keep kids entertained at home, the City of Melbourne has also published a series of videos and activities prepared by local artists. To dive into some creative adventures, including circus skills and juggling, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/artplay



5 Bring Melbourne to you

Even amid Stage 4 restrictions, much-loved businesses and events across Melbourne are launching innovative offerings, such as virtual concerts and home-delivery of high tea and jigsaws.

To keep up-to-date, visit whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au and subscribe to the What's On newsletter to receive weekly updates in your inbox.



6 Prioritise your mental health

While it's important to stay informed, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by news about COVID-19. Make sure you only get information from trusted sources, and switch off to give yourself time to relax and recharge.

If you need support, contact Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636 for short-term counselling and referrals, or Lifeline on 13 11 14 for 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.

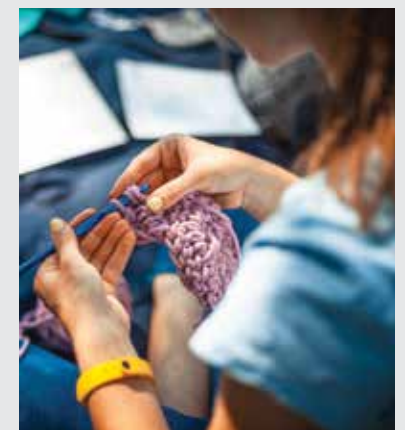
To find out more about the City of Melbourne's response to COVID-19, including support for vulnerable people, and temporary closures and adjustments to services and facilities, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

COMMUNITY CORNER

While many of the City of Melbourne's community facilities, social groups and multicultural festivals are on hold due to COVID-19, Melburnians have found creative ways to stay connected.

In North Melbourne, women from a Spanish-speaking art and craft group have been working from home, sharing photos of their beading, crochet and painting using their mobile phones. They even knitted 30 beanies for people experiencing homelessness, to donate to the Vinnies Soup Vans.

Have you got a good news story to share? Tag the City of Melbourne in your posts on social media, or visit magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au to read more community stories and subscribe to our newsletter.



YOUR COUNCIL

Melbourne City Council (from left):

Cr Susan Riley, Cr Kevin Louey, Cr Beverley Pinder, Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley MBE, Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Cr Nicholas Reece, Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood AM, Cr Rohan Leppert, Cr Cathy Oke, Cr Philip Le Liu, Cr Jackie Watts OAM.

Council and Future Melbourne Committee meetings have moved online until further notice. The system allows councillors to vote, and members of the public to participate, from their homes. For details, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil

Council's vision

Find out more about the Council's shared vision for the city, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/councilplan

Connect with us

[/cityofmelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmelbourne)
[@cityofmelbourne](https://www.instagram.com/cityofmelbourne)
[@cityofmelbourne](https://www.twitter.com/cityofmelbourne)



Heritage highlights: Hoddle Grid review recommends swathe of new protections

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
HERITAGE

One hundred and thirty-seven individual buildings in the City of Melbourne have been put forward for heritage protection with the completion of the massive Hoddle Grid Heritage review.

The proposal was considered by the council at a Future Melbourne Meeting (FMC) on August 4. Although the meeting lost quorum due to a staggering eight councillors (Pinder, Reilly, Wood, Oke, Leppert, Louey, Reece and Watts) declaring direct or indirect conflicts of interests, management recommended the heritage proposals to the Minister for Planning.

The council's heritage portfolio chair Cr Rohan Leppert said the independent review of more than 1000 buildings took a holistic view of heritage by considering Aboriginal, colonial, contemporary, community, tangible and intangible values.

"Melburnians may be surprised that these buildings haven't been granted heritage protection already. The review gives us an opportunity to protect these cultural legacies," Cr Leppert said.

"It's not about age. It's about recognising the places that have importance to us as a community."

Fifty-five of the sites recommended for protection are post-war buildings constructed between 1945 and 1975.

"Melbourne was Australia's fastest growing city in the post-war period and became a leading centre of modernist innovation in art, architecture and design," Cr Leppert said.

"Our recovery from the Second World War was led by a construction boom based on modernist optimism and innovation. We now have a chance to protect our modernist architectural legacy."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the review was the most comprehensive heritage building study in the Hoddle Grid since the 1990s.

"It's also the largest study of post-war heritage we've ever completed," the Lord Mayor said.

"Fifty-five of the sites are post-war buildings, including two hotels, a post-office, a cinema, a women's club, two telephone exchanges and retail and commercial buildings."

"This is about protecting our city's heritage while providing certainty and clarity to landowners about how they can develop their properties while respecting the places that are significant and warrant protection."

"Pre and post-war buildings can be easily adapted for new purposes while ensuring their heritage character is retained."

CBD News has selected a number of buildings from the review to highlight to our readers.

295-305 King St – former Koorie Heritage Trust building

Although the former home of the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) has been demolished, the heritage review recommends the site's significance should now be formally recognised.

In 1985 Uncle Jim Berg, Ron Castan and Ron Merkel sued the University of Melbourne and the Museum of Victoria for the return of Indigenous cultural material.

The push for both greater understanding and appreciation of indigenous culture and the immediate need for Indigenous control and management led to the creation of the KHT.

The KHT took residence at the King St site in 2003 and moved to Federation Square in 2015. The KHT website describes the former site:

"A central replica scar tree that rose from the ground floor reaching almost to the second floor, provided a metaphorical anchor to the building. Cast from a latex mould of the original tree located on Ebenezer Mission Station, the replica tree was created c.1988 for 'Koorie', the Trust's first major exhibition at Museum Victoria."

The review outlines the social significance of the site to indigenous people and organisations in South-Eastern Australia as the first "permanent" home for the KHT – remembered as a formative place that enabled the creation of

an Aboriginal-directed central city focus for Aboriginal culture, stories, history and art.

There was concern last year with a controversial proposal for an Apple store to take the place of the current KHT building in Federation Square, which has since been rejected.

20 Meyers Place – the Waiters Club

This small but well-known Melbourne restaurant has a rich and erratic history, from its cultural significance to by-chance links to Melbourne's underworld.

The Italian Waiters Club opened in 1947 as a place for mostly Italian, Spanish and Greek waiters to socialise after finishing work. At the time it was illegal in Melbourne to sell alcohol after 6pm, but the club became a place for the hospitality workers to have post-work drinks clandestinely. Due to its discreet location and nature, the club later became a favourite for Melbourne politicians, police, journalists and gangsters.

The club became the site of an infamous siege in 1978, following Chopper Read's attempt to hold a Melbourne judge hostage and get his friend released from prison. Read failed and was sent back to Pentridge, and one of his acquaintances, Amos Atkinson, staged a siege in the Waiter's Club – taking hostages and demanding Read be freed. The hostages were held until Atkinson's mother persuaded him to give up in the early hours of the morning.

The restaurant and bar is still operating and is well-recognised as a Melbourne institution.



▲ The Waiters Club.

256 – 260 King St – former Paramount Films headquarters

The former Paramount House is a two-storey interwar commercial building built in 1929 that incorporates art deco influences and classical motifs. It was occupied by Paramount Films as one of many "exchange centres" set up around the country to facilitate the American industry's access to a widening Australian film market. The building held offices, film vaults, storage accommodation and a small private theatre. By the 1970s it was occupied by Cinema International Corporate – a combined distributing venture for film studios including Paramount, Universal and Walt Disney.



11 Highlander Lane – former Zanders' No 2 Warehouse

The current façade of 11 Highlander Lane was built in 1854 opposite Queens Wharf – an area between Queen St and William St where, in the first years of settlement, boats and ships moored on the Yarra River.

Bluestone warehouses were erected close by for storage of goods to be exported, as well as Customs House in 1841 and Market Square in 1847. The three-storey bluestone warehouse at 11 Highlander Lane was owned by JC Zander, who setup a warehousing business in 1852 which by the end of the century has expanded to occupy most of the block between Highlander Lane and King St.

The review outlines historical significance of the site's relations to warehousing in the City of Melbourne and is a rare surviving example of an early bluestone warehouse.

▼ 11 Highlander Lane.



▲ The Theosophical Society building.

124 - 130 Russell St – the Australian Theosophical Society

The review recommended heritage protection for the headquarters of the Australian Theosophical Society, a 1920s building that currently has an application for demolition and redevelopment as a hotel.

The society purchased the site in the early '70s and moved into the refurbished building in 1975. It is still home to the society as well as other tenants. The review states:

"The Melbourne Theosophical Society has a continuing, long-standing and direct association with this building which was refurbished in 1975 for the Society to enable it to undertake activities for its members. Many of its activities and events are also open to the public. The spaces used by the Society are of primary importance in relation to criterion."

"124-130 Russell St is of social significance for its long-standing associations with the Melbourne Theosophical Society as its headquarters and the location of its library, bookshop and meeting spaces. 124-130 Russell St is of social significance as a long-standing meeting place where those interested in theosophy meet, learn and exchange ideas."





Elizbaeth St – former Hosies Hotel

The Hosies Hotel was built in the early 1950s specifically to cater for visitors to the Melbourne Olympics in 1956. There had previously been a hotel, built in the 1860s, on the same site.

The wall of the building features a mural by artist Robert Beck – Melbourne’s first example of abstract art on a large scale.



2-18 Ridgway Place – the Lyceum Club

The Lyceum Club is an exclusive private women’s club established in Melbourne in 1912. Its premises on Ridgway Place was built in 1959 and the review highlights “the distinct association between the organisation, membership and the building that has endured for nearly 60 years”.

The building is an example of post-war modernist style – a reaction against the Federation era and a return to 19th century classicism.

The review recognises the building’s social significance: “The building reflects the aspirations and needs of the organisation in providing and sustaining a place of social congregation and intellectual exchange amongst professional women.”

“This is about protecting our city’s heritage while providing certainty and clarity to landowners about how they can develop their properties while respecting the places that are significant and warrant protection.”



194-200 Bourke St – Hoyts Mid-City Cinemas

Although this building is an early and rare example of brutalist buildings in Melbourne, pushes for heritage protection in the past have been controversial. The review recognises that protection is still unlikely.

The distinct magenta-ish coloured piano shaped frontage has been worn down over time and developers attacked an attempt to win protection in 2011.

The building was bought by Chinatown Investments in 2015 and there was concern that the site would be developed.

Ultimately, the previous attempt to gain protection for the building was rejected by then-Minister for Planning Matthew Guy.

Butchers reassure shoppers

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
BUSINESS

With so many factors working against the meat trade, it was a miracle that butchers at the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) were still able to crack a smile on the first day of the new lockdown shopping.

Steven Saro, of Alec Watson & Son Butchers, said they had plenty of cuts to sell from abattoirs not affected by the virus.

The company sources its meat from the regular places in Victoria and South Australia.

Their glass cabinets were testimony to supply, with a good range of regular cuts, including lamb shoulder at \$17 a kilogram, a low-salt corned beef and pork marinated for the barbie.

“There is no supply issue,” Steven said. “That is merely confronting the bigger corporate supermarkets.”

While supply was secure, the shoppers weren’t out and about as usual at lunch time and custom had dropped significantly.

“Being the first day of lockdown we’re not even sure,” Steven said, but he estimated a reduction of about 50 per cent. “We’re being optimistic.”

The big issue facing all stallholders at the market is the new lockdown rule that limits shopping to within a five-kilometre radius. That means that regulars to the market will have to shop closer to home.

Steven said that the demographic of the CBD was working against them.

“We have a lot of apartments near here, one bedroom without a kitchen,” he said. “It’s a thing in the middle of the city.”

But those customers who live close enough to shop for essentials will have the chance to get to know the range of products a bit better, he conceded. “We’re not so busy.”

Hunter Pork is their specialty, great for the barbie, “to be served up with steamed rice and Kewpie mayonnaise.”

He and other staff were dealing with the new



▲ Butcher Steven Saro ready for business.

conditions in a relaxed and friendly manner, not blaming the restrictions nor customers.

This is the human side of small business, the cooking tips and the banter that people in lockdown have grown to love.

Steven will tell you about his wife and warn you against buying too cheap. “You can’t get something for nothing,” he said.

“We were lucky that our abattoirs were not hit by the virus.” He said that any shortages would be swiftly rectified.

“I’ll be guessing that they will truck further out. They will go to an abattoir not affected. There’ll be some issue but the industry won’t grind to a halt.” ●

New addition to Little Collins St

WORDS BY Marco Holden Jeffery
PLANNING

A 27-storey boutique commercial office building at 130 Little Collins St has been approved by the City of Melbourne.

Developed by Golden Age Group, the state-of-the-art building would combine retail and office space in a design emphasising sustainability, health and well-being.

Golden Age Group managing director Jeff Xu said the development would lead the way in post-pandemic office design as companies retain aspects of remote working and shift away from large-scale office spaces.

“The typical commercial building has been turned on its head as a result of COVID; businesses have realised they can work efficiently outside of the corporate environment and they no longer want to share with hundreds of other tenants,” he said.

“Instead, we’re foreseeing a preference towards more boutique floorplans as a result of businesses scaling down their requirements for an office, coupled with something that greater emphasises lifestyle.”

Designed by a team of Cox Architecture, Hecker Guthrie and Jack Merlo, the building would combine sunlit open office space and a dedicated business centre with private end of trip facilities, garden terraces, and premium food and beverage offerings throughout.

Xu dubbed the development “more akin to a lifestyle hotel design than a typical commercial office tower”, signalling a trend for office spaces as more lifestyle-driven and less corporate as the city’s white-collar workforce continues to work from home.

The street-level facade of the building would speak to the heritage design of the its neighbours on Little Collins St.

Golden Age Group were targeting several five-star sustainability ratings before the building’s expected completion in 2023.

The developers were also behind other recent



CBD buildings such as the 75-storey Victoria One skyscraper and the 60-storey residential Collins House, as well as Box Hill’s Sky One, the tallest residential building outside the CBD.

Golden Age Group purchased the site from the Uniting Church in 2019, who had their Victorian and Tasmanian headquarters at the address since 1967.

The project would launch to market in the next few months ●



Melbourne's CBD dwellers are still singing the praises of the city particularly at dusk when the spaces are empty and the lights of the streets compete with the glow of the sky.



Catching up with Dan

La Trobe St is quite attractive and Flagstaff Gardens even better where the lights of the skyscrapers add to the show.

Those who live in the west end of the CBD feel as if they're in New York when they're out exercising.

They're an artsy bunch with global connections who find a tough romance in diversity, ideas and the frisson between doing it hard and being creative.

Dan Witton is a double bass player and singer who has just stepped out from an online performance he is filming in his "west end" flat for a festival.

He's waited until dusk to take the air so he could use all of the precious light for filming and doesn't have to upgrade his video equipment.

Dan does all his own cooking and lives cheaply. Frugality is his motto so he can eke out his time until the next gig. He doesn't take holidays either.

"I was doing well," he told *CBD News*. He'd been on a tour to the United States and was performing in *Anthem* in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth and with Meow Meow at the Arts Centre.

His last gig was with Jazz Lab during the quartet's residency at East Beach Arts in Geelong in June during the interregnum when there was a legal limit of 10 people.

The new restrictions have stopped live performances but he has done a film clip with Bush Gothic as well as the festival work.

"Everyone is becoming a TV studio," he said. That means continual broadcasting, creative meetings and keeping up skills by story-making, fit-for-performance practice and new work. He said performers were using the lockdown time to develop ideas.

"People are ensconced in scenario planning," he said, "but if you're used to working in a hyper-social environment such as dance or movement, when you get into a video call it's

not quite the future.

"People are trying quite hard to get involved in discussion. They're doing play readings and apartment TV so you have to show up. There's a new form of etiquette."

Dan lives in a converted office building and loves the city and his flat, which looks into a void. It's not exactly a New York tenement and it is noisy with the nearby construction. "I love the dirt."

He said it was important to be sociable and he's met people from the building through disasters such as fire drills and flooding.

"I play a large instrument and don't have a car and have to get to places at peak," he explained. His decision to move here three years ago was strategic.

Unfortunately, most of his gigs have been cancelled leading to "a lot of discourse around the power of assembly for live work. It's not as simple as tuning into a TV station."

He relishes being back in Melbourne rather than on tour. He'd like to do more at home. At the moment that means posing in the middle of the tram tracks. There isn't much traffic.

"It's open and spacious. There's room to take space. You can go where it's fresh and look at what's needed when things are not so crowded."

●



Rhonda Dredge

JOURNALIST

RHONDA@CBDNEWS.COM.AU

HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS

Housing for all makes "good business sense"

Welcome to the second of our series which will attempt to explore the role that housing can and should play within Australian society and why it is important to our economy that we house all Australians, rich or poor.

This series intends to draw on a range of perspectives centred around housing and homelessness. We will hear a range of views from business, the not-for-profit sector and hopefully government, as to why they believe housing is an important social and economic building block for Australia's future prosperity.

This month we have asked Peter Mares, author of *No Place Like Home* and lead moderator at the Cranlana Centre for Ethical Leadership, to share his thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians should be considered an economic imperative for Australia ...

Homelessness takes many forms and has many causes: an abusive partner forces a mother and her children to flee to a refuge; a teenager couch surfs because his parents won't accept that he is gay; a casual worker gets injured and is evicted for rent arrears; an older woman sleeps in her car after a marriage breakup leaves her destitute; an older man with a mental illness ends up on the streets.

Yet despite its diverse manifestations, homelessness is a problem with one simple solution — a decent, safe, affordable home.

To reduce homelessness, Australia needs an increased supply of long-term rental housing at prices people on low incomes can afford. Key workers in low-wage sectors like childcare or aged care need a discount on prevailing market rates; tenants on government payments like the aged pension need rents set at no more than 30 per cent of their income so they have still enough money for essentials like food and heating.

We know from Anglicare's rental affordability snapshot that the private market doesn't provide sufficient housing of this kind, and we cannot expect it to. Landlords won't lease properties at rents that don't cover costs like rates and interest payments. Developers won't build apartments that don't generate enough rent to turn a profit.

This is not a new insight. It was recognised in 1942 by two Melbourne social reformers, accountant and lay Methodist preacher, F. W. Barnett and solicitor and company director Walter "Ossie" Burt. Their book *Housing the Australian Nation*, remains remarkably relevant almost 80 years later.

"Everyone knows there is a housing shortage," they wrote. Today, we might say, "everyone knows there is a housing shortage, for Australians on low incomes."

From this Barnett and Burt drew two conclusions. First, that private enterprise had been "unable to overtake the housing shortage" and second that if people are too poor to give private enterprise the financial inducement to build homes, "then the government must come to the financial aid of the people ..."

We can draw same conclusions today. Business cannot end the current shortage of housing shortage for Australians on low incomes because they cannot pay enough rent to give the private sector the incentive to build.

Where the market fails, government should intervene. Barnett and Burt called for a national housing scheme, which is what we got after World War II. The current crisis demands a

similar level of ambition.

But tackling homelessness is not just a worthy cause — it is sound economic policy that benefits the entire society.

Large-scale public investment to build homes people can afford is an ideal way to help the economy weather the COVID-19 downturn. The federal government's Homebuilder package may assist tradies and contractors who do renovations or build new houses on city fringes, but it will do nothing to save jobs in higher density residential and commercial development, a sector that is facing collapse. Master Builders Australia and the construction union CFMEU don't agree on much, but both think that government investment in social housing is the right policy for our times.

The not-for-profit community housing industry has a detailed \$7.7 billion plan to build 30,000 new affordable homes for renters. SHARP (the Social Housing Acceleration and Renovation Program) would create 18,000 full time jobs every year for four years.

While Canberra says housing is a state issue, only the federal government can finance a package of this size.

Besides, funding for affordable homes should be seen as an investment, not a cost. Finland, for example, has all but eradicated homelessness, partly by converting crisis accommodation into permanent housing. Why go to the expense of putting people up in overnight shelters or hotel rooms, when it's cheaper to find them a permanent home? According to a recent study, moving someone out of homelessness in Finland saves

an average of €15,000 (A\$25,000) per person per year, including through reduced spending in the health and justice systems, and pays for itself in seven years. If secure tenure in an affordable home helps people into the workforce, the savings are even greater.

Now that makes good business sense.

I hope you found the above perspective by Peter interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our view of the world, we all need to listen and digest what is said by others in order to find common ground. This is why we are focusing on the fact that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need (not human right) and without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that will span generations. As I said in my first article, doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act and we need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts: info@housingallaustralians.com.au ●



Rob Pradolin

FORMER GENERAL MANAGER AT FRASERS PROPERTY AUSTRALIA AND FOUNDER OF HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS (HAA)

INFO@HOUSINGALLAUSTRALIANS.COM.AU

Metro Tunnel shines a light on world-class design

Melbournians can expect to see innovative and eye-catching station designs take shape as work on the Metro Tunnel Project progresses over the next few years, according to Rail Projects Victoria's Linda Cantan.



The construction expert has five new stations to watch over as package director, tunnels and stations for the massive project – and she said Melbourne was the place to be for world-class transport hubs to rival those of London and Moscow.

“Our project and London’s Jubilee Line extension share the themes of generous space and natural light at deep levels of the station,” Linda said.

“There are also similarities with Crossrail’s Elizabeth Line, which aims to provide relief for the existing London Underground, and the trinocular design is reminiscent of the Moscow Metro transit system.”

Natural light has been high on the priority list of station design features.

“There’ll be light from the street to each station, most notably at Arden, Parkville and Anzac,” Linda said. “We don’t want commuters to face gloomy, confined stations. We want the spaces to be light and airy.”

The generous size of the platforms will help with that.

“At 18 metres wide, the Town Hall and State

Library platforms will be almost the same width as London’s Canary Wharf Station,” Linda said. “They’ll be among the widest in the world, ensuring enough space for growing passenger numbers long after they open.”

“We’ll have access from the street to platforms via lifts, tactile surfaces to guide those who are visually impaired and intuitive signs to help with accessibility.”

As commuters travel through the tunnel, there’ll be no doubting which station they’re in.

“The design for Parkville will reflect medicine and knowledge,” Linda said. “Anzac’s design will incorporate the Shrine of Remembrance and the Royal Botanic Gardens.”

“For those watching the project closely, Parkville and Arden aren’t far off taking shape. Work will get underway on the above ground structures early next year.”

When it comes to the benefits of the project, it’s a case of “Where do I start?” for Linda.

“It’ll have a profound impact on the way we move around our city, untangling the City Loop and providing interchanges between Town Hall and Flinders Street stations, and State Library



and Melbourne Central,” Linda said.

“It will open some of Melbourne’s most important health and education precincts to rail commuters. It will increase the peak capacity of the entire metropolitan train network, giving people back some of their time.”

“The best word to describe the Metro Tunnel is ‘transformative’ for our city.” ●

For more information:
metro.tunnel.vic.gov.au

SALVOS

Friendship in times of need

“I’m actually not scared about becoming sick with COVID-19 or even dying. What terrifies me is the thought of being locked inside my home with no connection to any other human being.”

This was the statement Cathy* blurted out on Bourke St amid uncontrollable crying.

Cathy’s concern is not unique. Rather, it echoes the heart cry of so many people across the city, our nation and indeed the world.

The federal and state governments have both recognised that acute mental health issues are absolutely rampant at the moment and they have responded with significant financial investment into the sector. In fact, Beyond Blue and Lifeline have both reported major spikes in demand so far this year for their crisis counselling services. The commitment of these and other mental health agencies and governments needs to be acknowledged and highly commended.

However, through our interaction with people from a wide cross section of the community, it is obvious that, even though many will benefit from the federal and state government investments in mental health, there are so many people who are longing for something else.

Back in June, 1961, a young woman, new to Melbourne, spoke to some work colleagues and in a moment of rare vulnerability, she expressed that she was very lonely. One person in the group encouraged her to go to her local church, simply to make friends.

The young woman recalled her predicament when she wrote a letter to the “50/50” column in the *Melbourne Sun* newspaper. She said, “I went to church to make friends and address my loneliness, but it appears that people who attend church can only say two words- hello and goodbye!”

In response to this letter, a Salvation Army Officer, Major Isabelle Gale, wrote back to the “50/50” column and said, “I will be opening The Salvation Army building at 69 Bourke St every Tuesday night. I will be commencing the Red Shield Friendship Club for anyone who is

lonely and who wants to make friends.” Over 100 people attended every week for 41 years! They participated in table games, sharing food and engaging in a range of other community building activities.

With the incessant reminders that today still, there are so many people who are battling loneliness and COVID-19-induced anxiety, my wife, Sandra, and I have re-launched the Salvos Friendship Club – but this time it’s by telephone.

Every weeknight during Stage 4 lockdown, Sandra and I sit down at the kitchen table with a cup of tea and our telephone, and then it all happens. People from all different walks of life call to simply have a chat with some friends. It’s definitely not a crisis line or a counselling service – just a place and space for friends to meet and chat. There is nothing magical about the formula. It’s about making time for each other – especially those that don’t have anyone else to chat with.

So, if you find yourself at home with no-one else to talk to, you are most welcome to call us on: (03) 9653 3277 between 8pm – 10pm, Monday – Friday.

Feel free to share the number with anyone that you think would benefit from a friendly chat.

Only together will we get through this.

*Name has been changed ●



Major Brendan Nottle
COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE SALVATION ARMY MELBOURNE - PROJECT 614
BRENDAN.NOTTLE@SALVATIONARMY.ORG.AU
SALVATIONARMY.ORG.AU/MELBOURNE614/

HERITAGE

Advancing heritage in the CBD

The recent approval of the Hoddle Grid Heritage Review by the City of Melbourne is major step forward for heritage protection in our city.

It validates one of Melbourne Heritage Action’s (MHA) core reasons for forming and lobbying for more than a decade, providing a comprehensive review of unprotected places that has been needed for almost three decades.

The review has finally recognised many places readers may have assumed were obviously protected before. These include the likes of 1850s bluestone warehouses, entire streetscapes in Flinders Lane and major art deco commercial buildings, while significantly, a great number of the best mid-century office buildings in the city have been recognised, representing our evolving notions of heritage.

Importantly the review has also recognised social history as a big part of heritage, not just ornate facades and technical architectural details. It has also included a number of post-colonial Aboriginal heritage places, two previously ignored categories which we hope to see much more prominently in future heritage discussions.

It’s fantastic to see the evolution of the idea of “heritage” move from being only about academic architectural talk, to the recognition of broader social and personal themes for people from all walks of life, in such a well-researched and argued document.

We also welcome the inclusion of a number of buildings approved for demolition, such as Melbourne House in Little Bourke St and the Theosophical Society on Russell St, in the hope that owners will now see the significance of their buildings as more than just development sites. It’s not uncommon for permits to lapse either, meaning developers with genuine plans are given some flexibility, and any sites simply land banked will gain protection in short order.

While we found some of the exclusions disappointing, namely streetscapes on Russell and King streets, some out-of-the way industrial buildings, and the lack of scope in the review

for post-1975 post-modernist architecture, the rigour and detail of the review justifies these well and makes a very compelling case for every building that was included, and makes for fantastic reading.

Another disappointing aspect was the lack of a quorum at council, with all but two councillors having conflicts of interest through ties to owners and developers, meaning no debate and discussion on how such a monumental and positive heritage action could take place. However, the next step of panels, objections and submissions will more than make up for that lack of drama.

“We look forward to seeing this review get the Minister for Planning’s tick of approval in full, so that Melbourne has a truly progressive and detailed list of heritage places still standing far into the future.”



Tristan Davies
PRESIDENT
MELBOURNE HERITAGE ACTION
CONTACT.TRISTANDAVIES@GMAIL.COM

HISTORY

Flinders St from Yarra Bank, 1950

Taken in the first decade after the end of World War II, this view from Yarra Bank Rd on the south bank of the Yarra River looks towards Flinders St from King St to William St and finally Market St.



▲ Image credit: Image S-32. Courtesy Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

This is probably a less familiar part of the CBD to most Melburnians, although those who travel regularly through the Loop will have looked out from their train carriage to Flinders St as they moved along the railway overpass you see here. Most of us though, are better acquainted with the stretch that is just off camera to the right of the image, the stretch that moves east along the river beyond Queen St, which is just on the very edge of this image.

If you travelled this way by train before the 1980s, you'd be familiar with the Tait train seen here, better known to commuters as a "red rattler". Noisy, draughty, hot in summer, freezing in winter, "red rattlers" lurched and rattled around as they travelled the train network. Once experienced, never forgotten.

The King St corner of this Flinders St streetscape is dominated by Bushell House. By 1950, clothes and food rationing had ended, except for tea rationing which ended in June 1950 (and butter rationing which continued to July 1950), so the solid presence of Bushell House with its assertive slogan "Bushells is here" reflects a return to everyday life that must have been reassuring to households across the country.

We were a nation of tea drinkers and loyal to our own favourite brand of tea. So Bushells with its slogan "More cups – finer flavour" vied with the likes of Robur ("Ah Robur, it's got the flavour") and Tuckfield's Ty-nee Tips tea and

its cry of "Let's have a cuppa, a quick pick me uppa" for the householder's patronage. No tea bags in those days, of course.

Moving further east along Flinders St we come to William St with the Yarra Family Hotel on the corner. Turn up the street past C. Stokes, Customs and Shipping Agents and you come to the Union Steam Ship Company, which is arrowed in this image (reason unknown). It is the clock on the front of that building that tells us that the photo was taken at 12.35pm, lunchtime, and given the number of people walking along the street and the fact that there are no leaves on the trees, we can tell that it was a weekday lunchtime in winter.

It is hard to imagine this area as the turning point for the earliest ships that came to Melbourne, bringing with them the colony's pioneers. Many of those early settlers lived on arrival in "Canvas Town", the huge tent city that stretched across the area we know today as Southbank. The Customs House (now the Immigration Museum), located on the eastern edge of the image, is in the area where the

first party of European settlers arrived from Launceston in 1835. It seems appropriate that the Customs House should now be the home of the Immigration Museum where Melbourne's rich multicultural heritage is recorded and celebrated.

Take a closer look at the image and you'll see many ads for petrol-based products. Petrol rationing ended in June 1950 so these advertisers were making the most of their new customer-base. You'll see Plume (owned by Mobil), Shell, Castrol, Alba (owned by Ampol), Mobil – they're all there.

Several small businesses are located on the south bank of the river. A brick and tile merchant selling Marseilles Roofing Tiles and other housing materials reminds us that this was a society beginning to recover from the effects of a world war. It's the Baby Boomer era and a time of rapid housing expansion, if only the materials could be found.

Next door is the Southern Cross Service Station, which has its own parking garage. (Cost is 6d per day – about \$1.25 in today's buying

power.) Service stations (or "servos" in Aussie slang) began to take off in the 1930s. They were usually attached to a motor garage, which is the case here. A closer look at the image shows the petrol pumps lined up in the front of the building with a mechanic attending to a vehicle on the left.

Those were the days (and they continued well into the 1970s) when there was no self-service. You'd pull up next to a petrol pump, wind down your window and say "Fill her up, please" and an attendant would fill your car with petrol, check your oil, wash your windscreen, pump up your tyres, take your money and all without you ever leaving your car ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

RESIDENTS 3000

Activating community participation in the City of Melbourne

The recently legislated *Local Government Act 2020* requires councils to adhere to the principles of community engagement and adopt "deliberative engagement practices".

In essence, this means that arrangements need to be put into place that enable the community to participate in key decision-making processes and that these become the norm rather than the exception.

Over recent years, the City of Melbourne has utilised three engagement processes:

- The Participate Melbourne online facility at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au invites engagement from interested persons, frequently on quite complex subjects. Face-to-face consultation activities such as workshops, displays, forums and mail outs are also undertaken;
- In 2015 the Melbourne People's Panel engaged 43 residents and business owners to provide input into the city's 10 Year Financial Plan; and
- In 2018, the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) People's Panel involved 40 traders, customers, residents and stakeholders.

One form of community participation not yet tried is the creation of community panels or as they are often referred to, citizen juries. A community panel comprises a group of community members who engage

in an independent and systematic process to consider evidence and provide advice to the council.

There is a perception among community members that it is challenging to engage effectively with the City of Melbourne in the planning domain due to the rigour of the rules, schemes and building codes. This can in part be attributed to a number of statutory responsibilities assumed by the state government and while many would be keen to see these revert back to the City of Melbourne, community panels do provide an opportunity to engage and potentially influence government.

In stark distinction to the above people's panels, community panels comprise disinterested and independent members who are drawn from a larger pool of people. In order to avoid the "not in my backyard" claim, the constitution of the panel deliberately excludes those directly affected or involved in the planning application.

A key element of a community panel is that it is activated by the council on an ad hoc basis to consider development applications likely to significantly impact community amenity.

The community panel would hear the views of residents, businesses and consider



their testimony and also the views of the developer, architects and other key stakeholders. Expert advice would be sought from planning officers and where deemed appropriate, from other experts such as urban planners, heritage advisors, independent architects and other relevant advisors.

Council officers would of course evaluate planning and development applications against the approved planning and heritage criteria and make their recommendations to council. Establishing community panels to independently review designated planning proposals prior to their consideration by councillors provides an additional and useful source of advice.

Similar but not identical processes can be established in any area where councillors would benefit from community input. What

is needed is a willingness to receive advice through a formalised structure of eliciting community views. There is now a legislative requirement that they do so.

Dr Stan Capp has extensive experience in managing large organisations such as public health services and local government. He has conducted and researched strategies for involving the community in decision making on important issues ●



Dr Stan Capp
MEMBER OF RESIDENTS 3000
MELBOURNE



Taking everything essential online

For many small business owners, the current stress, anxiety and uncertainty being felt are enough to force even the busiest doors shut.

Few businesses will be enveloped by financial strain of this magnitude in their lifetime, but when you've been here before, you learn from those lessons in readiness for the future.

For Queen Victoria Market (QVM) trader and Inner Essentials owner, Robyn Faulkner, those lessons have been a somewhat cathartic journey.

"I have almost fallen on my face three times, but I've managed to resurrect myself," Ms Faulkner said. "Having to stop in time, look at what I'm doing and change what I need to keep moving forward has been the biggest key."

"For many years, I had wanted to take the next step to create my own business but didn't have the confidence. Then life throws all sorts of different challenges at you and prepares you to take that next step."

"I've changed my business countless times as I've seen the market change. You've got to in order to survive."

Calling the market's F Shed home, Ms Faulkner specialises in aromatherapy, selling a range of high-quality goods including essential oils, candles, candleholders, local chemical-free soaps.

In addition to the aromatherapy products, Ms Faulkner also produces a range of beautifully hand-crafted stained-glass, as well as offering relaxation massages.

It is this ever-present theme of adaptability that shines through in everything Ms Faulkner does that has prepared her for this day.

Now, faced with the trials and tribulations of a global pandemic, Ms Faulkner is again living by that simple ethos of "adapt or die" by shepherding her loyal customer base to online – no easy feat for a self-confessed people's person.

"Naturally, the pandemic has increased our online turnover because people can't come in anymore, but it has also allowed some of my long-time customers to continue getting what they need," Ms Faulkner said.

"The market has been a blessing on so many levels. I love the comradery of the traders. I was in five different locations on five different days, so I got to interact with so many different people."

"I want to remind people that by going to the market, you are supporting real people. It's the small businesses and local people that make the experience worthwhile."

With over nine years of market experience, and eight as the owner of Inner Essentials, Ms Faulkner has taken a no-nonsense approach to producing and sourcing her products, with the simple attitude of "I wouldn't use it if I didn't believe in it."

While having more than 25 years' experience in stained glass, Ms Faulkner is also a practising masseuse. Not only is she selling her products, but she is using them too.

"Our pain rub is one of our biggest sellers. I've tried it myself and massaged many hundreds and hundreds of people. It is great for stress and muscle relief," she said.

"There was one stage when we were so busy, my son Cameron was working with me.



He would be serving two to three customers at a time, and I would be massaging a client."

Ms Faulkner's holistic mantra to life and business has been the key to getting her through life so far and will no doubt be driving factor to thrive over the coming months ●

For more information visit:
inneressentials.com.au



Jack Hayes

BUSINESS EDITOR

JACK@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

WE LIVE HERE

Airbnb CEO "has mucked it all up"

Airbnb has reportedly taken a \$1.5 billion hit in the COVID-19 pandemic. Embattled CEO, Brian Chesky, is reported to be living with his mum again, bemoaning, "it felt like everything was breaking at once".

Perhaps the short-stay behemoth's financial predicament prompted a sudden awakening in the uncharacteristically morose Mr Chesky, who mused wistfully about regressing Airbnb to its genesis as a couch-surfing platform.

In an interview published by *The Sunday Times* this month, the Airbnb CEO was reported as saying, "We grew so fast, we made mistakes. We drifted. We really need to think through our impact on cities and communities."

Chesky was further quoted as saying the COVID-19 pandemic is "a reset for everything and everyone. Airbnb needs to change. We need to go back to basics - to what really made us successful in the first place."

Sadly, this illuminating insight is unlikely to reset Airbnb's moral compass.

High-rise apartments "vertical cruise ships"

Julian Rait OAM, president of the Australian Medical Association Victoria, has described how COVID-19 can spread easily through high-rise towers and apartment blocks.

This enormous epidemiological risk has given rise to the expression "vertical cruise ships of pandemics".

Recalcitrant short-stay operators are therefore compromising the safety of residential buildings by continuing to advertise during the Stage 4 lockdown.

Most commercial short-stay operators have closed shop, with many apartments reverting back to long-term leases or have been sold; with residents in many high-rise strata communities throughout Melbourne rediscovering the "quiet enjoyment" of their homes.

Just a few diehard rogue operators are flagrantly breaching COVID-19 restrictions that are arguably the most important safety protections that high-rise buildings could have.

The government has said it is working on this loophole and we are impatiently awaiting meaningful action.

If you see any illegal short-stay activity in your apartment building, report it immediately to the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or online at onlinereporting.police.vic.gov.au

You can also contact We Live Here if you require any advice or assistance.

Short-stays will endanger the COVID-19 recovery phase

It has become axiomatic that there will be a "new normal" following the lifting of Stage 4 lockdown restrictions.

Undoubtedly, the putative new normal will not be able to accommodate the return of commercial short-stay operations in high-rise residential buildings.

In this pandemic-afflicted era, common areas and compact spaces in busy lifts are simply incompatible with a high-volume turnover of "guests" in whole-apartment short-stays.

The state government needs to act now to frame regulations to mitigate the very real possibility of apartment short-stays triggering another pandemic outbreak.

Nobody wants another lockdown. Don't let apartment short-stays cause the next outbreak.

Cladding: building tally reaches 550

Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) has advised We Live Here that more than 550 buildings across Victoria have now been referred to CSV, an increase of about 60 in the past three months.

CSV has met with more than 400 individual owners' corporations (OCs) who have entered the program to discuss how they can assist in the process of cladding removal on their building.

More than 250 buildings have now been inspected and more than 100 independent project managers (IPMs) appointed to manage individual projects.

CSV told We Live Here that it was confident of having 100 buildings with rectification works in progress by the end of the year.

Fast-tracking of program

The Victorian government announced in June that it would bring forward funding to fast-track the rectification works to remove more cladding from apartment buildings sooner and support the construction industry in the wake of COVID-19.

To achieve this, CSV has reached out to a number of original builders that represent a substantial number of buildings already in the program; to date, there has been no indication of how many original builders have been approved for the program.

Stage 4 COVID-19 restrictions

Cladding rectification works have been classified as permitted works by the state government under critical state works throughout the Stage

4 lockdown.

CSV has a COVIDSafe Plan in place and all staff and contractors on their sites will have a permit under the state government's permit scheme. Their contractors are also obligated to have their own COVIDSafe Plans.

Comment from We Live Here

While it is reassuring to learn that the cladding rectification work is proceeding according to plan and not unduly affected by the current stage 4 restrictions, we are concerned that there is no published information about when or how funding will be allocated.

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to make a donate, please visit our website at welfare.net We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

EMAIL: CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET

LEARN MORE AT WELIVEHERE.NET



STREET ART

Artists in isolation

As Melbourne is moving towards the end of lockdown 4, all the artists in Melbourne have been forced to stay at home. And all the studios have been closed.

“

Artists are already at risk of poverty, mental health issues and loneliness. Locking them up and taking away the studio has had a dramatic effect on artists in Melbourne. The art shops are shut, and the galleries are closed, the social construct of the art world has been taken away.

”



Things at Blender Studios have come to a complete halt. The street art tours, the exhibitions, events, parties have stopped and now the artists are gone. It is a strange feeling walking around the studios with no one there creating. It's sad to see such a lively community space empty and devoid of energy. There are a lot of artists out there doing it tough, not being able to work in the studio is very hard. Pretty much all planned exhibitions have been postponed, and most artists have hit the dole.

It is hard to see how this will affect Melbourne's art world in the future. It's strange, but Australian artists have always risen and created in times of crisis. Like Grace Cossington-Smith's *The Sock Knitter*, a painting of women knitting socks for soldiers on the front line in France, and the *Angry Penguin* period which looked at the loss of Melbourne's innocence during the second world war.

Art will always prosper, and I can't wait to go to exhibitions and giant warehouse art parties

again. I look forward to my own exhibition which has been moved twice and is now set for February 2021. And I am sure that the art that is being made, and will be made, will be important. It will be a reflection through social realism the true nature of suburban isolation. It will be a reflection of the time.

Artists are more fragile than art history, so please if you have an artist friend, send them a message and reach out, artists are social creatures and are doing it particularly tough at

the moment. The art world will recover but we need to look out for people in all the arts at the moment as they are a vital part of Melbourne's culture and community ●



Adrian Doyle

ADRIAN DOYLE IS THE BLENDER STUDIOS

LEARN MORE ON THEBLENDERSTUDIOS.COM

SKYPAD LIVING

Do COVID-19 clouds have a silver or red lining for vertical villages?

During the past four months Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) has registered nearly 26,000 reduced rent agreements.

Now the timeframe for the supporting moratorium has been extended, with the state government announcing that rental increases and evictions (for both residential and commercial tenants) are suspended until December 31, 2020.

However, while this brings relief for many tenants, the Property Council of Australia cautions that this extension "will push many landlords to their limits or beyond".

This is of concern to our vertical villages as typically more than half of all apartments are rental properties, which means a significant number of owners may be severely financially impacted. Add to this the financial challenges that owner-occupiers are encountering, and it is unsurprising that apartment owners are asking that if they, too, can have some relief - such as a discount on their owners' corporation (OC) fee. After all, pools, gyms and other facilities are closed.

The short answer to requests for OC fee discounts is a (qualified) "no".

And the reasons for this are:

First, the harsh reality is that while we can't access our gyms, pools or courts, our vertical villages continue to incur major operational expenses. In fact, closing these facilities yields few, in any, savings. Equipment leases, for instance, still need to be paid and cleaning staff have typically been reassigned to other high-touch areas. Indeed, some buildings will likely have incurred additional costs during

COVID-19, such as increased cleaning (including deep cleans), installation of new hand hygiene stations (and their contents) and additional security (with some buildings opting for 24-hour concierge coverage).

Secondly, regulations do not support "fee discounts". As we know well, our OCs are not-for-profit entities, with OC fees set at a level to meet the budget. These budgets are presented and voted upon at the annual general meeting (AGM). This means that there is little scope to vary fees as the budgets (upon which OC fees are based) have been passed by resolution at the AGM.

However, reality trumps all and if finances are tight and there is not enough money to pay for contracted goods and services, then other options need to be considered.

Here are four.

1. Negotiate owner's payment plans - while discounts can't be given or fees waived, OCs can enter into agreements for scheduled payments. This is a win-win as it decreases owners' stress and the OC receives some funds (albeit over an extended period).
2. Reschedule planned maintenance - to the extent that it is safe to do so, works can be delayed to better match cash flow. However, there may be some impending large expenses (such as cladding removal) that may throw a spanner in these works!

3. Access external funds - OCs have the power to borrow money (with approval) or access a line of credit which could cover unpaid levies until received. However, this does mean that owners (who pay on time) will contribute to the interest charged for these loans (although penalty interest could be charged solely to the late payer).

4. Renegotiate existing agreements - similar to the advice given to residents, OCs need to talk to their suppliers, including insurers, utility providers and management companies, about better offerings. You might recall I reported upon the experience of an inaugural chairperson, Jamie Tarling, who, with the committee, had to deal with contractual arrangements put in place prior to the committee's formation. This included long-term contracts (up to 90 years' duration) and some with annual increases three times higher than inflation. This committee was able to negotiate a decrease in their annual fixed costs by \$120k without compromising amenity.

Tom Bacon from Strata Title Lawyers sees great merit in this strategy to renegotiate, making this point strongly at the Docklands Representative Group's (DTG) June webinar when he noted that many OCs were locked into non-competitive service agreements.

Mr Bacon said high-rise dwellers would often discover they were caught up in lengthy

contracts they did not know existed. His advice was that now was the time to start renegotiating as service providers were primed to engage around financial hardship.

As regards how to start, here are some steps.

- Form a sub-committee and identify your big-ticket items.
- Draw up a renewal schedule for the next 12 months, taking special note of multi-year agreements (any 25 year contracts?). Review contracts falling due, taking particular care to investigate fees and commission payments, including identifying relationships between the organisations receiving these payments (i.e. are they associated with your other suppliers?).

Talk to your peers (i.e. other OCs) and discuss their experiences. Get quotes, at least three if possible. Then start to negotiate. And finally, share your insights with your peers in other vertical villages.

Who knows, maybe this could be the start of vertical village group procurement! ●



Dr Janette Corcoran

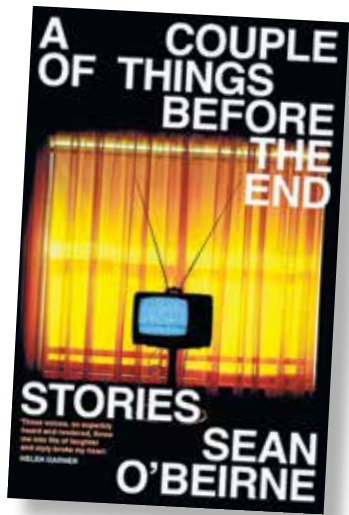
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

LEARN MORE ON [FACEBOOK.COM/ SKYPADLIVING/](https://www.facebook.com/skypadliving/)

The stupidity of us

“
If you're a Melbourne insider you have licence to sling off at the culture because the jokes have been handed down to you as a kid and you're conditioned to pick them up.

”



Who hasn't scoffed at the poor losers sent to Boy Scouts to be trained up in preparedness with pieces of string?

Or cringed at the sight of Barry Humphries impersonating a public figure?

Or quietly admired the oral tradition of telling riddles, playing the clown and generally mucking about instead of settling down to earn a dollar?

Sean O'Beirne's stories in *A Couple of Things before the End* come out of scenarios such as this, which he mucks about with even more.

What if a budding actress is on the ship carrying the famous Barry to England and is hoping for an audition? She might be disappointed.

What if it is 1970 or even 1980 and you are caught out late and need to phone your parents for a lift?

Easy, if you've been through a few challenges for the Scouts 'cause you'll have 20 cents in your pocket for the call.

O'Beirne is a CBD lad who works(ed) at Readings in the State Library and *A Couple of Things* is his first book.

This is really a collection of skits rather than conventional stories and their irreverence, nostalgia, details and humour used to define us.

O'Beirne's contemporary place in the lit culture, however, and his feel for the theatre of politics saves the collection from being a return to "simpler" times.

In the superb "Julian, 11am" the narrator is a lecturer in critical theory who waxes lyrical about his preference for Derrida, citing the French theorist's relevance for the times as an antidote to corporate expansion.

He's taking his 10-year-old daughter to the movies while reflecting on Derrida as a thinker who refuses to be pinned down by the capitalist

system.

When the daughter insists upon popcorn the narrator reluctantly acquiesces but he draws the line at actually watching the movie with her, preferring to hang around like an idiot in the foyer.

In other stories O'Beirne gets stuck into the bigotry of Bogan culture and dutifully satirises a few burning political issues.

But for sheer dark humour, how could you go past "Nathan and Jordan", two grotty little boys who fall for a lolly mum who sings "Yummy Yummy Yummy" every time she offers them treats?

There are Force bars, Zip Chips, Muffin Chocs and Berry Fruit Bombs placed strategically around her home, a dream come true for Nathan and Jordan who gorge themselves stupid.

This book is mostly a tribute to/piss-take of males and their postures, from being leaders of political parties to being nerds.

You don't have to agree with O'Beirne to appreciate the contribution this book makes to our knowledge of the Aussie cringe.

A Couple of Things before the End, Sean O'Beirne, Black Inc, 2020 ●



Rhonda Dredge
JOURNALIST
RHONDA@CBDNEWS.COM.AU

Happy Hour

Please Leave Your Light On is the name of the album by Paul Grabowski and Paul Kelly. It is a sublime and beautiful record.

The film clip to *Sonnet 138* shows jazz maestro Grabowski sitting at the piano and Paul Kelly standing nearby, reciting text. They are performing and recording at the Primrose Potter Salon, the warm, intimate space located at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

The acoustics are sensational in the room, with timber panels, contoured plywood faces on the walls and ceiling. Engraved into these features is the visual score to a Percy Grainger composition.

Grainger was a brilliant concert pianist and composer, who was prominent in promoting Edvard Grieg in the classical music world. Grabowski and Paul Kelly are in their element in this room revelling in each other's company. Paul Kelly of course is a national treasure and Grabowski is revered in the jazz universe.

Petrichor is the name of one of the songs on the refined and sublime album. A couple of CSIRO scientists invented the word "Petrichor" to describe the smell that is created when rain hits the dusty ground. Dry and old boulders in the weather. *Rain* by Dragon was played on the PA at an AFL ground at quarter time during a torrential downpour. For a detailed scientific explanation, ask Dr Karl.

Readers are able to watch Paul Kelly perform *Petrichor* on the Ditty TV YouTube channel. When Kelly introduces the song, his arms reach out to the audience like a Baptist preacher. Explaining the song about the smell of rain. In the Coal Valley in Tasmania there is *Petrichor Wines*, ticking boxes in an organic way, their Pinot Noir is recommended. Drink a bottle of *Petrichor Pinot Noir* while listening to *Please Leave Your Light On*.

Gertrude St diner Gaea (Mother Earth) has *Petrichor Pinot Noir* on the wine list, with wildflowers and herbs on the wall. Gaea is next to coffee house Calère. The Beatles' *Rain* featured the first application of sampling a song and playing it backwards John Lennon once said.

Paul Kelly covered The Beatles song *And I Love Her*, one of the many highlights from the film *A Hard Days Night*.

There's a new Paul Kelly book by Stuart Coupe (who has known Kelly for decades, back when Kelly recorded the great *Gossip* album) entitled *The Man The Music And The Life In Between* and it is a ripper of a book that is most readable. A song from *Gossip* that is adored by many is *Randwick Bells*. Steve Kilbey of The Church performed *Randwick Bells* on one of his recent shows in the virtual world.

Steve Kilbey's *Something Quite Peculiar* is another book that you should consider reading. The SK virtual show is an example of a muso driving along and singing his favourite songs.

Suzie Stapleton's *We Are The Plague* (Negative Prophet Records) is a dark, brooding, prophetic rock Album, recorded south west of London at Ox4 Studios. Hard driven swaggering blues and rock and roll, as exciting as Showmanship winning the last race of the day with William Pike in the saddle. Reminiscent of Patti Smith.

Triple R has its Radiothon coming up, like a flower, and they have been broadcasting stellar radio during lockdown. One fine example was when Steve Cross played the entire playlist from a 1977 Johnny Rotten curated radio show. Triple R, worthy of your support.

Steve Lucas, Heinous Hounds singer/ guitarist has a Happy Hour music show every Wednesday and it is fantastic. Worth catching ●



Chris Mineral
MINERALSANDS@HOTMAIL.COM

MELBOURNE BUSINESS NETWORK

Celebrating business in our city

In these challenging COVID-19 times, there are still opportunities to recognise and celebrate success.

Numerous businesses and businesspeople have been able to pivot, thrive and excel in these most adverse of conditions.

Applications are open now for the MBN B3000+ Awards – but they close soon! Along with our principal sponsor, the City of Melbourne, the Melbourne Business Network is keen to acknowledge businesses and entrepreneurs located within the municipality.

- Have you developed a unique or new product, service, system, device, or process? Or even pivoted your business in a novel way in response to these current conditions?
- Are you a new business or start-up kicking goals despite being in business between one and three years?
- Are you a female entrepreneur who is a great leader, innovator and a fabulous role model for women and young people?
- Are you under 30 years of age and doing great things on the leadership or innovation front?

In 2020, there are **FOUR B3000+ Awards categories:**

- The Alan Knipe Innovation Award sponsored by StarRez Inc.
- New Business Award sponsored by Northbridge Capital
- Female Entrepreneur Award sponsored by Advancing Women in Business and Sport
- Young Entrepreneur Award sponsored by Business Authorities

Winning an award – or even being short-listed – can have an incredible impact on your organisation. They can help you to differentiate from competitors, open doors, strengthen your brand recognition with free coverage, build team morale and make it easier to recruit talented staff.

Former winners have included prominent Melbourne businesses and entrepreneurs, such as Keep Cup, Kinfolk, STREAT, Middleton Group, Michelle Redfern of Advancing Women in Business and Sport, 3 Phase Marketing, Gambina, SmartMeasures, Profile Booth and the list goes on...

Entries close at midnight on August 31, so get in fast!

To enter, visit: b3000awards.org.au

The Melbourne Business Network (MBN) is a membership-based networking organisation that contributes to the economic development of Melbourne by facilitating connections, communications and collaboration with businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs and provides business critical information and access to subject matter experts ●

For more information visit:
melbournebusinessnetwork.org.au



Wendi Dawson
WENDI DAWSON IS PRESIDENT OF THE MELBOURNE BUSINESS NETWORK



Coffee break

小生意补助揭晓

在最新一轮的州政府支持下，针对受冠状病毒（COVID-19）疫情严重影响的，位于CBD，Docklands和Southbank的小生意，将受益于\$5000到\$15000的补助。

撰稿：David Schout

这个2000万澳元的一揽子补助计划将分为两部分，其中1000万专门用于小型酒店的运营商，另外1000万用于所谓的“实体店”商家。

邮编为3000（墨尔本）、3005和3008（Docklands）、以及3006（Southbank）的小生意业主将有资格申请该补助计划，这个计划自7月宣布以来至今几乎没有

有包含任何详细信息。

在宣布此计划时，州政府指出，自第三阶段和第四阶段的“在家办公”指令开始实施以来，墨尔本市中心的商业比维州其它企业面临“更大、更持久的贸易环境冲击”。

这笔 \$5000的补助适用于有11至100个座位的餐饮服务场所，以及所有其他雇用相当于50名全职人员的小型企业。

他们还必须参与联邦政府JobKeeper补助计划。



那笔\$15000的补助可用于容纳101个或更多座位的餐饮服务场所。

没有雇员的个体经营者、政治组织、筹款团体和政府部门，以及不超过10个座位的经营场所，都不属于这次补助范围。

市中心较大的酒店企业(工资总额超过300万澳元但不到1000万澳元)有资格获得另外单独的补助。

这些补助拨款是州政府更广泛的商业支持计划的一部分，总价值超过5亿澳元。

应急住房援助延伸

今年7月，州政府扩大了资助范围，提供空置酒店为无家可归者用于应急住房，其中包括目前在中央商务区酒店避难的大约1000人。

撰稿：Meg Hill

该计划是在疫情大流行开始时提出的，新一轮的援助将把原计划延长到明年4月，还将支付租赁1100套私人租赁房产用于永久避难住房的费用。

无家可归者委员会首席执行官珍妮·史密斯(Jenny Smith)此前曾警告说，临时酒店住房将造成“瓶颈”，并敦促州政府宣布一项永久住房计划。

她说：“我们非常高兴政府已经宣布了过渡措施，利用空置的租赁房产，并着眼于中期出租。”

“但是我们需要的是能满足需求的保障性住房；让我们社区中收入最低的人们将能够负担得起。”

史密斯女士表示，我们已要求政府在未来10年中，每年提供6000套新的保障性住房，使维州的保障性住房比例能达到全国平均比率的4.5%。

维州目前是最底的保障性住房存量比例，占有住房的3.2%。

史密斯女士说，在疫情大流行的最初几个月中，有4500人被安置在维州范围内的酒店。

“这表明，露宿街头的人确实希望有机会获得安全住所，他们会接受质量适中并安全的住所。我们真的应该能够利用这一点，解决这一长期的问题。”

“不利的一面是，虽然现在是8月中旬，但一些人可能从3月中旬开始就住在酒店里，他们一直生活在不确定之中，然而最后期限越来越接近，当然现在补助计划也延长了。”

史密斯还表示，鉴于保障性住房存量低，无家可归者或在公共住房等候名单上的人数多，弱势群体被列为优先考虑对象。

国际学生接触居民团体



撰稿：Meg Hill

澳大利亚的疫情和封锁给国际学生带来了沉重打击。

封锁导致了许多人失业，但是不同与澳大利亚公民，国际学生没有资格享受JobSeeker和JobKeeper政府补贴。

墨尔本市有3万名国际学生。今年5月，市政宣布了一项针对国际学生的食品券计划，但有17000名国际学生提出申领，该计划只得限制名额给1000名学生。

国际学生群体在疫情大流行前就已经受到社会孤立。由于这次疫情，无法进行面对面授课学习的大学校园生活，还有其它大多数社交活动和工作机会，情况变得极为严峻。

墨尔本大学的一些学生被要求通过墨尔本研究组织的一个项目来帮助墨尔本市政解决当地国际学生和居住社区融合困难。

一位来自印度的国际学生索哈姆·乔普拉(Soham Chopra)参与了该项目，他在疫情开始前几周才到达墨尔本。

他说：“我在二月份来到澳大利亚学习管理学硕士课程。澳大利亚是最好的教育国家之一，墨尔本大学排名很高。”

“来这里生活，一开始就非常意外。在封锁前的四周，我在结交朋友和外出，但自封锁之后，一切变得艰难了。”

乔普拉先生说：“我真的还未好好看过墨尔本，”尽管他受到了大学的帮助并获得了大学的补助，但是他的情况仍然很严峻。

“在经济上很艰难，因为显然在印度也受到了很大的疫情打击。我本打算在这里工作，但疫情爆发得太突然，我无法做出任何具体安排。”

这个来自印度、台湾和中国的六名学生组成的小组联系了该地区五个最大的居民团体，并对国际学生群体作了问卷调查。

他说：“我们与Parkville居民协会、Carlton居民协会、Southbank居民协会、Kensington居民协会和East Enders居民协会举行了会议。”

“通过这项研究，我们最终为墨尔本市政提出了五项倡议。”

他说，首先是鼓励居民团体能包容国际学生，并让他们作为正式代表。

他说：“现有的居民团体委员会会有很多来自社区的人，但没有学生。”

最近一个国际学生团体发起了一个活动项目，目的是将国际学生群体与墨尔本市当地居民社区联系起来。

酒吧营业至凌晨3点申请再遭拒绝



位于中央商务区(CBD)东端的一家屋顶酒吧要求营业至凌晨3点的营业申请第二次遭到拒绝，因为维州酒类监管机构认为，该酒吧“损害或不利于周边环境。”

撰稿：David Schout

一位当地居民表示，这一裁决应该为CBD居民树立一个期望的先例。

位于Meyers Place的Loop Rooftop酒吧业主对维州赌博和酒类监管委员会（VC-GLR）于2019年做出的裁决提出了上诉，当时的裁决拒绝了其营业从凌晨1点延长至凌晨3点的许可。

该场所既是2003年开业的楼下项目空间，也是2013年开业的楼上屋顶酒吧。

业主认为，楼上酒吧产生的额外收入将弥补楼下项目空间的损失，该项目空间被宣布为“位于墨尔本音乐和艺术社区中心的创意平台。”

他们认为延长经营时间可以更好地资助艺术家、电影制片人和作家的创作。根据这次听证文件，他们认为该申请代表了当地的“经济和社会利益”，因为有额外的供应合同、员工和游客消费。

但在听取了四名反对者的证词后，委员会决定驳回申请，这四名反对者分别是位于酒吧以东约30米的Windsor Place 25号居民和房东。

委员会不认可所谓凌晨3点顾客离开酒吧时的噪音不会对当地人造成干扰，也不满意酒吧有控制噪音的适当策略。

委员会还注意到，有证据表明，在过去几年里，噪音投诉并没有得到业主有效地处理或解决。

Business Directory

If you are not in this trades and services directory, then email advertising@cbdnews.com.au or phone 8689 7980 to get a simple line-listing for three months for FREE!!!

Accounting



Maximising your profits by minimising your tax
PH 9603 0066
www.rubiixbusinessaccountants.com.au

Networking



Melbourne Business Network
Level 20, 600 Bourke Street, Melbourne
admin@melbournebusinessnetwork.org.au
Phone 03 8637 5075



THE LARGEST TERRACES IN MELBOURNE

TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT CALL 1300 888 770 OR DISCOVER A TERRACE STORY AT MELBSQUARE.COM.AU

School



www.haileybury.vic.edu.au
HAILEYBURY
KEYBOROUGH BRIGHTON BERWICK CITY MELB

Coworking



Flexible Workspace Solutions

- Private Offices
- Meeting Rooms
- Coworking
- Virtual Offices
- Conference Space
- Boardrooms

1300 788 292 · victoryoffices.com.au

Owners Corporation



Owners Corporation Management you can trust.

Experience the difference.
1300 553 613 theknight.com.au



818 Bourke Street, Docklands VIC 3008
T: 03 9001 1333

SALES Glenn Donnelly m: 0419 998 235
LEASING Lina D'Ambrosio m: 0430 929 851

www.cityresidentialbourkestreet.com.au
SELLING | LEASING | PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



www.smnthmelbourne.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 93299206

Entertainment



MELBOURNE STAR
OBSERVATION WHEEL

101 Waterfront Way, Docklands, 3008
melbournestar.com

Property

EAST Tower
Melbourne Quarter

Elevate Your Urban Lifestyle

Learn more and submit an enquiry at:
melbournequarter.com/live/apartments-for-rent/




Residential Sales, Leasing & Property Management

Call Chris on 1300 997 514
Email chris@chrissnell.com.au Visit chrissnell.com.au
21 Victoria Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000

✓ Melbourne Resident ✓ Melbourne Agent ✓ Making Property Personal

Shopping



thedistrictdocklands.com.au

Family Law



Pearce Webster Dugdales
Working with individuals, families & business.

Tel: 9614 5122 Fax: 9614 2964
www.pearcewebster.com.au

Real Estate

YOUR CITY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY SPECIALISTS

Belle Property Melbourne & Carlton
151-153 Clarendon Street, Southbank
129 Elgin Street, Carlton

Sam Fenna
0437 309 715

Scott McElroy
0411 889 972



Selling & Leasing the best homes in the CBD.

Nelson Alexander
846 Bourke St, Docklands 9251 9000

QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

For the best fresh produce, gourmet food and specialty shopping, you can't beat Queen Vic Market.

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Saturday & Sunday
with plenty of affordable parking.

QVM.COM.AU



Melbourne City Sales
We can achieve you better results, faster.
03 9612 8862
www.colliers.com.au/melbournecitysales

Renovations

Semi - Retired Builder at Your Service

- Carpentry
- Painting
- Tiling
- Renovations
- All Jobs

Call Bruce
0402 438 844
DBU 13652



Window Sound-Proofing

SOUNDPROOFING WINDOWS

For body corporate and heritage listed homes and apartments

1800 880 844



ADD ON DOUBLE GLAZING

CBD NEWS

Talk to CBD News owner Sean Car
T 0433 930 484
E sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au
about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.

Council suspends parking fines after social media storm

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has suspended parking restrictions and fees in green sign parking bays after a fine issued to an ICU doctor sparked community outrage.

Despite having parked in a red zone, Royal Melbourne Hospital doctor Katarina Arandjelovic received a \$99 parking fine on the August 11 after finishing a long shift and took to Twitter to express her frustration.

In a tweet to Lord Mayor Sally Capp and the council, she said that after working 56 hours in four days “helping look after some of our state’s sickest patients”, the parking fine was an unwelcome discovery.

“In lockdown, who do you think is parking in the streets by the hospital? It is the doctors, nurses, orderlies, pharmacists, physios, technicians, cleaners, cooks, ward clerks,” Dr Arandjelovic tweeted.

“So, when you send a parking inspector to Parkville, know that it is these people you are targeting.”

In response, the City of Melbourne tweeted, “vehicles parked in residential parking areas with red signs are still subject to restrictions”—which was met with a torrent of angry replies.

To quell the community response, the City of Melbourne withdrew the fine and later announced the council would be issuing 5000 additional temporary parking permits for frontline workers.

“Sorry we missed the mark on this tweet,” the City of Melbourne tweeted.

“Given your critical role, we have withdrawn the fine. Royal Melbourne Hospital is being provided with additional frontline worker permits. Please grab one! We have given out 8000 so far to nurses and doctors.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that the 5000 additional permits meant that up to 15,000 permits had been issued to frontline workers in total.



▲ A vehicle is stung with a parking fine in the city.

“Health workers are doing an amazing job at this difficult time. We understand they are playing a critical role saving the lives of many Victorians who have been diagnosed with COVID-19,” the Lord Mayor said.

However, when Premier Daniel Andrews was asked about Dr Arandjelovic’s fine during a press conference on August 12, he said that he would “follow up on that matter” as essential workers should not be receiving parking fines at all.

“I don’t think that someone who’s in there literally saving lives at considerable risk to themselves should be the subject of a parking ticket,” Premier Andrews said.

When asked if parking inspectors should be an essential service, Mr Andrews said that he would clarify with the council.

“They don’t work for the Victorian government, but their status can be determined

“

They [parking officers] play an important role in managing public safety and road access for residents, essential workers and emergency service vehicles - City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney.

”

by us and I’m more than happy to chase that up,” he said.

The Premier’s intervention resulted in parking fines in green sign areas being suspended throughout the municipality during Stage Four lockdown on August 14.

City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney said that parking officers would still be considered essential workers and “will continue to be visible on our streets.”

“They play an important role in managing public safety and road access for residents, essential workers and emergency service vehicles,” Mr Hanney said.

During lockdown, parking officers will still be enforcing restrictions for red sign parking bays including no-stopping areas, loading zones, tow-way clearings, disability parking spaces and any other case where a vehicle creates a risk to public safety or access.

The decision to suspend minor parking fines has been a welcome development to many CBD residents such as Chriss Mannix, who questioned whether parking inspectors should fall under the category of “essential”.

“A question I would love to have answered is why parking officers are considered to be essential workers when an accountant can’t work alone in their own office. I can’t see how they fit in the framework provided,” Mr Mannix said.

Another CBD resident, Lisa Moses, said that it had been disheartening to see fines still being handed out during lockdown.

“I saw one putting a ticket on someone’s window in City Rd the other day. I too wondered why they were still out walking around, revenue raising no doubt. And there are so many car parks empty. But still out trying to find the odd one to fine,” Ms Moses said.

But Cr Rohan Leppert said that the new suspension on parking fines would encourage people to break the rules.

“This entire idiotic debate is being carried out on the basis that there is an endless supply of on street carparking,” Cr Leppert said.

“When I get flooded with emails from residents who can’t park within cooee of their homes despite having a residential permit that they’ve paid for, what do I do? Send them to the Premier?”

To combat this issue, Justin Hanney said that the council was working with state government to have commercial car parks re-opened to take pressure off on-street car parking.

“We understand that these restrictions will also impact our residents using residential permit zones and we will continue to advocate on their behalf,” Mr Hanney said ●

For more information:
melbourne.vic.gov.au/parking

Colliers International Melbourne City Sales

 Daniel Wolman National Director	 Oliver Hay National Director	 Matthew Stagg Director	 Chris Ling Associate Director	 Leon Ma 马海翔 Associate Director
 Holly Richards Marketing Executive	 Tanisha Seeling Marketing Assistant	 Anthony Kirwan Manager	 Dave Walker Executive	 George Davies Executive

We can achieve you better results, faster. Contact the City of Melbourne specialists for an obligation free discussion about your commercial property today on 03 9612 8862 or visit colliers.com.au/melbournecitysalesexperts

**Experts in the Melbourne CBD and City Fringe
Commercial Property Market**

