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We're back, baby!
Photo by John Tadigiri

October finally saw the end to Victoria's gruelling lockdowns and local families took to Degraives St to enjoy some well deserved freedom, as the CBD and its many struggling businesses look to open back up in November.

The council election results are (nearly) in!

An early sample of City of Melbourne election votes suggest Sally Capp is a warm favourite to be returned as Lord Mayor, but she might still face a challenge from rival Arron Wood on preferences and donkey votes.

WORDS BY Sean Car & Jake Pike
ELECTIONS

By the time *CBD News* published its November 2020 edition on October 28, some scrutineer sources had Ms Capp as a firm favourite, while others predicted the count would go down to the wire following the council elections on October 24.

While a winner wasn't expected to be announced until Friday, October 30 at the very earliest, some early scrutineer data had already suggested some likely certainties with the first five councillor positions locked in.

With Ms Capp understood to be polling around 30 per cent on both the leadership and councillor cards, her first two councillor candidates in Kevin Louey and Liberal party member Roshena Campbell appear to have won the first two spots on council.

With Arron Wood believed to be polling at around 18 per cent and a lower 15 per cent on the councillor card, his first councillor candidate Jason Chang too appears a certainty. He'll be joined by Greens councillor Rohan Leppert and the Labor Party's Davvyd Griffiths.

Should Ms Capp's vote continue to hold steady, it would likely see the first ever indigenous councillor elected to the City of Melbourne in Mark McMillan, who ran third on the Team Capp ticket.

Arron Wood's second councillor candidate in former councillor and Liberal Party member Peter Clarke

also appears likely to get up. But perhaps the biggest surprise is the likely election of Liberal Democrat candidate and Southbank resident Paul Silverberg.

Early predictions have Mr Silverberg polling around six per cent in what many have put down to a sheer case of winning over dummy Liberal voters purely on the basis of having the word "Liberal" in his party name.

While the Liberal Party officially endorses candidates in neighbouring cities such as Sydney and Brisbane, the result could provide the impetus for changing its strategy in Melbourne, with its unofficial candidate Philip Le Liu now in a struggle to win back his seat.

This election also looks to have been somewhat of a hit to the left, with The Greens' second councillor Olivia Ball facing a nervous wait to reclaim the party's second seat on council, previously held by the retired Cathy Oke.

Docklands resident and independent candidate Jamal Hakim is presenting as Ms Ball's biggest challenge. Despite polling with around 0.3 per cent of the primary vote, his clever preference negotiations could see him home.

Early predictions suggest Mr Le Liu should sneak home on preferences, however the first candidate on the Jennifer Yang ticket Elizabeth Doidge is a smokey but would require

Continued on page 3.

FOMO: council activation revealed

WORDS BY Sean Car
BUSINESS

As Victoria slowly emerges from lockdowns, the City of Melbourne will soon look to attract visitors back to the CBD and its much-loved venues, restaurants and public spaces with a "big old dose of FOMO (fear of missing out)".

In what comes as welcome news to the city's businesses and residents following the devastating second wave of COVID-19 in Victoria, the council will soon launch a signature marketing campaign to revive the city with a range of COVID-safe events and activations.

Titled "FOMO", details of the campaign seen by *CBD News* outline a strategy to drive visitors back to the CBD and its surrounds through a series of activities and promotions which showcase the city's range of uniquely Melbourne experiences.

While research commissioned by the council shows increasing challenges around the likes of crowds and public transport post COVID, consumers say the city is still the best location for events, festivals, museums, galleries, gigs, hospitality and shopping.

The FOMO campaign, expected to launch in January, will seek to reimagine the city and reconnect people with many of its favourite tastes, sounds and experiences that they've been "missing out" on during lockdowns.

Showcasing the best Melbourne has to offer to drive a real sense of FOMO, planned events and exclusive offers from the city's favourite venues and businesses will be aimed at drawing people back in a COVID-safe manner.

Further details around some of the campaign's activation ideas are expected to be announced later this year but many initiatives to support the strategy, such as pedestrianisation of "little streets" and outdoor dining infrastructure, are already being actioned (see story on page 6).

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The deadline for the December/January edition is November 19.

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FOMO: council activation revealed

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But some promotions earmarked in the strategy, such as “FOMO Fridays” and dedicated FOMO events, will seek to partner with the city’s precincts and businesses to provide special offers and experiences. Other activations flagged incorporate a range of ideas already canvassed publicly such as outdoor entertainment, dining and wayfinding experiences.

With the CBD bearing the brunt of Victoria’s economic decline from the second wave of coronavirus, talk of plans to revive the city is nothing new, with Lord Mayor Sally Capp having established a high-profile advisory board in July to provide ideas to the council.

The City of Melbourne also established the City of the Future/Recovery Taskforce at the start of the pandemic, and in September



We will dramatically increase our marketing program to draw people back into the city. Our marketing of the city will be intensive, creative and highly collaborative, with opportunities for businesses to participate.



councillors endorsed a COVID-19 reactivation and recovery plan. This was supported by a joint \$100 million recovery fund with the state government dedicated to the central city.

October 26 also saw the launch of the “Let’s Melbourne Again” campaign by a host of big businesses, creative institutions and the City of Melbourne, aimed at encouraging people to return to the city.

City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney said the coming months would see the rollout of many initiatives from its reactivation and recovery plan.

“This summer will be like no other and we’re planning some fantastic events that you won’t want to miss out on,” he said.

“Lots of people miss the city and we want to make sure that when they return it’s a vibrant place.”

“We’re planning a number of really exciting activations including Creative Laneways, our annual Christmas Festival and an extended Melbourne Music Week.”

“We will dramatically increase our marketing

program to draw people back into the city. Our marketing of the city will be intensive, creative and highly collaborative, with opportunities for businesses to participate.”

“We want to see pop-up activities bringing life into the city over the vital Christmas period and our retail and hospitality venues buzzing.” ●

For more information:
melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-melbourne/covid-19-recovery



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Southbank by Beulah

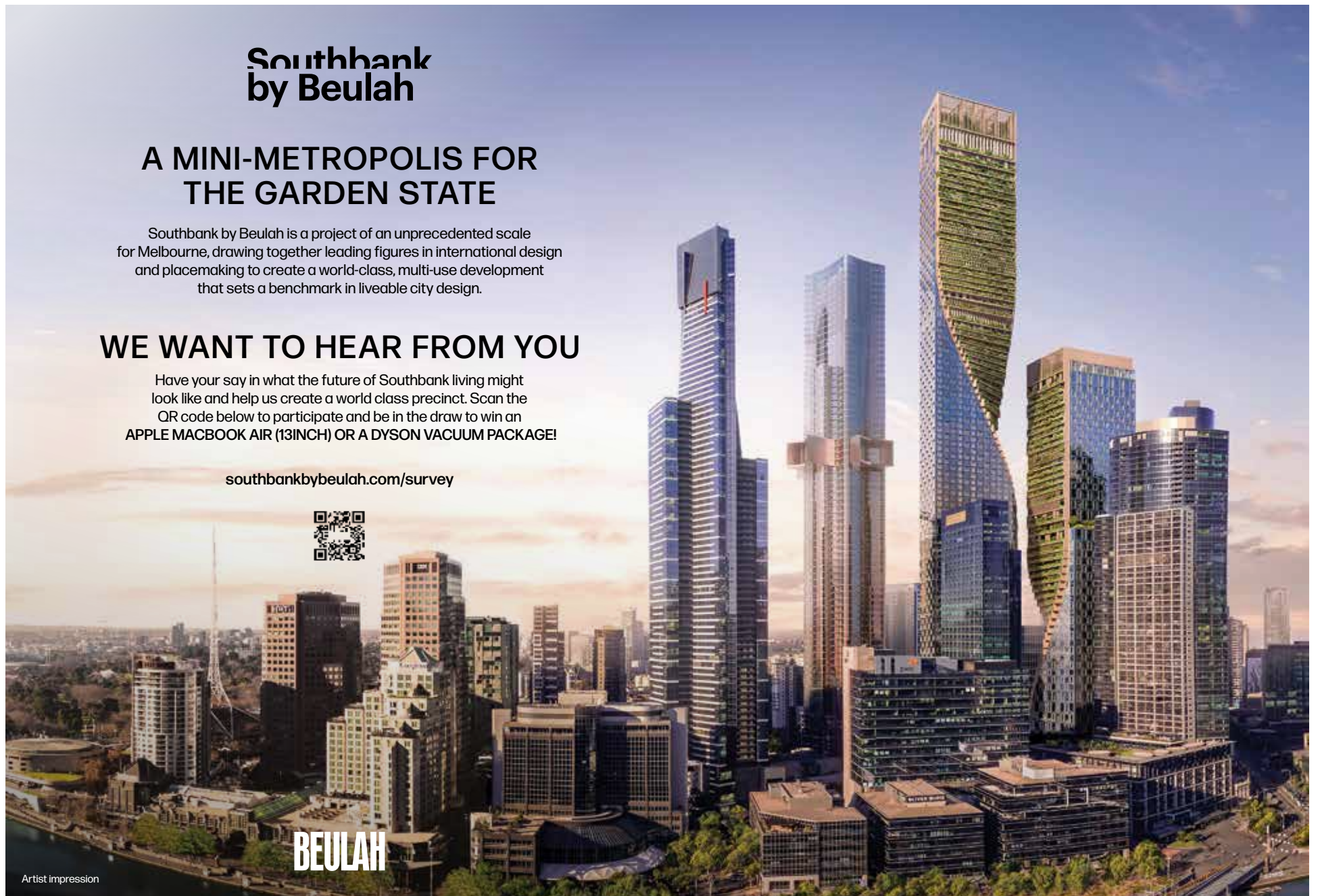
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BEULAH

Artist Impression

The council election results are (nearly) in!

Continued from page 1.

a significant drop in the Capp primary vote, which appears unlikely.

The Labor Party's endorsed team led by party veteran Phil Reed also appears to have underperformed, with second councillor candidate and highly-regarded operator Mary Delahunty missing out on a council spot.

But the real interest hangs on the leadership contest which on early projections has Ms Capp winning with a team of five, joined by her deputy candidate and Labor Party member Nick Reece.

But with many late votes still to come in when *CBD News* went to print, early predictions could yet be undone and Mr Wood, who has the luck of the donkey vote, negotiated some great preference deals and ran a solid campaign, is still a big chance.

While Team Capp's decision to not negotiate any preference deals was admirable in one sense, it probably wasn't the smartest political move and it has potentially left her exposed should Mr Wood's vote draw to within 10 per cent of her own.

But while Mr Wood will collect some major preferences from the likes of The Greens and sits above Ms Capp on the voting card, a preference-donkey vote victory for Mr Wood weighs heavily on voters following their how-to-vote cards, which is historically low.

But an election in a pandemic is uncharted territory so throw out the rule book as anything is possible!

Either way, if early data doesn't lie then we would appear to be have a council that is slightly more conservative, less gender-balanced and has less residents than non-residents. As many predicted, the virtual nature of the campaign has certainly weighed in favour of those with more political capital and profile, with grassroots campaigns thrown out the window thanks to COVID-19.

But should Ms Capp hold on, the result would



▲ The potentially elected Team Capp bloc of five: (L-R) McMillan, Campbell, Reece, Capp and Louey.

suggest a vote for stability during a pandemic, with the Lord Mayor having shown a steady pair of hands in her first two years since assuming the role from Robert Doyle.

While Mr Doyle recorded above and around the 40 mark on both the leadership and councillor cards in 2016, Team Capp has had to compete with a much for stacked field this time around, which has also seen a significantly higher voter turnout.

Despite leaving his run late, if Mr Wood does manage to sneak home it would be quite the achievement, and one hard not to admire given what was a solid and well-articulated campaign from the former Deputy Lord Mayor.

But either way, he'll leave a legacy of having teamed up with The Greens to remove councillor Jackie Watts from the council, who exits the council after three terms running on the Gary Morgan ticket.

What will prove a significant difference this time around under Ms Capp as Lord Mayor, is that she'll wield more power on the council with her new bloc of five meaning less paralysis in decision-making.

She said overall, she remained optimistic about her chances, but wasn't taking anything for granted.

"We all just have to be patient while the count continues," she said.

"As we await the final results from the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), I continue to carry out the duties of Lord Mayor."

"I'm meeting with the CEO of the City of Melbourne to ensure that we do not miss a beat, do not miss an opportunity to help city businesses to re-open."

"My focus remains on the City of Melbourne, making sure we can re-open in a COVID safe way to save lives and livelihoods."

With results yet to be formally announced by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) watch this space! *CBD News's* sister publications *Docklands News* and *Southbank News* will bring you more comprehensive coverage of all of the winners and losers in the coming weeks.

Voter confusion

The new local government electoral rules which regulated the October 24 local government elections have caused some confusion among voters.

If you received a secondary voting pack from the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) for an investment property or building lease this election for the first time, you're not alone.

CBD News has received reports of people receiving ballot packs for additional properties they own in Victoria for the first time, despite owning the properties for years.

The new 2020 legislation meant that anyone on the state electoral roll for an additional property before 2020 was automatically added to the new system, which is why people have received additional ballots this year.

Senior media and communication advisor at the VEC, Ruth Murphy said that the new legislation has led to a decrease of 200,000 non-resident votes this election across the state due to non-Australian residents not being automatically added to the state roll.

"There has been a slight decline in the number of non-residents on the roll for the City of Melbourne, because property owners who do not live in Australia are no longer automatically on the roll," she said.

But non-Australian residents who were enrolled and had overseas addresses listed received voting packs by priority post.

Since the 2018 Lord Mayoral by-election for the City of Melbourne, the VEC has worked with the Local Government Inspectorate (LGI) to inform property managers on voting laws after the LGI found that property managers had illegally filled out 41 voting packs for landlords.

Voting for another person could come a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, but it is almost impossible to detect and the offenders in the 2018 by-election were only caught because they signed their own names to multiple ballot packs.

If you're unfamiliar with the voting rights in Victoria, landlords have been able to vote in council elections where they own property since 1986, as long as they do not live within the same council area.

But the good news is that voting packs for non-resident property owners and ratepayers are not mandatory if the council area is not the same as your primary address and you will not be fined if you didn't vote with your secondary ballot.

That is unless the property is in the jurisdiction of the City of Melbourne, which due to the *City of Melbourne Act 2001* means that all eligible voters are required to vote or risk a fine.

If you didn't vote in the council elections, you can expect a fine of \$83 if you can't convince the VEC that you had a valid excuse when they send out failure to vote notices in January 2021 ●

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EIGHT INSPIRING MELBOURNE AWARDS FINALISTS



Street art in Southbank by CTO

This year's Melbourne Awards shine a light on community champions who have shown great leadership, kindness and generosity during COVID-19.

The Melbourne Awards are the City of Melbourne's highest accolade, celebrating inspirational people who dedicate their time and energy to making this city a world leader.

The 2020 awards recognise people who have made a significant contribution in the following categories: business, digital innovation, youth, community, essential services, and arts and culture.

Read on to discover just a few of the finalists.

1 Virtual school holiday fun

Home-delivered activity kits for kids aged 5 to 12 and full days of online fun and education led by experts have been a great help for working parents in recent months. This innovation was the brainchild of KidsCo, a company that ran on-site school holiday programs at workplaces before COVID-19.

2 Live music in your lounge room

Enjoy live music from home thanks to the weekly Isol-Aid Festival on Instagram. At the end of each set, the musicians tag the next artist to perform, sending fans down a rabbit hole of new music discovery. This event draws a growing community each week, with more than 18,500 unique viewers.

3 Selfless service

Driven by sewa (selfless service) the Sikh Volunteers group has been working harder than ever to support people of all backgrounds during COVID-19. Every day, volunteers have provided free food and water to people in need, distributing more than 84,000 meals in the past four months alone.

4 High-school hackathons

Nathaniel Diong has spent his lockdown helping educators adapt to remote learning and running virtual hackathons to inspire thousands of high-schoolers to build startups with social impact. He also helped run the global #StartingGood Virtual Summit, a free event for social entrepreneurs.

5 Stirring street art

Keep an eye out in Southbank for Peter 'CTO' Seaton's eye-catching mural that depicts two masked people in a loving embrace. The self-funded artwork made a splash in the media and resonated with millions of viewers around the world who have been yearning for connection during restrictions.

6 Accessible pet care

The vets, vet nurses and animal welfare officers at Lort Smith have worked tirelessly to support much-loved Melburnian animals and their carers during COVID-19. They have also taken on a huge emergency caseload to help keep pets with their families regardless of financial circumstances.



Lort Smith Animal Hospital

7 Pioneering science

This Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory developed the first throat swab for COVID-19 and was the first lab in the world to grow the virus – a crucial step towards developing vaccines and treatments. The lab has also played an essential role in the Asia Pacific region's public health response to the pandemic, and local testing blitzes.

8 First responders

Cherylynn McGurgan travelled with AUSMAT to Wuhan in China, the epicentre of the outbreak, to retrieve hundreds of trapped Australians. After returning home, she set up Melbourne's first screening clinics at Royal Melbourne Hospital. Even contracting COVID-19 did not stop Cherylynn. As soon as it was safe, she was back on the frontline.

The Melbourne Awards are a great opportunity for community changemakers to be recognised, raise their public profile and create valuable networks to further their goals.

To read more about this year's finalists, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards

WATCH THE AWARDS CEREMONY

To see the winners of the Melbourne Awards announced on television, including the announcement of the Melburnian of the Year, tune in to Channel 9 at 2pm on Saturday 21 November.

IN-BRIEF

BUSINESS CONCIERGE SERVICE

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

FASHION WEEK REIMAGINED

Melbourne Fashion Week will return from 23 to 29 November to support local retail, fashion and hospitality industries as they respond to COVID-19. This year, for the first time ever, the program will feature both digital and in-person events, if restrictions allow. Get the latest updates at mfw.melbourne.vic.gov.au

OUTDOOR DINING

Local hospitality businesses are gearing up to expand trading onto footpaths, carparks, streets and laneways – as soon as COVID-19 restrictions ease. Our free, fast-tracked outdoor dining permits will help businesses operate safely within the health restrictions advised by the Victorian Government. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/outdoordining

COMMUNITY SERVICES REOPEN

The City of Melbourne has begun to reopen a number of its services and facilities, with modified operations and COVID-safe plans in place. For the latest information on childcare, pool-lane bookings, click-and-collect library services and more, view the frequently asked questions at melbourne.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

On the campaign trail

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ELECTIONS

The City of Melbourne council elections got underway in October with none of the stunts, meet-the-candidate events or the flamboyant billboards of past contests.

Some are calling it the “sanitised election” with face-to-face canvassing virtually non-existent.

There has been some letterboxing by the Victorian Socialists and The Greens.

But the prevalence of security entrances in high-rise buildings made it difficult for grass roots parties to reach potential voters.

Mary Poulakis and Fiona Sweetman, both local businesswomen in the CBD, have come closest to actually being on the hustings.

Mary runs Harrolds department store in Collins St while Fiona runs a walking tour business, Hidden Secrets, from the Nicholas Building in Swanston St.

The two running partners had a chance to address potential voters at small businesses that have stayed open during the pandemic while they’ve been taking their daily exercise on the streets.

“I’ve been having four coffees a day,” Mary said. Their aim had been to show the faces behind their businesses, not easy when you’re wearing a mask unless it is lowered to take a sip.

Both are in favour of a populist style of campaign but acknowledge the difficulty of making connections with voters when they are only permitted to deliver their election material not actually chat.

“I came across a [man at a] mobile repair shop in Lonsdale St,” Mary said. “He had a creative way of trading. I stopped to give him a flyer.”

“He was a young businessman. ‘Is this you?’ he asked. I said ‘yes’. He said, ‘I’ve got 20 votes from family and business.’”

He asked her a policy question that Mary answered, then he repaired the glass on the front of her phone, and she was on her way.

Both Mary and Fiona have stood before to support male candidates in more flamboyant times when candidates were prepared to spend big money to win over voters.

“I was on the bottom of the Robert Doyle ticket,” Fiona said. “I was there for the numbers.”

Perhaps there’s a new honesty creeping into campaigning that is refreshing. Candidates are expressing their frustration with the process, some problems unique to the CBD, such as the difficulty in getting through to corporates that have temporarily closed during the pandemic.

“If you don’t get the opportunity to speak freely to people you don’t understand what they’re passionate about,” Mary said. “Otherwise it’s just motherhood statements.”



▲ Local businesswomen Fiona Sweetman and Fiona Sweetman approaching a cafe in Spring St.

Xavier Dupe is one of 250 volunteers for the Victorian Socialists who also used their exercise breaks to canvas around Melbourne.

Xavier was distributing around the Vic Market and he had received a tip-off that the residents of a building in La Trobe St had not received how-to-vote cards so he caught a tram in from Brunswick during his lunch break.

He’s lucky because the letterboxes are outside the security door and soon the Socialist preferences for Lord Mayor and council are on the top of other election material.

He said he had trouble getting into buildings whereas Australia Post, which has keys or codes, is delivering advertising material while political parties are unable to distribute pamphlets.

“I’ve been letterboxing behind a postie,” Xavier said, “and I’ve seen him deliver ads for Domino’s.”

There has been no door-knocking either. “In previous campaigns we’ve done a lot of door-knocking. We reach out like that and have had some success,” he said.

Campaigners are not exactly welcomed by body corporates who plaster their entrances with no smoking, video surveillance and other forbidding signs.

Greens Lord Mayoral candidate Aspara Sabaratnam has letterboxed her own building in Spring St. Bizarrely the letterboxes are in the basement.



▲ Xavier Dupe on the job for the Victorian Socialists.



▲ Aspara Sabaratnam letterboxing in her own building.

numbers off the census then match them up people on the roll.

In past elections campaigners have even had conversations with voters over intercom. “It can still be effective,” Aspara said, but she said this form of communication had been banned this year.

“The CBD is not an easy place to crack because of all these impediments,” she said ●



Rhonda Dredge
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“This is an extension of a gated American community like Americans have created,” she said. “You can’t access any other floor. You have to go to the ground floor and ring the door bell.”

She bemoans the lack of community. “We’ve grown up in a society that wants to keep out unsavoury characters. Some people own a place and only come here every couple of years.”

The Greens have got through to voters by phoning residents on the electoral roll. This takes time. They have to buy the mobile

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Outdoor dining fast-tracked

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*
BUSINESS

Arrangements to kick start Victoria's outdoor dining program have been sped up in preparation for Melbourne's reopening.

A new planning exemption was announced by Minister for Planning Richard Wynne on October 21, and by end of the same week the City of Melbourne had issued more than 1000 outdoor dining permits – representing more than 98 per cent of applications received.

The planning exemption allows existing cafes, restaurants, bars and pubs – which will reopen by November 1 – to use existing outdoor spaces as well as nearby parks and public land to accommodate and serve patrons without the need for a planning permit.

In the wake of the exemption announcement, the council was busy establishing ready-made outdoor dining “parklets” across the city, including in car parking spaces on Flinders Lane and Bourke St.

The Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said the exemption was about removing hurdles for hospitality businesses.

“I can announce that the government has removed all hurdles to allow hospitality to expand its operations outdoors,” Mr Wynne said at a press conference on October 21.

The new provisions also provide exemptions from the need to obtain planning permits for construction of temporary buildings, the provision of car parking, and the sale and consumption of liquor – subject to conditions.

The exemptions will apply while Victoria remains under a State of Emergency, and for 12 months after the State of Emergency has been lifted. Liquor licence, public health matters and public land manager requirements may still need to be met along with council administered local laws – including local planning permits.

The CBD has been a focus of the future outdoor dining program, with a \$100 million deal between the state government and the City of Melbourne to fund its roll out in the city.

But not all CBD residents have been happy with outdoor dining arrangements proposed since the program was originally announced in September.

A group of CBD residents have met with the Lord Mayor Sally Capp and City of Melbourne officers working on the program to discuss concerns.

One of those residents, Jenny Eltham, said discussions with council had been constructive but residents were concerned about the speed with which arrangements were being made.

“I think the council has gone through a very good effort in taking on board some of the residents' concerns,” Ms Eltham said.

“I still worry, and I think everyone's worried, with the fact it's all being done so quickly.”

Ms Eltham, who lives on Punch Lane in the CBD, said some of the specific concerns were with the lengths of permits being issued by the



▲ Ryan and Laura from Axil Coffee Roasters on Bourke St prepare for outdoor dining.



council and the prospect of regular night-time events.

“They were giving blanket permits for 12 months which residents felt was way too long, it didn't have a temporary feel about it,” Ms Eltham said.

Following discussions with residents, the council added an option to shorten permits.

Although residents complained about the lack of a “temporary feel” to the program, while announcing the new planning exemption on October 21 Premier Daniel Andrews implied the program was likely to stick around for longer than the summer.

Mr Andrews said the government was “planning changes that will facilitate not just COVID-safe outdoor dining this summer, but what I think may well be a feature of our city and our state for many summers to come”.

Another resident of Punch Lane, Jacque Giuffrida, said the arrangements were not appropriate for areas with low-rise residential areas.

“The city is a diverse place and people seem to have this idea that everybody in the city is in high-rises away from the noise of the street, but that's incorrect,” she said.

“There's lot of people in low-rise or street level houses like we are in Punch Lane. Our front doors are on the street and our windows are on our street, so the prospect of people dining outside your front door and bedroom window would be the same for people in the suburbs having people dining in their front yards.”

City of Melbourne Chief Executive Officer Justin Hanney said applications for extended outdoor dining were being assessed on a case-by-case basis and with consideration of different factors – including the needs of residents.

“Guidelines are available to help businesses operate outside in a way that maintains safety and amenity for residents, businesses and pedestrians,” he said.

“We've had virtual meetings and phone calls with resident groups and individual residents, and their views and needs have been taken into



▲ An outdoor dining space on Little Collins St outside Lupino Restaurant.

consideration when developing the guidelines and assessing applications.”

A Department of Health and Human Services Victoria (DHHS) spokesperson told *CBD News* the government's “cautious steps” towards re-opening was guided by advice from the Chief Health Officer, data and interstate and international evidence.

“We know the risk of infection is much higher in inside settings which is why we are encouraging hospitality business to open up outdoors where possible,” the spokesperson said.

University of Melbourne Professor John Mathews, an expert in epidemiology and a former senior public health adviser for the federal government, said the health rationale for outdoor activity was supported by the current available evidence.

“I think there are a number of issues, one is that outdoors there's more ventilation obviously, so if there's airborne virus it's not going to get concentrated inside, it will drift away,” he said.

“The other thing about being outdoors is that if you're in the sunlight or if the light is reasonably bright ultraviolet light, which comes with the sunlight, is quite good at killing virus.”

“And when people are sitting outside, they're able to be more distant from each other.”

“So, all those things together provide a general rationale for preferring outdoor eating as opposed to indoor eating as a way of minimising virus transmission and that general conclusion is supported by the limited evidence we've got about the virus transmission.” ●



Meg Hill

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Chinatown welcomes outdoor dining

WORDS BY *Wing Kuang*
BUSINESS

As COVID-19 restrictions ease, the desire of restaurants in Chinatown to reopen and bring back crowds like the old days is stronger than ever.

The precinct's many restaurant owners welcome the City of Melbourne's outdoor dining plans as a means of reviving Chinatown but remain concerned about the economic and cultural realities of outdoor dining.

Chinatown restaurants may host outdoor dining on Russell St and Bourke St East, two of the four key dining areas identified by the City of Melbourne in October. If Victoria continues the remaining low number of COVID-19 cases, this might come along with the reopening of indoor dining with limited seats in November.

Jackie Wong, a board member of Crystal Jade Cantonese Restaurant, welcomed the outdoor dining plan and hoped it would attract foot traffic. But she said she was still looking forward to

easing the indoor dining restrictions.

“People will only come [to a restaurant] if indoor dining is allowed. Now no one leaves home [and comes to Chinatown],” she said. Ms Wong expected it would cost her business around \$1000 to set up for outdoor dining. She worried that Cantonese cuisine might not suit outdoor dining, and it might still be difficult for the business to cover its costs with outdoor dining implemented.

Mr Cheng, an employee of a Cantonese restaurant that wished to remain anonymous, was also concerned Cantonese cuisine wouldn't fit with such a dining style.

“We can do Yum Cha outdoors, but it's weird to do Cantonese fine dining outdoors, in particular with a big group of family,” he said. But still, he supported the plan, “it's still better than nothing.”

President of Chinatown Precinct Association (CPA) Danny Doon said outdoor dining was “simply a new thing” for Chinatown, whose restaurants and cuisines mostly catered indoors. “In Chinatown, at the moment, there's not much



outdoor dining.”

But he was optimistic that businesses in Chinatown could cope with the new challenge.

“Most of them are experienced operators, they have been in businesses for a long, long time,” Mr Doon said.

Vice president of CPA Eng Lim said the unforeseeable weather in Melbourne could be a challenge for the restaurants, and CPA was working closely with the City of Melbourne regarding the implementation of outdoor dining in Chinatown and nearby areas.

She also said CPA was organising events in November and December to encourage visitors to come back to Chinatown. This included a post mid-autumn festival event on December 19.

A mini lantern parade, a dragon dance and a lucky draw with a prize of a motor scooter would also be hosted at that time.

“People can really physically zoom into Chinatown, not a virtual one,” Ms Lim said ●

Questions over delays to council housing initiative

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
HOUSING

A scheme announced by the City of Melbourne more than a year ago to convert a building it owns in the CBD into accommodation for rough sleepers in collaboration with the corporate and philanthropic sectors has become beset with delays.

The initiative, which was announced on World Homeless Day on October 10 last year, has seen the council partner with a number of groups to find, assess and redevelop suitable buildings for homelessness shelters and support services.

In a press release announcing the program, the council stated, "the vision is to provide a greater supply of supported accommodation to help people off the streets and provide the wrap-around services required to build pathways into secure housing for people sleeping rough in Melbourne."

Major corporate supporters include developer Lendlease, philanthropic groups such as Housing All Australians (HAA), service providers The Salvation Army, VincentCare, Melbourne City Mission and Launch Housing, as well as the professional services such as those of PwC Australia.

The first site earmarked to kickstart the program, a six-storey council-owned building believed to be valued at around \$20 million, was to be converted into housing for rough sleepers in coordination with HAA.

While HAA secured the professional services of a range of private sector organisations free of charge to redevelop the building fit-for-purpose, the City of Melbourne is still yet to finalise service arrangements for the building more than a year later.

It's understood the council has selected a preferred operator to manage the building, but delays have set in surrounding a service provider, which is being run under a separate tender by the Department of Health and Human Services



(DHHS).

CBD News has contacted the City of Melbourne for comment on several occasions but has received no response to date. But sources within the council have said it has unnecessarily tied itself up in procedural delays and intricate details in delivering the program.

HAA founding director Rob Pradolin said his organisation and the companies involved were still firmly committed to the project.

"The time for talking is over. We to take action and to take action now," he said.

"HAA is still committed to assist the City of Melbourne in creating long term accommodation for vulnerable Victorians. We have offered, over 12 months ago now, the assistance of an amazing group of value-aligned corporates, that have committed using their skills to assist in constructing this accommodation, on a pro bono basis."

"The companies that have made this commitment includes Kane Construction, Cox Architecture, Rider Levett Bucknell, Gallagher Jeffs, Umow Lia, Hollerich Town Planning, Bonaci Group, de Chateau Chun, Irwin Consult, Marshall Day and Norton Rose Fulbright. The total value of this philanthropic gesture by these entities is in the order of \$3.5 million."

Under the program, the council will partner with Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and a giving account within the foundation's tax-deductible fund will be established to take pledges and accept donations for this homelessness initiative.

This partnership will allow corporate

It's understood the council has selected a preferred operator to manage the building, but delays have set in surrounding a service provider, which is being run under a separate tender by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).



supporters and individuals to contribute to the initiative for the urgent need to repurpose buildings to provide appropriate accommodation and house essential support services.

According to a 2014 report, the City of Melbourne owns 74 properties across inner Melbourne worth more than \$2.5 billion. The idea behind pop-up shelters is that an under-utilised building is converted for a period of 20 to 30 years until it is sold or the site is developed.

The importance of the program has been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, with recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) showing that social housing stock in Australia has continued to decline amid soaring demand.

Homeless Australia chair Jenny Smith said October's federal budget failed to include

stimulus investment in social housing urgently needed to respond to growing homelessness and included a \$41.3 million cut to homelessness services from July 2021.

Speaking on budget night on October 6, Ms Smith described the budget as "senseless and cruel".

"Tonight's budget is devastating," she said. "In a year with huge increases in unemployment creating a surge in rental stress and homelessness, the federal government has chosen to slash homelessness funding."

"The Treasurer had a choice to make, and he has chosen homelessness for tens of thousands of Australian families. Without increases in social housing and with even less resources for homelessness services, many families will become stuck in homelessness for a long time."

"The government has ignored advice from all corners: from top economists, property industry and community sector leaders, as well as popular support from the community; all calling for the government to invest in social housing to both create thousands of new jobs each year and to deliver enormous social good."

CBD News understands that the Victorian state government is due to announce \$5 billion for housing over the next 10 years as part of its state budget, which has been deferred until November due to COVID-19.

Premier Daniel Andrews has recently indicated that the budget will be "unprecedented in the scale and the nature of the investments" the government plans to make ●



Sean Car
EDITOR

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Retail reopens ahead of Christmas trading

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUSINESS

CBD retailers finally got their wish in late October as Premier Daniel Andrews gave the green light to reopen two months out from Christmas.

After an anxiety-filled year, outlets forced to shutter on July 8 reopened on October 28 after a gruelling second wave of lockdowns in Melbourne.

For 112 days, most CBD retailers were open for click-and-collect only and struggled in an environment usually teeming with life.

Prior to the pandemic, Melbourne welcomed almost 1 million people into the central city each day.

However, pedestrian counters during the second wave revealed CBD foot traffic was down about 90 per cent compared to the same time in 2019.

Awaiting election results as the Premier's announcement was made, incumbent Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the news was a rich reward.

"All Melbournians will welcome today's announcement by the Premier that our city will take a major reopening step on Wednesday. Hospitality and retail can reopen safely and that means cash registers ringing and more Melbournians back to work," she said.

"Our community has done an amazing job to slow the spread of the virus. Melbourne did what we needed to do and so did the Premier. Now it's time to restart our economy safely to support businesses and save jobs."

Retailers are confident that, as movement throughout the city picks up, recovery will begin.

Most of the CBD's office workers, however, will remain at home: employers are being told if their employees can work away from the office, they must.

Australian Retailers Association (ARA) CEO Paul Zahra said 2020 had been a "long haul" for



▲ The hero image from the council's "Shop The City" campaign website.

small and midsize retailers.

"The significant delays and setbacks, along with mounting financial concerns, have had a heavy impact on the mental health and wellbeing of this hardworking community," he said.

"But this long-awaited opening means that a COVID-safe normalcy can finally begin to emerge in Victoria. We are pleased at this stage that there are no further retail restrictions than those which have already been communicated, most which have proven to keep shopping a safe experience. This is a point we advocated strongly for, given the exemplary safety performance of retailers throughout the pandemic."

Mr Zahra paid tribute to the City of Melbourne's work around making the CBD ready for a COVID-safe return.

Earlier in October Myer, in conjunction with the council, reversed the decision to cancel this

year's Christmas windows, continuing the 65-year tradition at Bourke Street Mall

The festive display would have a "very Melbourne" theme this year according to council CEO Justin Hanney.

"The Christmas Festival usually provides a \$73 million economic boost for local businesses," he said.

"This year's Christmas Festival program will really focus on supporting the city's retail and hospitality businesses while providing a uniquely Melbourne Christmas atmosphere and experience.

"We're looking at ways to bring people back into the city to see decorations, light installations, enjoy festive music and other experiences to encourage Melbournians to spend in our stores and hospitality venues."

The City of Melbourne is also set to launch

its "Shop The City" campaign from November 27 to 30, which will work with the city's major retailers and shopping precincts to promote special offers and provide marketing assistance to the city's retail businesses.

Mr Hanney said businesses could register to take part in campaign until close of business on Wednesday, November 4.

"We are looking forward to safely welcoming shoppers back into the city for our annual Shop the City event, which will run in alignment with our Christmas Festival and Melbourne Fashion Week and correspond with major sales shopping days known as Black Friday and Cyber Monday," he said.

"It's an opportunity for shoppers to take advantage of great deals while enjoying activations such as pop-up street runways, food and drink offerings, freebies and music. It's been a tough year for retail and we are encouraging people to get behind city businesses and give them a much-needed boost over the summer and Christmas holiday period."

"All activations will be run in a COVID-safe manner, adhering to the necessary restrictions at the time." ●

For more information:
shopthecity.com.au



David Schout

JOURNALIST

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Market job a "smart phone detox"

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
COMMUNITY

International students are adding flair and imagination to the selling of products at the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) and market stall holders are helping them adjust to life in lockdown Melbourne.

When Hyung-Gil Shin arrived to study creative writing at the University of Melbourne he had never worked before.

He now has a job selling organic vegetables, but he also has a 1000-word story due in for assessment.

"I'm calling it *Men with Women*," Hyung-Gil said. He's met quite a few since starting at Twinkle Berrys in March but the title is all he's really worked out so far.

It wasn't easy for Hyung-Gil to clinch this prime job at the market.

He had three discussions with the stall holder Rob and refused to take no for an answer even though he'd never heard of celery, thought potatoes came in one variety and bought his vegies ready to go at the supermarket because they were easy to cook. "It's a long story," he said, of his road from all-night Netflix addict to early-riser. "When I first came here, I always wanted a part-time job," he said. "It was really hard. I'd been here two months when I saw an ad on Seek."

"I texted him [Rob] and he said 'Okay. Call tomorrow. Do you have any experience with fruit and vegetables?' I said no. He said 'it's probably not happening. I'm looking for an experienced guy.'"

Hyung-Gil pushed, and Rob suggested he come in so they could talk face to face.

Two days later they met each other, and Rob asked the same questions. He got the same answers and Rob said he might contact Hyung-Gil in two months.



▲ Rob and Hyung-Gil are making a go of it at Twinkle Berrys, a new organic produce store at QVM.

"I thought no. It wouldn't happen. I was frustrated. I couldn't leave here. I was sitting on the bench and tried to understand. I still wanted the job. I took notes for 5-10 minutes and I went to see him again. I asked him if there was training."

"I said 'I can really work hard'. He said okay. He didn't say I'm going to hire you. He said come tomorrow at 5am."

That was six months ago just after the lockdown started.

"I love it here," Hyung-Gil said, "but the vegetables in Australia and Korea are

totally different. When I first started work, I really struggled. When they said bring silver beet I didn't know what it was."

Hyung-Gil now works five days a week starting at 2am. He said he was getting further from reading and writing.

"I used to watch a lot of Netflix. I started feeling symptoms. If you use your brain too much you get back ache and a lot of stress. This [work] really helps with symptoms. It's a smart phone detox."

Rob was empathetic towards the young

student when he applied in March. He'd just bought the business himself and opened two weeks before the State of Emergency was declared.

"As long as you are willing to work and learn, everyone's got to start somewhere," he said. "We're both Aquarians."

Twinkle Berrys specialises in organic vegetables at affordable prices. A three-kilogram bag of navel oranges was selling for \$6.95 and snow peas for \$12.95 a kilogram when *CBD News* visited ●



▲ More than 50 locals and their dogs gather at Flagstaff Gardens calling on the City of Melbourne to establish an off-leash area in their local park.

Locals want space for dogs

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
COMMUNITY

More than 250 locals have signed a petition asking for an off-leash area in Flagstaff Gardens.

The petition was started by a group of dog-owners who met through their efforts to secure an off-leash space.

They've complained they have nowhere to walk their dogs off-leash in the CBD and have asked the council to introduce one.

One local dog-owner, Gavin, said he started a change.org petition in March after asking the council for assistance.

"I approached the council back in March this year and got a bit of a run around. We've all heard that Flagstaff Gardens can't have fenced off areas because it's a heritage-listed park, but that argument doesn't stand anymore," he said.

"You've got things like the lawn bowls that's got a fence around it, you've got the house that's

got a fence around it, and the basketball courts and tennis courts, so that argument doesn't really hold water."

Joanna, another dog-owner who lives near Flagstaff Gardens, said the nearest off-leash areas were not within walking distance.

"I've lived in the city for 14 years. I moved to this area six years ago and I think four years ago there were a couple of petitions put together," she said.

"The council just gave a very short, standard response that said it was a heritage-listed park and there were off-leash areas within the city or close-to."

But City of Melbourne Chief Executive Officer Justin Hanney told *CBD News* the council was undertaking a review of off-leash areas and "considering how we might introduce more of these areas while balancing the needs of other park users".

"We will be conducting community consultation on the review next year," Mr Hanney said.

"Flagstaff Gardens is one of the busiest parks in the municipality for a range of different uses. It is a very popular place for dog walking as well as children's play, tennis and bowls, picnicking, exercise, events and passing through."

"We respectfully ask that dog walkers comply with the leashing requirements, ensuring safe and fair access to the park for all who wish to use it."

Mr Hanney also said the council was in negotiations with the state government to establish a land use agreement prior to construction of a new dog park at the corner of City Rd and Kings Way in Southbank.

The future Southbank dog park, as well as the other off-leash areas currently closest to the CBD in Ron Barrassi Park in Docklands and Clayton Reserve in North Melbourne are more than 30 minutes walking distance from where Joanna and Gavin live, near Flagstaff.

"It's impossible for people in full-time work," Joanna said.

"I work in a hospital; we do long shifts and our dogs are kept at home while we're at work. The only time for the to meet other dogs is during walks."

Joanna said as CBD residents they were encouraged to not own cars, and dogs are not allowed on public transport unless muzzled.

"I've tried calling taxis and Ubers but then we have the issue of them refusing us because we have pets," she said.

Gavin said that given Flagstaff was one of the oldest parks in Melbourne, it was rightly heritage protected, but that shouldn't preclude an off-leash area for dogs.

"As we can see especially during the pandemic more and more people are using the park, more dog-owners are using the park, so I think there's a real opportunity here to unite the community," he said ●

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/

f **CBD**
Community Hub



Biggest candidate forum yet tunes in for election debate

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
ELECTIONS

Residents3000 and East Enders hosted their biggest ever meeting on October 1 – a Lord Mayoral meet-the-candidates forum.

Eight Lord Mayoral candidates took turns answering questions at the forum, which was also attended by a number of other residents' groups, including the Docklands Representative Group, the Parkville Association, Southbank Residents' Association, South Yarra Residents' Association and We Live Here.

East Enders president Stan Capp facilitated the meeting, which had more than 160 people in attendance.

"This is a great recognition, might I say, for our eight candidates who have attracted the record for Residents3000 and East Enders," Mr Capp said.

"Thank you to the eight of you for giving up your time tonight. It's a unique opportunity that we see, and we look forward to you responding to questions."

The candidates in attendance were Gary Morgan, Nick Russian, Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Arron Wood, Apsara Sabaratnam, Jennifer Yang, Phil Reed and Kath Larkin.

Questions were put to the candidates about the interests of residents coming out of lockdown, outdoor dining, resident panels, medically supervised injection rooms, homelessness, noise issues and overshadowing.

Resident consultation was an aspect of many of the questions, like one that asked how candidates would consider and consult residents

to determine policies like the outdoor dining initiative.

Tension between the current Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood became apparent while the questions regarding residents were addressed.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said she wanted to establish a resident's representative panel, while Arron Wood pointed to the strength of existing residents' groups and dismissed the Lord Mayor's idea.

"Rather than say let's set up another consultation avenue, let's actually listen, let's act and get things done rather than just set up another bureaucratic level that can be bounced around in," Cr Wood said.

Cr Wood also criticised the processes of resident consultation undergone in preparation for the outdoor dining program as not thorough enough.

Phil Reed, the Labor for Melbourne candidate, was the only candidate in attendance to state in-principle opposition to resident panels and juries.

"I'm not a fan of citizen juries or creating extra layers of bureaucracy like that," he said.

"I'm a fan of democratically elected councillors doing the job they're meant to do and being responsible to residents on issues like planning across the board." ●



▲ A screenshot captured of local residents and Lord Mayoral candidates on October 1.

For more information:
residents3000.com.au

More pedestrian works begin

WORDS BY *David Schout*
LOCAL NEWS

Works continue within the CBD for improved pedestrian space and security, ahead of a return to "COVID normal" city life.

In recent months the City of Melbourne and state government have taken advantage of a quiet city centre to initiate works, and in October two further projects began.

They follow other recently-started work on Elizabeth St, plus the transforming of several CBD "little streets" into pedestrian priority zones.

Spencer street's extra space

One of the CBD's most cramped pedestrian areas will soon better accommodate those on foot.

In October the council began footpath widening works on the eastern side of Spencer St, opposite Southern Cross Station.

Between Little Bourke and Collins streets, the southbound traffic lane will be cut from two to one, and the cramped footpath will extend out onto what was previously the road.

The 740 sqms of extra space will also be filled with planter boxes, bicycle hoops and seating.

The works included much needed widening to the Spencer and Collins streets intersection, one of the state's busiest.

Earlier this year, more than 15,000 people crossed the intersection during the morning peak, with pedestrians outnumbering vehicles by five to one.

A pedestrian was struck and killed at the intersection in 2015, when a garbage truck turned left into Collins St.

"Spencer St has historically been one of Melbourne's most congested intersections and it's normally used by thousands of pedestrians every day," the council's CEO Justin Hanney said.

"The increased footpath space around this major transport hub will provide more room to physically distance and boost confidence that people can safely return to the city."

Last year, the council released a 10-year transport strategy which was built on evidence that suggested that almost nine in 10 trips within the CBD were done on foot.



▲ The eastern side of Spencer St will be improved.



▲ An artist impression of the new security bollards outside Federation Square (Picture: City of Melbourne).

Surveys conducted prior to its release revealed that more than two-thirds of people felt CBD footpaths were "overcrowded".

Given that just 26 per cent of street space is allocated to footpaths, the council has since then made no secret its plans to prioritise pedestrians in the CBD, over what they view as space-inefficient cars.

Council modelling suggested the move would have minimal impact on the wider transport network.

Fed Square bollards

Work has also finally begun on the installation of security bollards along Swanston St, outside Federation Square.

Due to be completed by the end of 2019, the steel bollards are now on track for a late-2020 finish.

Footpaths, pedestrian crossings and bicycle lanes may be closed at times.

The Swanston St project is one of nine areas in inner-Melbourne (including Bourke Street

Mall, the State Library of Victoria and Queen Victoria Market) that the government and council has shielded from cars to prevent a repeat of the 2017 Bourke St attack.

Temporary concrete blocks were installed as an immediate but temporary security measure, before the installation of permanent structures including street furniture and planter boxes.

Steel bollards across the road at the expanded Flinders Street Station forecourt are already in place.



New laws to protect cyclists

Pedestrian safety wasn't the only issue on the minds of the authorities in October.

In good news for cyclists, minimum passing distance laws are finally set to be introduced, bringing Victoria in line with the rest of the country.

From next year, drivers will need to pass cyclists at a minimum distance of one metre on roads with speed limits up to 60km/h, and 1.5 metres on roads with speed limits above 60km/h.

The new law comes after strong campaigning from a number of groups, notably the Amy Gillett Foundation, for safer cycling laws.

RACV's senior manager transport Peter Kartsidimas said the new laws provided clarity for all road users.

"This formalises for motorists that you should be doing everything you can to keep cyclists in a safe zone. Cyclists will feel safer and like more legitimate road users, too," he said ●

Creative writing award winners share their stories

The Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards returned in 2020 after a three-year hiatus. CBD News spoke with two prize winners – Yamiko Marama and Andrew Harris – about their stories.



WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
ARTS & CULTURE

Thirty-Six Hours

Yamiko Marama won the overall prize for her narrative non-fiction piece *Thirty-Six Hours* – a personal essay exploring identity and culture.

“The story I wrote was about getting my hair braided and my relationship with my hair and hair salons in general – and being an Australian with African heritage,” she told *CBD News*.

“It’s about trying to navigate different spaces, having that relationship with culture and with yourself change as you get older, finding different environments and creating environments.”

In *Thirty-Six Hours* Yamiko wrote that she spends 36 hours a day at her salon – Emmie’s African hairdresser. A trip there – for an eight-hour long day of hair braiding – is encapsulated through the essay’s themes of identity.

“It has a route of which I know the landmarks of, the way I know myself; some aspects I know, and recognise clearly, while whole chunks are regularly un-observed, therefore non-existent,” Yamiko said.

She said the piece was meant to present an experience that would be new to many, but also with their own experiences.

“I don’t think there’s a lot of stories out there by African Australians, there’s lots of amazing African Australian writers, but whether they have access or that platform is a different question,” she said.

“Maybe it’s a unique story, I like to think there were elements that were new to people, but that narrative of trying to fit in and make sense of who you are resonates with a lot of people.”

Yamiko has only been writing professionally for a couple of years but has begun to make her mark on the Australian writing scene. She has

completed a fellowship at the Wheeler Centre, and had her work published in *Growing up Queer in Australia* alongside Benjamin Law, Nayuka Gorrie, David Marr, Giselle Au-Nhien Nguyen and Christos Tsoilkas – among others.

“I’ve always really loved writing, I used to fill up diaries with really embarrassing teen content growing up, but I’ve only started to see it as a career the past couple of years,” she said.

“A big part of that was winning the fellowship with the Wheeler Centre, it made me think about my writing a lot more.”

During her fellowship Yamiko was mentored by Sisonke Msimang – a South African writer and author of *Always Anther Country: A memoir of exile and home* and *The Resurrection of Winnie Mandela*.

“She [Msimang] was a phenomenal mentor. We were able to talk about writing, talk about how you write in a way that both represents yourself and your community as well,” Yamiko said.

“It was also just being supported by the Wheeler Centre staff and there were 10 people who won fellowships so having the opportunity to meet other writers and share the experience with them.”

Yamiko has continued to work in her profession as a therapist through her writing projects and also runs a food truck with her partner. She is mulling over what her next writing project will be.

“I’ve got a memoir that I’m slowly working on, that’s a really slow work in progress,” she said.

“Working in mental health I’m very interested in what’s going on in the system and how over-burdened it is at the moment.”

“I don’t want to solely focus on my cultural heritage, and I don’t want to focus too much on mental health – they’re not the only things I’m interested in, so we’ll see.”

Stalingrad

Andrew Harris was the poetry category winner with *Stalingrad*, an attempt to capture the feeling of Melbourne’s first lockdown.

“It was difficult to capture the feeling of being under that first lockdown, which feels like a very long time ago now indeed,” he told *CBD News*.

“To me it was the small changes to the way we were living that were making the most difference and were the most stark and noticeable.”

“So, the piece refers to playgrounds and how they were not accessible to children, and it talks about that feeling of being under siege which is why it’s called *Stalingrad*.”

Andrew said he also tried to capture that perhaps there is solidarity in the experience, despite being apart from one another, but that is also essentially a very lonely kind of experience.

“I deliberately ended it with a moment of potential hope, but I can’t say I felt any hope at that time,” he said.

Andrew has been writing poetry since year seven and spoke of mentors he’d had over that time – principally his year seven English teacher David Thompson and his friend Alex Skovron, who are both published poets.

“I’ve been talking poetry with Alex for at least 15 years, maybe even closer to 20. He once said to me that it evolves slowly. He didn’t start publishing in earnest until his 40s,” Andrew said.

“So, I’ve never been in a rush with poetry.”

For Andrew, who is 36 years old, lockdown has put an end to five years of working in the CBD doing business development for engineering firms.

But lockdown is also what inspired his winning piece – and his second time winning the blind-judged Lord Mayor’s poetry prize.

“I won it last time it was run, in 2017, and that same year I also won the My Brother Jack Open

It was difficult to capture the feeling of being under that first lockdown, which feels like a very long time ago now indeed. To me it was the small changes to the way we were living that were making the most difference and were the most stark and noticeable.



Poetry competition,” Andrew said.

“I think the Lord Mayor’s Creative Writing Awards are really important to support the arts community in Melbourne, there’s not a lot of opportunity to motivate people to create a kind of profile in this work.”

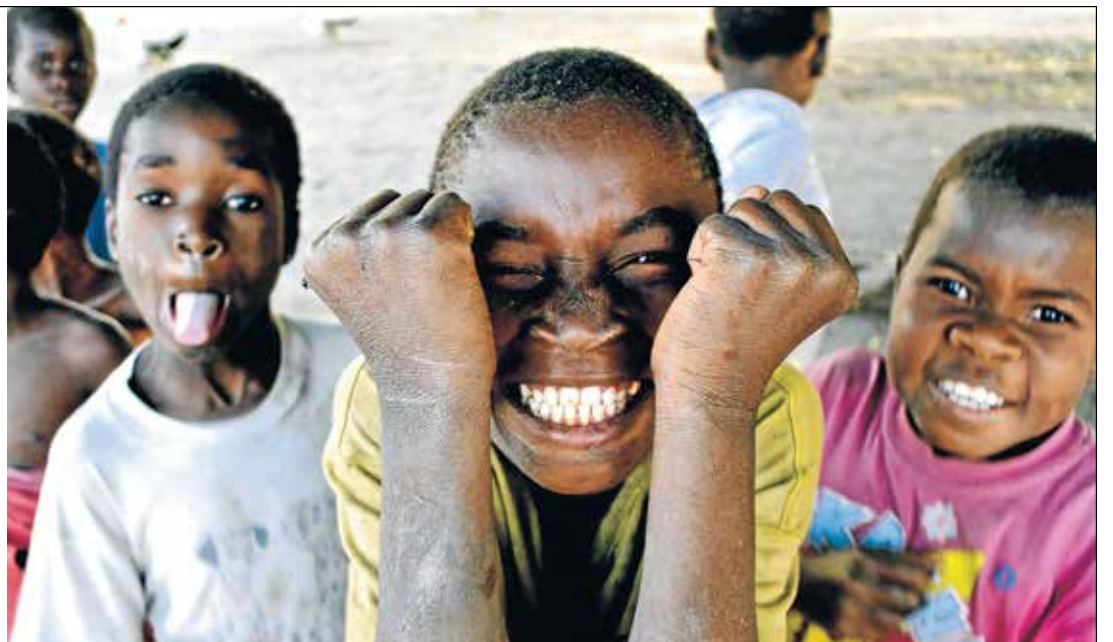
“It was a wonderful surprise to win again.” ●



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Collins St falcons set to fly

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ENVIRONMENT

Melbourne's much-loved peregrine falcons at 367 Collins St have seen their chicks hatch successfully again this spring and online viewers are eagerly (and nervously) awaiting their first attempt to fly.

On October 2 the falcon parents, who for several years have lived in a man-made nest atop the CBD skyscraper, welcomed three new chicks into the world.

Now fledglings, their progress has been followed by thousands online via a 24-hour stream of the nest 34 floors up.

Popularity of the stream has grown steadily in recent years, but in a locked-down Melbourne it has boomed, with tens of thousands glued to their progress.

After the third and final egg was laid on August 29, they were incubated for 34 days before hatching.

But it is early November that's set to be crucial for the fledglings.

After developing flight feathers at 24 to 28 days of age, they will then spend time exercising their wing muscles.

As they approach their final week in the nest, the adults will give them a none-too-subtle hint that it was time to enter the real world by reducing their food supply.

Project leader of the Victorian Peregrine Project Dr Victor Hurley said in a previous question-and-answer session on the dedicated "367 Collins Falcons" Facebook page that this was all part of the growing-up process.

"One result of this is the young actually lose



weight and keep growing their flight feathers. This makes them lighter, so flying is easier. In fact, a fledgling will have longer wings than its parents. It's a bit like having training wheels on a toddler's bicycle," he said.

And unlike their human counterparts who may return home after a tough initiation in the rental market, the young falcons leave the nest for good.

"Once they are ready to disperse, each goes their own way. The females tend to disperse further than the males in order to find their own nest site. This differential dispersal behaviour is common among birds and has the effect of reducing the likelihood of inbreeding."

Less than two per cent of peregrines remain at the nest site in which they hatched to breed in future years, meaning the current adults would

likely have been born elsewhere.

Both are approximately seven years old and it is believed they have been there since 2018, although this could not be confirmed without tagging.

They will continue to be together once empty nesters; bonded adult pairs, hang out together for life.

For their offspring — expected to fly around mid-November — viewers will be hoping for a happier ending than last year, when one of the chicks died on camera.

Similarly, in 2017, two chicks died after digesting what was thought to be poison from a pigeon carcass fed to it by one of its parents.

The story of the Collins St falcons goes back almost 30 years.

In 1991 the building's owners noticed the

“

One result of this is the young actually lose weight and keep growing their flight feathers. This makes them lighter, so flying is easier.

”

falcons were nesting in the gutters.

Those eggs did not hatch, so Dr Hurley installed a nesting box in the exact spot to ensure the next year might be a success.

It wasn't until 2016 that the live webcam was installed, and quickly became popular.

The Facebook page now has more than 18,000 followers.

The falcons usually nest on cliff faces, and to them the CBD likely resembles a canyon.

To watch the live stream and to learn more about Collins Street's peregrine falcons ●

For more information:
367collinsfalcons.com.au

Almost 30 years on, can residents again lead CBD recovery?

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ECONOMY

In the early 1990s, a recession-hit Melbourne looked to new residents as a vital part of central city revitalisation. Nearly three decades on, could this be the blueprint for success again?

It was 1992 and Melbourne's CBD was, in boxing parlance, on the ropes.

The recession had hit the city perhaps harder than anywhere else in the country.

Manufacturing and retail was suffering, population was plateauing, and the buzz that would later define the city was largely non-existent.

Pledging to not waste a crisis, the City of Melbourne proposed a "Postcode 3000" planning policy that encouraged people to pack up and move into the CBD.

Supported by the newly-elected Jeff Kennett state government, the ambitious plan aimed to increase the number of city units from (then) just 600, to 8000 over the following 15 years.

To do so, both levels of government gave incentives to convert abandoned office buildings into residential dwellings and new apartment towers.

A media strategy promoted the CBD as an affordable, safe and convenient place to live.

Retailers, bar and restaurant owners were drawn to cheaper rent and, as new residents began to arrive, a new clientele outside the nine-to-five office crowd.

Combined with an active arts and culture scene, things began to click into motion.

The goal was reached in just 10 years, and Melbourne was well on its way to becoming a thriving metropolis.

And to get there, residents played a huge role. University of Melbourne researchers Emma Blomkamp and Jennifer Lewis wrote about Postcode 3000 in *Successful Public Policy: Lessons from Australia and New Zealand*, published last year.

Their chapter, titled *Marvellous Melbourne: Making the world's most liveable city*, outlined the policy's success.

"At its heart was a demonstration building

conversion project, in which the city, working with industry partners, converted vacant floors of a historical building into apartments," they wrote.

"Despite initial scepticism, the city recovered its investment as rents exceeded expectations and 'a long waiting list of prospective tenants' proved it had succeeded in persuading people to live in the CBD."

Now, almost 30 years on, the city is set to face another devastating blow to the economy, this time due to the coronavirus pandemic.

COVID-19 has already had a devastating effect on tourism and international students, with uncertainty on when they might return.

The weekday work crowd — for some businesses the majority of their clientele — has irretrievably changed since March, and if some predictions are correct might never return to pre-pandemic levels.

For retail, prospective customers from outside the CBD might also be more reticent to travel into the city.

So, could it be that residents again prove key to keeping the local economy afloat?

In October, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it was new locals that could fill the void.

"There is huge scope for us to have more residents," she told *The Sunday Age*.

"That was a big part of how we recovered and became one of the world's most liveable cities following the recession in the early '90s."

"Residents are the heartbeat and pulse of the city. They underpin so much of the economic confidence of the city because we know there are people here who can support local businesses and attend exhibitions and go to shows and participate in festivals."

As the city looks to adjust to the new "COVID-normal", the recovery will likely feature bold decisions to make up what's been lost in 2020.

It's not outrageous to think that growing the CBD community could underpin that ●



Digital time capsule captures unseen Melbourne

WORDS BY *Giulia Raneri*
ARTS & CULTURE

During Melbourne's lockdowns, the City of Melbourne has captured a "digital time capsule", a series of photos of some of the city's most iconic and never-before-seen locations.

The project captured both images and footage of life in Melbourne during the mandatory lockdowns. Photographers also caught images of spaces that may normally be off limits.

The time capsule includes more than 20 locations, including iconic landmarks like the Grand Post Office, Blender Lane Studios, Melbourne Museum, St Pauls Cathedral, the Hotel Windsor and Flinders Street Station lights.

Many of the hidden locations caught on camera, included the hidden balcony and clock tower at Melbourne Town Hall, the UooUoo public art trail in North Melbourne and CitiPower Substation J in the CBD.

The image from Town Hall constructed a true depiction of the scale and grandeur that are impossible to see from the ground. The image of the uninterrupted skyline provided a breathtaking view of the city, while also drawing attention to the inner workings of the clock tower's skeleton and huge frame.

City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney said despite the quieter scenes around Melbourne, this project aimed at showing the public all that Melbourne could offer.



"This is about showing Melbournians that the things they love are still here and there's always more to discover in our city," he said.

"From new street art in our laneways, to iconic buildings like the Melbourne Cricket Ground and the State Library Victoria, Melbourne is Australia's cultural capital and we'll come back even stronger."

Across the globe other cities are also taking the opportunity to document the lives and experiences of their citizens under lockdown. Schools are encouraging children to create time capsules of their experiences learning from home.

To view all the highlights of the project, just visit What's On Melbourne on Facebook. The entire collection will be added to the City of Melbourne's website in the coming months ●

The Melbourne Athenaeum's 181 years

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
HISTORY

Approaching its 181st birthday in November, the Melbourne Athenaeum is living through its third pandemic.

In 1891 the "Russian Flu" swept across the world. Almost three decades later the 1919 "Spanish Influenza" made an even more dramatic run through the world's population – killing somewhere between 20 and 50 million people.

In 1918, when life was reorganised around the Spanish Flu, the Athenaeum art gallery was hosting the Australian Tonalists' first group exhibition – it was an art movement that would flourish between the wars.

That year, masks and social distancing became a feature of everyday life like they are today.

The start of 2020 saw the Athenaeum reopening after closure for major refurbishments. It was gearing up for its yearly peak period in March and April when it is one of the CBD's major hosts of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Eight months of lockdown meant 2020 turned into a very different 181st year for the Athenaeum – but the building has not been empty or idle.

"While we've been closed, plenty of work has been going on behind the scenes," Athenaeum building manager Sue Westwood said.

"Theatre technicians on Job Keeper have turned maintenance workers to give the theatre some much needed loving attention in the auditorium and backstage, the restaurant is being renovated and the final touches to a significant library refurbishment are being made."

The Athenaeum, one of Melbourne's three oldest institutions, is housed in a heritage-listed three storey brick building on Collins St.

It leases parts of the building to tenants, including the 900-seat theatre, a restaurant (Bistrot d'Orsay) and a jewellery store.

"Those tenants really give us the funding to maintain this heritage building and also to operate our library," Ms Westwood said.

"Of course, during the pandemic theatre and hospitality are two of the hardest hit industries. So, we as an organisation needed to talk to our tenants and find ways to assist them."

The Athenaeum decided to provide rent relief to tenants.

"That's a financial hit to us, but at the moment we are able to manage it because we also know that those two industries will be probably be two of the last to find a way to reopen," Ms Westwood said.



▲ An empty Athenaeum Theatre.



▲ The Melbourne Athenaeum Library. Photo: Grace Petrou

Paul Boath, the theatre operations manager, said in a normal April the theatre seated thousands of people every night.

"When you go from an average of 3000 people a night for a month or so for the Comedy Festival to absolutely nothing, it's a shock," he said.

"Each year you gear up for that sort of thing."

Mr Boath has been leading the theatre's team of technicians in finely detailed maintenance work touching up and enhancing the theatre.

"The technicians have sort of turned into Michelangelos, painting very delicate filigrees," he said.

"There's a young lad we found who was very diligent about colour matching. He will get bits off the wall and match the colour perfectly and we end up with the colour that we always wanted to see."

Ms Westwood said the work was important in making sure the heritage-listed buildings were not left to sit idle through lockdown, as



▲ A 1936 drawing of the library's reading room.



▲ A photo taken of the library in 1957.



▲ Men read the daily news in 1962.

well as keeping its tenants in a healthy place. "From our perspective, as the owners of this heritage buildings – which is really a community run building – we're looking forward to have our tenants with us on the other side," she said ●

For more information:
athenaeumtheatre.com.au

Crown jewel on the market

PROPERTY

Expressions of interest to purchase one of Melbourne's most prestigious and history rich buildings closed at the end of October. It may soon change hands for only the fourth time in its long history.

The former Cromwell House at 139 Collins St was built in 1886 for Dr. James George Beaney – an eccentric character from Melbourne's past.

According to the Australian Dictionary of Biography, Dr Beaney – who was nicknamed "Diamond Jim" by the media – had hair "up-swept to either side of his head 'like a pair of horns'".

"His flamboyant dressing, embellished with diamond studs, diamond and ruby rings and a bejewelled gold watch with diamond pendant, made him an admirable subject for caricature. A lover of claret and champagne, he offered generous hospitality to his students and friends; he sometimes shared a jeroboam of champagne with his assistants after operating sessions," the biography entry reads.

The building would later become home to the Alexandra Club, a private club for women, for more than 60 years.

Currently owned by the wealthy, property-owning family of the late John Kearney, the building's star tenant is Louis Vuitton, which has a 15-year lease expiring in 2026.

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”

Colliers International has described the site as Melbourne CBD's "crown jewel". The outcome of its run on the market may be viewed by many as a signifier of Melbourne's economic strength coming out of lockdown.

Matt Stagg, one of the agents from Colliers International managing the sale, told *the Age* they were expecting "elite global retail investors that 'collect' trophy assets in major cities around the world" to submit bids.

It is expected to sell for more than \$50 million ●



▲ 139 Collins St. State Library of Victoria, photographer: Spencer Shier.

Proposal to bring Benaki to Melbourne

WORDS BY *Maeve Bannister*
PLANNING

Developer ISPT has lodged an application for the redevelopment of the former Land Titles Office (LTO) building which would include a 30-storey tower and the world's first permanent Benaki Museum outside of Greece.

The application for the heritage-listed building at 247-283 Queen St is, according to ISPT, a bid to revitalise the Melbourne landmark and create a new and vibrant heritage precinct.

ISPT CEO Daryl Browning said the proposed redevelopment of the former LTO would bring significant economic benefits to the state through the construction of the development and its ongoing operation.

"[The development] represents the creation of a precinct that values and celebrates a culture of arts, education and knowledge," he said.

According to ISPT, a substantial number of jobs would be generated by the restoration and an annual gross value added to the state of an estimated \$864 million through ongoing operations and \$146 million for each year over the construction period.

The ISPT would make a new home for the Melbourne Hellenic Museum in the original LTO heritage building as well as providing additional space in a new 30-storey tower on Little Lonsdale St.

The new museum would be a collaboration with the world-renowned Benaki Museum, located in Athens, which would provide access to its extensive collections in Greece.

Hellenic Museum CEO John Tatoulis said the new museum would be the result of a unique partnership between the three entities.

"We've all come together because of our collective belief in the need to establish Melbourne, a truly inclusive first tier cultural institution of both national and international significance," he said.

Academic director of the Benaki Museum Dr



▲ A render of the development.



▲ A render of the front of the building.



▲ A look at the internal layout.

George Manginis said the partnership would open a new chapter in the museum's cosmopolitan legacy.

"This wonderful opportunity to work with the Hellenic Museum and with ISPT to establish a new, world class cultural institution in Australia is a once in a lifetime opportunity for all of us," he said ●



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Where to Shop

A truly local, local

Since speaking with *CBD News* in 2017, a lot has changed for CBD resident and small business owner, Melanie Ashe.

Her store – Clementine's Fine Food and Gifts on Degraives St, which specialises in bringing fine food and gifts from throughout Victoria to the CBD – has had its doors closed to the public for the best part of six months.

Like many small business owners in the CBD, some of whom have been the hardest hit in the country, Ms Ashe would be excused for wallowing for just a moment.

However, true to her nature, Ms Ashe exudes nothing but positivity in her local community and hope for the future.

"There has been a real venture back to basics through this whole pandemic. A renewed appreciation for your community, which I feel leads to quality, simplicity and reconnection to the people and small businesses who are the most important fabrics of Melbourne," Ms Ashe said.

"It has been hard, but that is no different from anyone else in the city."

Following successive lockdowns, Ms Ashe banded together with fellow CBD small businesses in making the best of a bad situation, and a sewing machine.

Along with tailors Carl Navè, V and J Menswear and milliner, Marea Bright, Ms Ashe took to covering up the faces of locals in the name of public health with beautiful hand sewed facemasks.

Nearing its ninth birthday, Clementine's has long been the CBD's champion for locally produced and sourced goods from every corner of the state.

"When we did open between the two lockdowns, some of my regulars came in and simply stocked up. Not just because they wanted to support Clementine's, but also because they

Following successive lockdowns, Ms Ashe banded together with fellow CBD small businesses in making the best of a bad situation, and a sewing machine.



knew I support roughly 80 other small businesses," Ms Ashe said.

"One woman came in and stocked up with birthday presents because she knew that we would be locked down for another few months and wanted to support in the best way she could."

"We've relearnt community again. Among businesses and locals in the CBD, there has been a real strength in the local community."

Ms Ashe has been an active member of the local business and resident community throughout her time living in the CBD.

She is a former president of City Precinct, an organisation that aims to support small businesses and foster community within the CBD and is a member of local community group Residents 3000.



Living just a minute's walk from Clementine's, Ms Ashe was always drawn to Melbourne's most iconic food and retail laneway because of the mixing pot of different people.

"I wanted a space that had every type of person in it; the city workers, the interstate or overseas tourists, regional travellers and local visitors. It is the gateway to Melbourne's laneways," she said.

"The concept of Clementine's has always been to find products that are locally made. No matter where you come from, whether it be from overseas or down the street, people always appreciate quality, locally made and produced products."

Spirited with optimism for the future and geared towards her reopening, supporting locals of any kind is never far from her mind.

"It has been magical to see this strengthening of community that has occurred, and I hope we grow it," she said ●

For more information visit:
clementines.com.au



Jack Hayes

BUSINESS EDITOR

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HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS

Government needs to invest in housing now



Welcome to the fourth of our 12-part 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 Mark Feenane, executive officer, Victorian Public Tenants Association to share his thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians should be considered an economic imperative for Australia ...

What is the economic cost compared to the financial or stimulus benefit of building more much-needed public housing?

Clearly there is a societal cost of not housing people as evidenced by the burgeoning number of homeless people in this country but is this less important than finding the money to house those most in need?

The KPMG evaluation of the post GFC housing stimulus was every \$1 spent generated \$1.30 return in the community. This is the financial win. If by housing more people, we can also save money on welfare referrals, prisons, or mental health costs etc. there is likely an additional financial benefit. However, its more than just the economic argument.

The real value proposition is that we need more public housing for what it delivers in human terms to the individuals it houses and for the community benefit generally.

Perhaps the most important infrastructure spend the government can engage in now and post the COVID-19 pandemic, is to invest in public housing and facilitate growth in social and affordable housing more generally. There is now a broad coalition calling for significant investment in social housing and this must be high on the list of government priorities as we navigate through these very difficult times.

It is imperative that any infrastructure expenditure adds true value to people's lives – we need to get the best bang for the money being invested. So, it must be about investing to generate outcomes now and for generations to come. Government investment in housing is not just about economic stimulus but for all that housing provides, and what it leads to as a platform for life.

This is an opportunity to set people up for success. This challenge to government requires true leadership and vision. Making life better for Australians must be the aim; party politics should not be the barrier. Balancing the competing priorities of government may be challenging but that is what we elect politicians to do. It is time for them to step up.

Government must be a conduit to helping people achieve their potential. Unfortunately, many people are missing out on the basics and lack the opportunity and resources to change

their situation. Housing is the main driver to the better more fulfilling life that everyone aspires to and provides a solid foundation for life and opens pathways to the future.

We all share some common needs - food, clothing, and shelter, without which you cannot really operate, engage, or participate at a higher level.

In Australia, most of us have access to adequate food and clothing, although situations and choices can sometimes impact on this. There are numerous agencies established to help bridge the gap by providing emergency relief and essentials for people experiencing tough times and financial hardship in the short term. Meeting the very significant cost to obtain or provide a safe and secure long-term home is a far more challenging ask.

The capital cost of housing, particularly in a market which wants and sees property prices increasing year on year, is seemingly prohibitive to government/s from a budgetary perspective. That is despite the accompanying bonus of increases in sales tax and stamp duties and the ability of government to borrow at record low interest rates.

Ensuring its citizens are adequately housed should be a not-negotiable and expected priority and measure of government.

Housing (shelter) is highly valued by Victorians based on a recent survey conducted by Essential Poll which showed that, regardless of whatever the demographic or political leaning, there was significant support across the board for increases in all forms of social and affordable housing. More than three-quarters of Victorians want the state government to "build significantly more public and community housing" as part of its response to COVID-19.

Everyone needs a place to call home - having safe, secure, and affordable housing is the prize of highest value and the greatest cost benefit by

any analysis. Housing is the major enabler of a valuable life.

The housing value proposition when framed in terms of human values, sits alongside notions of what is important to having a satisfying and rewarding life including health and wellbeing, safety and security, community participation and belonging, education and skills attainment, jobs and job security, personal validation and sense of identity, self-fulfilment, achieving potential etc, all leading to positive valuable life well spent. The list goes on.

What is the cost in human terms of not having safe, secure, and affordable housing for everyone? We need to get the balance and investment right. The prize awaits.

I hope you found the above perspective by Mark interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our own 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. ●



Rob Pradolin

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

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TAYLOR

CBD News met Taylor Smith with her husband Jarry and kids at Flinders Street Station. When asked for the story behind the mask, she mentioned that one of her kids had autism and her mum redesigned the mask for her as she was passionate to raise awareness of autism. This design symbolises it.



DALEY

His mum made this mask for him and he said it surely gave him the “feel-good-factor”. Daley (IG: @daleysmithmusic) chose to care and support the disabled as a career option and recommends it for anyone who wants to know the special joy one feels in helping the helpless. He’s glad that he chose this line of work as his career.



COLLIN

Collin comes from a small town near Toronto, Canada and his mask has its own story having been purchased in Thailand by his friend’s dad who gifted it to him. He said wearing a mask gave him a better understanding of what it felt like to be in the shoes of some who were obligated to wear one in their professional lives.



CHRIS

The 70-year-old bought his mask online at Bundarra which collaborates with indigenous artists to support indigenous communities. He loves the design and said he was proud to support them. Living in Melbourne for the past 30 years after 25 years in South Australia and 15 in NSW, he enjoys walks with his dog Jet (who used to be jet black in colour!).

Masks of the CBD

Photos by John Tadigiri.

WE LIVE HERE

Short-stays exploit family violence loophole

In a new low for a controversial industry, short-stay guests have claimed to be victims of family violence to get around the Stage 3 and 4 bans on Airbnb and similar services. In banning short-term letting platforms from providing holiday accommodation, the DHHS included a “List of Permitted Operations” that perhaps, unwittingly, provided a loophole for diehard sort-stay operators, viz:

- There were no guidelines as to how these services could be accessed in private residential buildings, or
- no information on where the people requiring accommodation could go for assistance.

Only one of the nine permitted operations – people returning to their own home – was directly applicable to residential strata buildings.

The other permitted operations including essential services, family violence, homelessness, etc. would have required an agency or some other body to facilitate it.

The short-stay industry in Victoria has been almost eliminated by the COVID-19 pandemic, firstly by the absence of tourists and now the legal ban.

However, a few intractable operators are trying to keep operating for guests armed with fake stories. One such fake story relating to family violence was reported to “We Live Here”.

Making a false claim to be a victim of family violence is much more than an affront to other residents; it shows egregious disrespect to genuine victims of family violence.

This new short-stay scam is truly disgraceful.

Isolated party apartments despite legal ban

The one issue that the police have been responding to during the Stage 3 and 4 restrictions have been parties and conducting drug raids.

Guests have been evicted, charged and fined. We have not heard of any owners of the relevant apartments being charged – they should have been.

Other reports of strangers in buildings, avoiding reception, gaining access via carparks, etc. have been all too common.

There is no official record of the person or reason for being there – and what would happen in an emergency?

Calls and emails to the COVID-19 hotline for advice have mostly gone nowhere.

Paying attention to parties and drug busts is not enough. There is a ban on short stays and the authorities are not responding to calls to enforce the law.

Stage 4 lockdown

Additional restrictions and guidelines issued for multi-dwelling properties with shared facilities include the following directive:

“Holiday visitors are currently not permitted in Victoria. This includes short-stay accommodation. Victoria Police are conducting routine enforcement of restrictions and can issue on the spot fines of up to \$1652 for individuals.”

Also included in the guidelines is a mandate for COVIDSafe plans to be implemented:

1. Development of COVIDSafe plans
2. Restricting access to communal areas

3. Safety and hygiene measures for open and communal areas and facilities.
4. Use of face coverings
5. Four sqm rule
6. Notification of positive cases

If implemented accordingly it now creates another reason why apartments in residential buildings should not be used for any other purpose than to accommodate permanent residents:

It is simply that the modus operandi of short-term letting is totally at odds with maintaining a COVIDSafe building. It actually creates a potential health hazard.

Frustrated residents have reported illegal short-stay activity to the COVID-19 Hotline, also to Victoria Police via their hotline and in person. The stock reply, if there has been any response at all, was, “we have no authority to act”.

How many times have we heard that over the past few weeks! Have DHHS and Victoria Police trained its operators to read off the same script?

It’s clear that short-stays in apartment buildings operate quite differently compared with those in free standing holiday-let properties. It’s an important difference the government needs to understand.

How has your building responded to COVID?

With no help from the COVID-19 hotline or the police, residents are telling us that the task

has been left to the strata manager.

How has your building fared? The Stage 4 lockdown has shown up:

- the good – managers working in harmony with the OC and residents, and taking it in their stride;
- the indecisive – managers changing their mind from supporting the OC to being unsure what to do next; and
- the bad – managers totally ignoring the concerns of residents.

Despite some glitches, our buildings are now generally cleaner, safer, more secure than most us can ever remember.

After the restrictions?

Unfortunately, there is currently no law in Victoria that prevents short-stays in residential buildings once the restrictions are lifted.

Buildings need to prepare now for how to deal with short-stays in a post-lockdown era.

Your COVIDSafe plan must have specific rules for registering short-stay guests and the six mandatory requirements shown above.

Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

EMAIL: CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET

LEARN MORE AT WELIVEHERE.NET



METRO TUNNEL



▲ Professor Sharon Lewin delivers the blessing of TBM Joan at Parkville.

Metro Tunnel mega machine sets course for State Library

Work has started to create the latest section of the Metro Tunnel – a one-kilometre stretch from Parkville to the new State Library Station at the northern end of Swanston St.

Tunnel boring machine (TBM) *Joan* was relaunched in mid-October to begin its journey into the heart of Melbourne’s CBD. The new metro-style line features five underground stations and will connect the Sunbury line to the Cranbourne and Pakenham lines with two 9km-long tunnels.

TBM *Joan* – named after Victoria’s first female premier, Joan Kirner – was the first TBM launched, in September 2019, and has since completed:

- The western section of the Metro Tunnel from the tunnel entrance in Kensington to the new Arden Station in North Melbourne.
- The Arden to Parkville section, connecting Victoria’s world-renowned medical, research and education precinct.

TBM *Meg* – named after Australian women’s cricket captain Meg Lanning – will also soon be relaunched towards the CBD, following a parallel route to *Joan*. Once TBMs *Joan* and *Meg* break through at State Library, they will continue digging under Swanston St to link up with Town Hall Station.

TBM *Joan* was given a traditional blessing in honour of St Barbara, the patron saint of tunnelling. Professor Sharon Lewin of the Peter Doherty Institute was invited to carry out the ceremony on this occasion.

Parkville Station is fast taking

shape with work on the station entrances and permanent station structures underground, which commuters will see in 2025, well underway.

The third and fourth TBMs, *Millie* and *Alice* (named after Victoria’s first female MP Millie Peacock and wartime medical hero Alice Appleford), recently completed the 1.7km stretch from Anzac Station to the eastern tunnel entrance at South Yarra.

They are being returned to the Anzac Station site and reassembled before starting tunnelling towards Town Hall Station in 2021.

With all four TBMs now in action they have installed more than 31,000 concrete segments to form the rings lining the new tunnels and excavated more than 371,000 cubic metres of rock and soil.

Construction on the Metro Tunnel Project has continued throughout COVID-19 restrictions, with workers adhering to strict safety measures in line with the Victorian Government’s advice.

The Metro Tunnel Project will create additional capacity for more than half a million passengers a week during peak periods and transform the way Victorians travel around Melbourne ●

For more information:
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

SKYPAD LIVING

Skilling owners’ corporations

It was precisely six years ago in the 2014 November edition of Docklands News that an article appeared on “Owners’ corporation groups sprouting”. Three new groups were identified as supporting the particular needs of Victorian owners’ corporations (OCs).

First listed was Owners’ Corporation Network Victoria (OCNV), which was headed by the then Docklands Community Association president Roger Gardner. This group was said to be modelled on similar interstate bodies and had a stated aim of connecting with these to develop a national network for Australian OCs.

The second group listed was the Metropolitan Owners Corporation Committee Association (MOCCA), which had Helina Marshall as group coordinator. The aim of MOCCA was to allow OCs to share information and knowledge, and to learn from each other. And at that time, they had 11 buildings involved.

The third group listed was the Chairman’s Council, a network of OC chairs from buildings managed by the strata management group, The Knight Alliance. The idea for this came from a “Chairman’s Supper”, attended by chairs from within The Knight Alliance’s property portfolio.

Coming to the present day, November 2020, none of these groups appear active.

Indeed, within the City of Melbourne, the Southbank Owners’ Corporations Network (SOCN) appears a rare example of an active group supporting OCs – meeting every two months to discuss issues relevant to strata living in Southbank.

This said, it is also noted that there are active advocacy groups, such as We Live Here, which lobby on behalf of the high-rise living sector on issues affecting liveability, such as short stays.

But what is still missing from our sector are dedicated resources and services needed to assist OCs perform their legal duties. And support is indeed needed as OCs are comprised of volunteers who are responsible for managing the common property of residential buildings. In the City of Melbourne, this means they are responsible for managing assets worth hundreds of millions of dollars and are responsible for ensuring the conduct of required maintenance, proper financial management and adherence to all associated regulations. Furthermore, the manner in which these duties are performed will directly affect the wellbeing of hundreds of residents and associated investors.

Now compare this level of OC responsibility to directors of community organisations (noting that the operating budgets of our OCs may far outstrip those of many community organisations). Despite this, directors of community organisations can access a suite of support tools and resources tailored to their needs. For instance, the Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA) provides dedicated training, information, tools, events, qualifications and credentials specifically designed for the needs of this sector.

However, no comparable support is available to our OCs. This has meant that, typically, committee members “learn on the job”, often taking their lead from others (who also have not received relevant training). The implications of this are that our strata buildings are the responsibility of volunteers who have no access to relevant training or support.

To redress the current situation, one possibility is to setup a Victorian OCN, similar to that which operates in NSW. This group offers knowledge sharing and access to specialised resources such as webinars. They also advocate on behalf of their sector which might go some way to explaining why the NSW state government has a greater focus upon residential strata than does our Victorian state government. For example, the NSW Government is currently developing sector offerings like their “Strata Portal” – an online register to collect information from strata schemes across NSW. According to NSW Minister Dominello, “As a Government we want to make things easier for people who live in strata. By unlocking basic strata information, I believe we can help owners, tenants and prospective purchasers to make more informed decisions”.

However, even NSW does not – yet – offer that calibre of OC training believed needed by our OCs.

With the new City of Melbourne Council soon to be known, perhaps this is an area where it can take a lead – and make residential living a council priority! ●

Indeed, within the City of Melbourne, the Southbank Owners’ Corporations Network (SOCN) appears a rare example of an active group supporting OCs – meeting every two months to discuss issues relevant to strata living in Southbank.



Dr Janette Corcoran
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT
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HISTORY

Queen Victoria Market - vibrant, colourful, a kaleidoscope of sights and sounds

You see here early morning Queen St as it looked 120 years ago, in the section that runs through QVM to Victoria St.

There are few signs of the modern era here. It is around this time (in 1901) that Australia became a nation, an event that took place in Melbourne, at the Exhibition Buildings, not too far away. But this scene remains firmly in the 19th century and apart from the light pole that dominates the foreground just left of centre, there is little hint that the market has grown and changed since it was officially opened in 1878. Before that the colony's first cemetery spread across much of the site, but there is no hint of that by the time this scene is captured, although the cemetery did not officially close until 1922, some two decades after the photo was taken.

Off in the distance (to the south) you see glimpses of trees and you will notice that there are no multi-storey buildings in any part of this scene. The days of high-rise development are many years away and it is not until ICI House is constructed in another part of town in the late 1950s that the "skyscrapers" of today become a feature of the cityscape.

The street is edged on both sides by the market's iconic sheds. There have been many changes over the years, but the sheds remain, representing continuity but also something of the essence of this bustling, vibrant space. Without them, QVM would not be the same.

There's a stillness to this scene that belies the buzz of activity that will take place in those sheds once traders and customers arrive.

It's a market day and the street is packed with horse-drawn delivery vehicles. They dominate the scene, horses waiting patiently as their loads are unpacked ready for the morning crowds. They appear to be organised with almost military precision, apparently in allocated spaces. Nothing higgledy-piggledy here. I wonder, though, whether it was quite so orderly at departure time.

Close your eyes and take a deep breath and you can almost smell the aroma of horse manure. It must have been very smelly by the end of the day, especially during summer. Even so, the gardener in me laments the fact that I can't dash down with some hessian bags and collect that treasure to use in my garden.

In the 1970s the Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society recorded the memories of local orchardist Clive Petty, who recalled taking fruit to market, driving through the night to be ready for a 4am start. There were winter nights, he said, when it was so cold that he walked up the hills to keep warm, then put his feet in the horse's feed bag so that the chaff would keep him warm.

In those times, QVM was a wholesale market and growers rented stalls in the market sheds where growers and fruiterers and greengrocers did business. The horses knew the way, so drivers could sleep until they reached the market. The horses were so well trained they even knew



which shed and stall to go to.

Later, business over, it was time for the growers to turn around and head home, with the sun (or the rain) beating down on them, often with a load of horse manure as their cargo.

I asked a number of people to sum up QVM in three words. Here are some of their responses: Ancient, human, vibrant. Panpipes, bratwurst, kilo. Cemetery, vibrant, fascinating. Welcome to Melbourne. Urban, piquant, boneyard. Luscious, kaleidoscopic, boisterous. Cheap, colourful, buzzing. Heart of Melbourne. Exotic, noisy, donuts. Historic, important, fascinating. Noisy, exciting, busy.

And a little poetic licence for these responses: Purple cauliflower, Moreton Bay Bugs, yelling butchers. Cacophony (of people, flavours, sounds), aromatic, exciting. A vibrant community welcoming all. Colourful (the people, the cloth, the fruit and veg and the characters), aromatic (smells get me every time; oranges, pineapples, dead cabbage leaves, coffee, fresh meat, cheese, jam donuts...), vibrant (spruiking,

movement, busyness).

None of this can be conveyed in a stills image such as the one you see here, but the sheer number of delivery carts crammed into that small space hint at the energy and activity taking place just a short distance away. Step inside the sheds and the vitality of the market takes over.

Trading is as old as human civilisation and markets like QVM are timeless. They take us back to ancient times and move us forward to today and into the future. They are noisy, smelly, bustling and full of life. And, as a friend reminded me recently, "they're great places for being anonymous and watching the world go by in all its glory" ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

RESIDENTS 3000

Will online dominate retail after COVID-19?

You have heard the expression "I need some retail therapy." Right now, approaching the end of lockdown, is that how you feel?

After a long lockdown with the city shops disappearing entirely or wrapped in mothballs with windows blanked off or showing empty shelves, are you longing to be able to walk inside and browse about again?

Retail is not just about going to the shop to buy something. Good retail is an art form. A store with fascinating products to sell, presented in a way that makes you feel good. To find the right colour, to see a texture that you like, to be in awe of the way the store is decorated, to fossick around to find products on sale or those that you did not know about. There is the practical aspect of trying on clothes, shoes, glasses and the like or just picking up an item to assess exactly what it is like. These pleasures and necessities mean that retail stores have an important role to play that cannot fully be replaced by the online store.

In the 1800s people would buy products from a paper catalogue, much like internet shopping today. When the concept of the large department store was born, people delighted in what they considered to be a wonderful shopping adventure. This was a revolution that was all about the experience. Going to a store was not just about spending money. Stores had the function of showing the shopper what was possible. They became places of great creativity. The opportunity to discover new products.

There is talk around that COVID-19 will have the effect of killing off the retail stores. We need retail stores and particularly we need those that have gone into mothballs to re-emerge better than ever. Those that have shut down for good can offer opportunity for new



owners, new products, new ideas to revitalise our city.

Online shopping is wonderful and convenient for repeat and known items. Online is here to stay but that does not mean that retail is dead. Far from it.

Snap, Send, Solve App

Residents are familiar with this app. A means to let authorities know if they spot an issue like graffiti, illegal parking, dumped rubbish, trip hazards, faulty sprinklers, vandalism and more.

The app has recently been upgraded to give

residents the ability to give authorities feedback on whether an issue has been resolved and how satisfied they were with the result. This feedback provides authorities with insight into the satisfaction of residents and areas that could be improved. After all, both the council and residents want to make our city the best place to live and work that it can be.

However, what is the City of Melbourne doing? It is not one of the app's valued supporters! If nearby councils like Stonnington and Port Phillip, as well as authorities like City West Water can pay the subscription, surely the City of Melbourne should?

Next Zoom meeting – outdoor dining – COVID-Safe

As is our custom, the Residents 3000 Forum event on the first Thursday of every month, is scheduled for November 5. This event is addressing the proposed "outdoor dining" initiatives to help revive the city. Imagine, sophisticated city with outdoor eating in small, but elegant spaces that are designed to be COVID Safe. Look what is already happening with a floating coffee shop on the river!

In this meeting, we will have two speakers from the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGRL), two council representatives and one police officer from the liquor regulation east city branch. Given the great success of our recent "Meet the Lord Mayoral Candidates" meeting on October 1, where more than 225 people attended online, we are looking forward to seeing many residents participating in this upcoming event.



It is part of our charter to help residents be informed about developments in their city. This time we examine the council's plans concerning how the outdoor dining initiative is to be implemented. We are quite sure that residents will be interested to know about safety, hygiene, music and opening times in the context that being COVID safe is easier in outdoor settings rather than congregating in confined spaces.

Details of the event will be posted on our website at residents3000.com.au and our Facebook and Instagram sites ●



Dr Sue Saunders
VICE PRESIDENT OF RESIDENTS 3000 MELBOURNE



ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE



The Koorie Heritage Trust: An interview with Tom Mosby

The Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) was established in 1985. Over four decades, it has been through some major transformations.

WORDS BY Meg Hill

Tom Mosby, who became CEO of the KHT in 2012, spoke to *CBD News* about its history and future.

“When I started in the role, we were located in King St, but it wasn’t an ideal location simply because we were right at the top of the street and didn’t get passing traffic,” Mr Mosby told *CBD News*.

He said by the time he started it was clear KHT needed a more central location.

“The board made the decision to sell the building in King St and find new premises and at that time the Yarra building at Federation Square came up as a possibility.”

“There were other options – we discussed Fitzroy and maybe Docklands – but we very much wanted to be at the centre of the city.”

“It was a reflection that Aboriginal people and communities shouldn’t be on the fringe. We needed to be right in the centre – to show the importance of Aboriginal people to a metropolitan city like Melbourne.”

The new home launched in September 2015,

in time for the KHT’s 30th birthday.

Mr Mosby said he came to the role of CEO from a somewhat eclectic career background – in art and in law.

“I’m originally from the Torres Strait, I moved to Melbourne in 1989,” he said.

“My first job was actually as an arts conservator with the Art Gallery of Western Australia and I was offered a job after that in Melbourne.”

“I worked as an arts restorer and then went back to university and studied law. I practiced as a lawyer for about 10 years in Melbourne, moved to Brisbane for five years, and moved back to Melbourne when I took up the CEO role in 2012.”

It was one in a number of location changes for the Trust – which started in the Museum of Victoria when it was housed in the State Library building. The KHT another home-to-be burnt down in an arson attack.

Mr Mosby is now seeing the organisation through another major period of learning and changing.

When the KHT moved into the Yarra Building at Federation Square it took over two

floors of the building, which had its third floor occupied by the Melbourne Festival.

After a few years, Apple came looking for a home for a flagship Melbourne store.

“They had their eyes on the building that we’re in, so at one stage we were looking at moving across into the building where ACMI and SBS is, there was a floor we were looking at taking over,” Mr Mosby said.

“Obviously Apple’s move fell through, and the Melbourne Festival vacated their floor. This presented to us an opportunity to take over the entire building.”

“It was our big ambition – the Koorie Heritage Trust as its own stand-alone building, being the third cultural pillar at Federation Square, along with ACMI and the National Gallery of Victoria.”

And despite a year interrupted by a global pandemic, with the Trust closing its doors physically – Mr Mosby said that ambition was well on its way to fruition.

While working toward that goal the Trust also pivoted to online programming to remain engaged and relevant.

“The close-down happened while we had a major exhibition that we had scheduled, so we went ahead with it as a virtual exhibition,” Mr Mosby said.

“We also created Koorie Heritage Trust Online and a whole online program. An important part of it is Koorie Heritage Trust Voices.”

“Basically, when we closed down it became apparent to us very quickly that we were hearing the stories of the general community, the non-Indigenous community, and what was happening to them.”

“We said we needed to capture the Indigenous experience. It’s a very unique time in our global history, and if we don’t capture Indigenous stories during this time in 50 years’ time there won’t be any record of how they coped.” ●

You can visit the Trust online here: korieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/kht-online/

HERITAGE

A review of heritage during the past council term

Although great strides have been taken by the City of Melbourne in the past four years, there will be a lot of pressure to remove “red-tape” and fast track developments in the post COVID-19 recovery to come, which we hope will be handled with care whatever the new council makeup looks like.



With City of Melbourne council elections taking place at the time of writing, it’s time to have a look at the past term of heritage, and what to look for in the next council term.

The past four years have seen significant action on heritage protection in the city, with studies of the Guildford and Hardware Lane areas forwarded and passed, protecting two of our key laneway precincts.

Heritage gradings have also been streamlined and updated, and modern guidelines for sensitive restorations and appropriate tower developments around heritage places have been enforced.

Most significant has been the adoption of the Hoddle Grid Heritage Review, the first comprehensive review of heritage in the CBD in more than three decades, protecting many important places including the best of our mid-century modern office buildings, and also importantly recognising Aboriginal heritage and social heritage values as worthy of protection in their own rights.

These major amendments represent goals Melbourne Heritage Action (MHA) have been

lobbying for over the past decade, and hopefully also represent long-term values held by the City of Melbourne.

Although heritage losses were less than in the council terms prior to 2016, partly due to council action and partly changing development pressures, we sadly lost the battle for the Palace Theatre on Bourke St, which is currently under demolition for a hotel that might never make a profit.

The past four years also saw the closure, development or demolition of a number of CBD pubs, including the Celtic Club, Elms Family Hotel, Metropolitan Hotel, Greater Western Hotel and, most notably the CBD-fringe Corkman Inn, demolished by “cowboy developers”.

The re-development of the Queen Victoria Market area, originally championed by disgraced Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, who resigned in 2018, also remains controversial and up for much debate in the next council term.

Recent council approval of the redevelopment of the Walk Arcade may also soon see more heritage and street art walls demolished.

Although great strides have been taken by the City of Melbourne in the past four years, there will be a lot of pressure to remove “red-tape” and fast track developments in the post COVID-19 recovery to come, which we hope will be handled with care whatever the new council makeup looks like.

We hope to see the positive momentum continue though, and Melbourne Heritage Action will be there to make sure heritage is put front and centre in the future of our city ●



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CRITIC

Corporate novel sold to Hollywood

For those who've got addicted to Netflix during the pandemic, the news that a corporate novel set in the CBD is to be made into a TV series should keep them on their couches.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Maybe the Horse Will Talk is fast-paced, amusing, clever and relevant to those considering how to turn their jobs into something more meaningful.

Novelist Elliot Perlman used to work in the CBD as a lawyer and is well-known for being sensitive to workplace politics.

The novel, which was sold to Paramount Pictures late last year, begins with the premise that many are fighting to hold down jobs they hate.

This is not a serious condemnation of the capitalist system nor a gripe about office work but the set up for a work that argues in favour of negotiating your own way towards a better deal.

Apparently, the Americans loved it.

Much of the action in the novel takes place in fictional premises on Collins St and near King St.

Elliot has signed the contract with Paramount to write and produce the mini-series but unfortunately it won't be shot where the action was conceived.

"I would have loved it to be shot in

Melbourne," Elliot told *CBD News*, "but I didn't have any Australian producers approach me."

He said that Paramount contacted him directly after he sent them the novel.

The mini-series is likely to be set in Chicago instead, which has a different climate and ethnic mix but "both have rough-and-tumble corporate sectors," Elliot said.

Maybe the Horse Will Talk tracks the fortunes of commercial lawyer Stephen Maserov as he seeks to save his job at a large legal firm by making a sexual harassment case go away for a construction company.

Everything that happens in the novel has happened in real life, Elliot claimed.

"In any kind of corporation, the judiciary, corporate solicitors, the Lord Mayor's office, even the church, you could find financial corruption. It does happen. It's reported on all the time."

As a former commercial lawyer and barrister for several firms in Bourke and William streets, Elliot knows the culture first-hand.

In his first novel *Three Dollars*, released in 1998, he addressed the impact of economic rationalism on the workplace. It was a pioneer of the genre in Australia.



▲ *Maybe the Horse Will Talk*, Elliot Perlman

"The workplace is so important in our lives because it's where we see a human being confronted by the distancing effect of money," Elliot said, but it is rarely the topic of fiction in Australia.

He said the Americans liked the book because of its scathing exploration of the toxic workplace. The novel takes a strong moral stance, but it has been criticised for giving the best roles to men. Elliot denies this charge.

"If you're interested in changing things, men are the problem," Elliot said. "Men who don't perpetrate sexual harassment need to be appalled so they become the allies of women."

He said there are three strong female roles in the book.

"The most heroic person in the book is Jessica. A lot of actresses will kill to play her." ●



Coffee break

A very smooth blend

Bakemono, Drewery Lane

MUSIC

Charcoal Lane

Charcoal Lane was the debut album of Archie Roach where the song *Took The Children Away* made its first appearance.

For many people this is the song that made them aware of the policy of taking First Nation children away from their parents, sending them to foster parents. This iconic song of the Stolen Generation is now celebrating 30 years.

During lockdown Archie Roach has been making videos sitting at his kitchen table discussing all the songs on *Charcoal Lane* and the stories behind the songs. They've been both entertaining and enlightening.

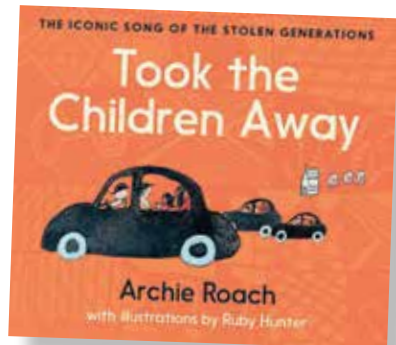
Took The Children Away received an Australian Human Rights Award. A beautiful picture book of the song has also been released, with Archie Roach's evocative words to the song accompanied by beautiful illustrations by Ruby Hunter that depicts the action that happens in the song. This collaboration with Archie and Ruby was their last project together.

Courtney Barnett delivers a compelling version of *Charcoal Lane* on occasion when she performs live, testament to the respect that musos have towards the legend Archie Roach. The book also has stories about Archie's family and artwork by other First Nation artists. This illustrated gem of a book is published by Simon and Schuster.

The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) has relaunched its renewed site at Federation Square replete with a brand-new logo. Now, from the get-go of ACMI's existence the cornerstone of its calendar has been the cutting-edge Melbourne International Animation Festival (MIAF). Talk to any arts lecturer at Swinburne University worth their weight in salt and they will tell you that music can play a pivotal role in the structure of animation film. Animation is one of the highest of art forms and deserves to be viewed on a big screen with an awesome sound system.

The curious thing is that the MIAF posse are not fussed about flying under the radar, beyond the consistent thrumming of mainstream society. MIAF in effect has edge.

This year's edition of MIAF had to be cancelled, for obvious reasons, however the animation posse say that in one way or another the



MIAF 20-21 program will be happening next winter.

One animation that deserves to be considered for next year's edition of MIAF 20-21 is the cooler than school animated video to Melbourne muso Chris Smith's title track from his long-awaited long play album *Second Hand Smoke* (out now through It Records).

Guitar maker Chris Smith has conjured forth a spaghetti western spoken word vignette that is reminiscent of the style of Andy Prieboy and his band Wall Of Voodoo. Smith's signature overdriven fuzzed out guitar drench has been reined in, is more subtle with a Maton-esque acoustic guitar more prominent in the mix. It has been awhile between drinks for Chris Smith and he has delivered a ripper of a song. There's a hint of a Warren Zevon somewhere there too. Pat AuGoGo Rocksteady considers the *Second Hand Smoke* album of Chris Smith's brilliant.

The animation to the song *Second Hand Smoke* is a visual melange of cartographic delights, desert flora and fauna, big flashy red sedans, curve cowboy boots, hot chocolate, the cars that are Paris, rattlesnakes going toe-to-toe with motorcycles, playing darts in a pub and second hand smoke with people in Victoria realising that every day on TV they may be experiencing someone delivering the Chewbacca defence. A crow and a baby, a rattlesnake in the medicine cabinet ●



Chris Mineral

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MELBOURNE BUSINESS NETWORK

A surge of innovation is coming

Recently, the Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has admitted to being tired of working from home.

He even went on to say that in his opinion he believes video meetings are merely transactional and that really inspired, creative work happens in the casual conversations before and after meetings.

I agree with so much of his sentiment. While showing incredible resilience and adaptability during COVID, Melbournians are ready to get back to work. Working from home has provided many of us with greater flexibility, reduced our "commute" time, and given us the opportunity to pause and rethink our businesses, but it hasn't been without its challenges and drawbacks. Now that students are back to school, the juggle or even struggle of combining work and teaching responsibilities have gone. By now we have all managed to move online with virtual offerings, e-commerce and are no doubt experts in online meetings.

But what about Nedella's comment about being transactional versus creative? Have we really only been transactional in our businesses while at home or have we been able to generate real creativity and innovation during our lockdowns?

I suppose that those answers will differ for each of us. From my observations, absolutely Melbourne businesses have been able to create and innovate in these challenging times. We have had to, to ensure our economic survival. But perhaps we have had to do it with more conscious thought and focus that innovation is the intended outcome for our scheduled, structured call or online meeting. Sadly, we have missed out on the opportunity for spontaneity, the classic water-cooler conversation or even the chance to meet someone new at a networking event, all of which can be the genesis of a truly great idea.

As all of us begin to emerge out of working from home and getting back to face-to-face interactions, I predict that this is when we'll see a real surge in creativity and innovation. There will also be a lot more collaborations, strategic alliances and even joint ventures as businesses realise that leveraging from one another is a great way to accelerate their business recovery. Afterall, one thing has certainly always been true, we are stronger together.

If you would like to know more about the Melbourne Business Network (MBN) and how we can support and connect businesses within the City of Melbourne, please reach out to me or visit our website: melbournebusinessnetwork.org.au ●

For more information about the MBN:
melbournebusinessnetwork.org.au



Wendi Dawson

WENDI DAWSON IS PRESIDENT OF THE MELBOURNE BUSINESS NETWORK

BUSINESS



“

The developer of Southbank by Beulah (SBB), set to become Australia's tallest building, has said its project would set a new design precedent for high-rise development for the city and beyond, well into the future.

”

Setting the standard for a future in high-rise

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

Melbourne developer Beulah's project at 118 City Rd in Southbank will mitigate the issue of unsightly above-ground car parking by taking it entirely below ground level, opening up the street level and above for public amenities such as green spaces, retail, dining, art galleries and transportation.

In what locals will hope to become standard practice for the city, Beulah executive director Adelene Teh said the two towers that made up SBB would “push engineering boundaries that others had not before us.”

“We want to push all parking underground so that the first eight levels are completely accessible to the community to fulfil our vision,” Ms Teh said.

“We want to create a place where Melbournians can access, explore and use a wide range of transformative spaces and experiences.”

With the site just metres from the Yarra River occupying the current 6061 sqm BMW showroom, Ms Teh said several limitations had been overcome by world-class engineering and design.

“We are only metres from the banks of the Yarra. Fortunately, Australia has world-leading engineers and contractors for building basements in difficult situations,” Ms Teh said.

“Barangaroo in Sydney's Darling Harbour, Queens Wharf on the banks of the Brisbane River and Elizabeth Quay in Perth have all been built with basements in waterfront locations.”

“Closer to home, the same Melbourne Metro stations currently under construction have been

built using equipment and engineering we will use for our basement.”

Following an international architecture competition in 2018, Beulah awarded the winning design to a partnership between Cox Architecture – one of Australia's leading architecture practices – and UNStudio from Amsterdam.

With too much development throughout the city adding little to the CBD's public realm aside from a striking skyline, locals are hopeful this community first design becomes the new normal for development in Melbourne.

“One of the most important reasons for this design winning the competition was the way it responded to the attributes and needs of the location in a very personal way,” Ms Teh said.

“The public spaces at the base of the towers all open out to large public terraces featuring a mix of gardens, art spaces and activity spaces, depending on the use inside. Terraces are interconnected by staircases which can be used to walk from floor to floor and for exercise.”

“The stairs are widest at the ground level where they land next to the newly extended footpath, which will extend over 20 metres for pedestrians, cyclists and activity.”

Beulah will also assist the City of Melbourne to complete the Southbank Boulevard upgrade to increase public open spaces at the street level

For more information visit:
southbankbybeulah.com

TRADER PROFILE

Making the market your home

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

For many people, a trip to the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) conjures a sense of awe and wonder.

Tourists are drawn to more than 140 years of history; regulars return for their customary catch-ups with friendly traders and, for occasional visitors, an immediate shot of nostalgia every time they walk through the sheds.

Of the 10 million people that grace the sheds and halls of the market each year, only a select few people can boast of having grown up among the hustle and bustle of stalls; Irene Georgiou from Victoria Market Gifts and Engraving is one of those people.

After taking over the family business from her father in 2013, Mrs Georgiou has continued to build their business which started as a “tiny stall” in 1982.

“Dad moved here from London and decided to start his own business. He saw the market as the perfect place and became its first-ever engraver,” Mrs Georgiou said.

“When he first started, it was just a single stall using a car battery pack to run everything, now we have grown to what it is today.”

After almost 40 years at the market, Victoria Market Gifts and Engraving has become one of the most reputable engraving facilities in Melbourne.

Specialising in hand engraving of gifts ranging from pendants and bracelets to necklaces or animal tags, Mrs Georgiou now has more than 25 years of experience at Melbourne's most iconic market.

“The stall is a few years older than me. I have grown up here since the day I was born,” Mrs Georgiou said.

“When I was little, I would run around the market with kids from other stalls while our parents would work. It was an amazing environment to be in as a kid and is one that I will always cherish.”

The ever-present family connection between the market and Mrs Georgiou does not stop simply at growing up among the stalls to now owning her own.

Mrs Georgiou met her husband, Suparoek, when he was working at the market while over from Thailand to study in Melbourne.

The pair was introduced by Cameron Short, the son of QVM's Robyn Faulkner from Inner Essentials.

“We first met through mutual friends at the market, then began to hang out a little more, then started dating and finally got married last year,” she said.

“We had our beautiful wedding over in Thailand. Thinking back on it now, we were incredibly lucky to have timed it before all of this [COVID-19].”

Not immune to the impacts of a global pandemic herself, Mrs Georgiou said the past six months had been incredibly challenging for her business. Still, with support from the City of Melbourne, she has been able to launch her new website.

“I'm a very social person. The hardest part for me has been staying away from all my friends, fellow traders and our regulars at the market,” Mrs Georgiou said.



“

After almost 40 years at the market, Victoria Market Gifts and Engraving has become one of the most reputable engraving facilities in Melbourne.

”

“We have so much fun at the market. I never thought I would actually miss work, but it is going to be great to get back.”

With the impending return to retail shopping at the market in sight, Mrs Georgiou is excited to welcome shoppers back to Victoria Market Gifts and Engraving.

With on-the-spot engraving only taking a matter of minutes, shoppers can continue to venture throughout the market while a huge range of stainless-steel gifts is expertly engraved

For more information visit:
itsengrivable.com

更多人行道开始施工

David Schout

在回到墨尔本“疫情新常态”(COVID normal)的城市生活之前,市内人行道的工程继续施工,以改善步行空间和安全。

最近几个月,墨尔本市政府和州政府利用一个安静的市中心开展工程施工,并于10月又启动了两个工程项目。

他们接着最近在Elizabeth街上的其它工程施工,再加上将几条CBD“小街”改造成行人优先区的施工。

Spencer街的额外空间

墨尔本CBD内最拥挤的步行区域之一将很快得以改善,更好地适应步行者。

市政于10月开始,在南十字(Southern Cross)车站对面的Spencer街东侧拓宽人行道。

在Little Bourke街和Collins街之间,南行的车道将由原来的两条改建为一条,狭窄的人行道将拓宽至以前的车道上。

在额外的740平方米的空间里,将安装植物箱、自行车圈和座椅。

这些工程还包括急需拓宽的Spencer街和Collins街的交叉口,这是维州最繁忙的街道交叉口之一。

联邦广场护柱

联邦广场外面沿着Swanston街的安全护栏柱的工程也终于开始施工了。

这些钢柱的安装原本于2019年底完工,目前将按计划于2020年底完工。

届时,相应的步行道、人行道和自行车道可能会关闭。

包括Bourke街购物中心、维多利亚州图书馆和维多利亚女王市场在内的九个市内区域之一,Swanston街项目是州政府和市议会为了防止2017年Bourke街袭击的重演而进行的保护工程。

保护骑自行车者的新法律

行人安全问题并不是政府机构10月份考虑的唯一问题。

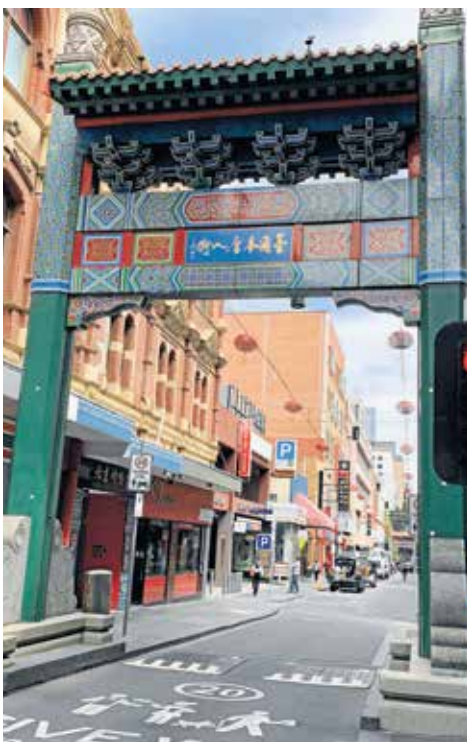


对骑自行车者的一个好消息是,最终将制定最小通过距离法,使维多利亚州与全国其它地区保持一致。

从明年开始,在限速60公里/小时的道路上,司机应以至少1米的间隔距离超越骑自行车的人,在限速60公里/小时以上的道

路上,司机应以1.5米的间隔距离超越骑自行车的人。

这项新法律是在许多团体,特别是Amy Gillett基金会,为更安全的自行车法律进行了强有力的努力下出台的。



唐人街迎接室外用餐

Wing Kuang

随着COVID疫情限制的放宽,唐人街的餐厅盼望重新开放,像以前一样热闹,该愿望比以往任何时候更加强烈。

该区域的许多餐馆老板都欢迎墨尔本市政的室外用餐计划,以此来振兴唐人街,但仍对室外用餐的经济和文化现实感到担忧。

唐人街的餐馆可能会在Russell街和Bourke街东面举办室外用餐,这是十月份墨尔本市政确定的四个主要用餐区中的两个。如果维多利亚州继续持有少量的COVID病例,那么可能会在11月份重新开放有限座位的室内用餐。

粤餐馆“翡翠小厨”的董事成员Jackie Wong对室外用餐计划表示欢迎,并希望它能吸引人流量。但是她仍然期待放松室内用餐的限制。

她说:“人们只有在允许室内用餐的情况下才会来餐馆。现在没有人会离开家(来唐人街)。”

黄女士预计,要设置室外用餐,大约要花费\$1000。她担心广东菜可能不适合室外用餐,餐馆可能仍然难以实施室外用餐来支付其开销费用。

一名希望匿名的粤餐馆员工郑先生也担心,广东菜不适合这种用餐方式。

他说:“我们可以在室外做饮茶(Yum Cha)用餐,但在室外做粤菜正餐有些怪怪的,特别是一个大家庭聚餐。”但他仍然支持这一计划,“它总比没有人好。”

唐人街辖区协会(CPA)主席丹尼·杜恩(Danny Doon)表示,对于唐人街来说,室外用餐“只是一件新鲜事”,唐人街的餐馆和美食主要在室内提供的。“唐人街在当下的室外用餐并不多。”

但他对唐人街的商家可以应对新的挑战感到乐观。

杜恩说:“唐人街上的大多数经营者,都具有从业多年的经验。”

CPA的副主席林恩(Eng Lim)说,墨尔本不可预测的天气可能对室外用餐将是一个挑战,目前CPA正在与墨尔本市政密切合作,针对在唐人街和附近区域如何实施室外用餐。

她还表示,CPA将在11月和12月组织活动,鼓励访客回到唐人街,这包括12月19日的中秋节后活动。

届时还将举行迷你灯会、舞龙表演和抽奖活动,奖品是一辆小型摩托车。

林女士说:“人们可以真正地进入到唐人街,而不是虚拟的。”



时空胶囊捕捉着不为人知的墨尔本

Giulia Raneri

在墨尔本封锁期间,墨尔本市政开启了一个“数码时空胶囊”项目,拍摄了本市一些最具标志性和一些前所未见地点的系列照片。

该项目捕捉了在强制性封锁期间墨尔本的生活图像和短片。摄影师还拍摄到了通常禁止进入的空间图像。

时空胶囊包括了20多个地点,也包括带有标志性的地标,例如墨尔本邮政局、街头艺术工作室(Blender Lane Studios)、墨尔本博物馆、圣保罗(St Pauls)大教堂、温莎(Windsor)酒店和Flinders街车站灯。

摄影机捕捉到的许多隐秘位置,包括墨尔本市政厅的隐秘阳台和钟楼,北墨尔本的

UooUoo公共艺术和CBD的城市电力变电站(CitiPower Substation J)。

市政厅的图像真实地展现了从地面上看不到的壮观规模。不间断的天际线影像为城市提供了壮丽的景色,同时也吸引人们关注钟楼内部骨架及其巨大框架是如何工作的。

墨尔本市首席执行官贾斯汀·汉尼(Justin Hanney)说,尽管现在墨尔本城市景象比以前更安静,这个项目是为了向公众展示墨尔本能提供的一切。

要查看该项目的所有亮点,只需访问脸书上的墨尔本动态(What's On Melbourne)。整个系列将在未来几个月被添加到墨尔本市政府的网站上。



柯林斯街的幼鹰即将飞行

David Schout

位于墨尔本市柯林斯(Collins)街367号备受人们喜爱的猎鹰今年春季再次成功孵出雏鹰,在线观众急切并紧张地在等待它们的首次尝试飞行。

10月2日,已经在中央商务区摩天大楼顶上的一人造鸟巢里生活了几年的一对猎鹰,迎来了三只新的雏鹰。

虽然羽翼未丰,但雏鹰在34层高楼上的鸟巢里的生长过程,受到了成千上万的人通过24小时网络追踪关注。

近年来,该网络的观看率稳步上升,尤其在本次墨尔本封闭期间,观看量大增,成千上万的人关注着它们的成长。

8月29日,第三个也是最后一个卵产下

后,孵化了34天后才孵出雏鹰。

11月初对于羽翼还未丰满的雏鹰来说至关重要。

它们的飞羽要通过24至28天才能长出来,然后还要花时间锻炼翅膀肌肉。

当它们接近在巢穴中生活的最后一周时,老猎鹰会毫不掩饰地暗示它们,是时候通过减少食物供应来进入现实世界了。

维多利亚猎鹰项目负责人维克多·赫尔利(Victor Hurley)博士在其“367柯林斯猎鹰”脸书上说,这是所有猎鹰成长过程的一部分。

要观看现场直播并了解更多关于柯林斯街猎鹰的信息,请访问367collinsfalcons.com.au

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EOI



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\$600,000



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