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Community Garden comes to life
Photo by John Tadigiri

A traditional smoking ceremony and “Welcome to Country” helped mark the official opening of the Drill Hall Community Garden at the corner of Victoria and Therry streets last month, turning a disused area into a peaceful community space. *Pictures on page 16.*

Push for specialist rough sleeper service in CBD

The City of Melbourne has proposed a new “specialist” support service for rough sleepers in the CBD.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HOMELESSNESS

The site would act as both a housing referral and health support service to assist those sleeping rough within the Hoddle Grid, and would be open “up to 24/7”.

The recommendation was part of the council’s submission to the Victorian Government’s 10-year strategy for social and affordable housing in Victoria, expected to be released later this year.

The council said the development would cost between \$1.5 and \$5 million (depending on the site selected) and has proposed the government make a “capital contribution”.

The proposed service centre would also manage the City of Melbourne’s “by name list”, a shared database of the names and information of current and recent rough sleepers in the municipality.

Rough sleepers are those living on the streets, sleeping in parks, or squatting in derelict buildings for temporary shelter, and are seen as some of the most vulnerable people in society.

A significant percentage of Victoria’s rough sleepers stay within the CBD.

Many were offered emergency hotel accommodation at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in Melbourne.

According to the council, around 720 people remain in emergency accommodation, but it understands the funding program will end in June.

“As the end of the program approaches, more people have returned

to rough sleeping. It is essential that a long-term solution is found to address the needs of these people,” the council submission states.

There are existing rough sleeper support services within the CBD, however it is understood this council-government initiative — if approved — would be more extensive and open for longer hours.

Push for council recognition

In November 2020, the state government announced a historic \$5.3 billion “Big Housing Build” to construct more than 12,000 new social and affordable homes throughout metro and regional Victoria.

The commitment was the state (and nation’s) biggest ever investment in the space and, according to homelessness groups, was well overdue.

At the time, the government announced that a new agency, Homes Victoria, would deliver the record housing growth and manage existing public housing.

The CEO of the new agency is former City of Melbourne CEO Ben Rimmer.

In its submission to Homes Victoria’s 10-year strategy, the council made no secret of its desire to be made a key part of the government’s housing blitz.

Citing its central city location, access to jobs and existing support services and community infrastructure, the council’s first recommendation was to be brought closely into the fold.

“We seek recognition as a priority delivery partner,” it said.

Continued on page 2.

Campaign to ban horse-drawn carriages fires up

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ANIMAL WELFARE

The tragic death of an un-named horse in Arden St, North Melbourne last month has sparked a series of emotional protests about horse-drawn carriages in the CBD.

The death of the horse while on the job was first reported in the April edition of *CBD News*.

A graphic picture of the horse’s body covered by a blanket while still attached to the carriage has galvanised animal activists. On Tuesday, April 13 demonstrators were outside Town Hall to protest, hoping to get their message across to those attending a council meeting.

By the next day Greens Cr Rohan Leppert had tabled an intention to put up a motion at the next committee meeting on April 20.

The motion, seconded by Cr Dr Olivia Ball, is calling for a forum on the issue within the next three months.

While some may have been hoping for a stronger result,

Cr Leppert said the forum would at least try and resolve a long-standing and complex issue.

Demonstrators in front of Town Hall were urging the City of Melbourne to ban the use of the horse-drawn carriages in the Hoddle Grid.

But the council maintains that it doesn’t have the power. It revoked the street trading licences of carriages in 2017 but protestors say that enforcement has been difficult.

They are calling for the council to lobby the state government, which controls legislation defining what constitutes a vehicle. Council officers don’t have the power to approach drivers of vehicles.

Cr Leppert’s move seeks to cut through what he calls “an impasse” between the local and state governments over the issue, which hit an emotional peak last month when the graphic pictures of the dead horse were published.

Kristin Leigh, campaign manager for the Melbourne Against Horse-drawn Carriages, said that the incident had precipitated the recent bout of demonstrations.

Continued on page 3.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 07

A A big month of news for Queen Vic Market



COMMUNITY, PAGE 09

B “The Couch” returns for international students



HISTORY, PAGE 11

C Former local reunites with his old home



FEATURE, PAGE 13

D CBD News catches up with Fiona Patten



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▲ The last Neighbourhood Marketplace held at the Kelvin Club in 2019.

Neighbourhood Marketplace

COMMUNITY

If you're a resident or business in the city and are interested in engaging with your local community, then the Neighbourhood Marketplace on Thursday, May 6 is an event you don't want to miss.

Co-hosted by Residents 3000, City Precinct and the City of Melbourne and taking place from 6pm to 8.30pm upstairs at the Kelvin Club, the event will see a range of city-based exhibitors set up stalls to share products, services and information.

With Residents 3000 leading its first Neighbourhood Marketplace event in 2019 in response to National Neighbour Day, the initiative allows locals to connect with some of the council's agencies and local small businesses that contribute to life in the city.

From dogs, aging tech and waste to libraries, capital works and City Baths, the City of Melbourne will have a variety of its officers present to answer questions and provide information.

A number of small businesses from the City Precinct will also feature, including the

Athenaeum Library, Clementine's, Hearn's Hobbies, Il Papiro, Laneway Learning and The Melbourne Map, while local police, Men's Shed and even *CBD News* will have a presence.

While the event is largely focused on community within the CBD, Residents 3000 committee member Artur Hajda said that all resident groups across the city had been invited to attend in an effort to further strengthen connections across the municipality.

The event follows Residents 3000's first face-to-face initiative since the easing of COVID-19 restrictions with its Trivia Night on April 8 at the Kelvin Club, which proved another great success.

Neighbourhood Marketplace will be held at the Kelvin Club, Melbourne Place on May 6 and is free to attend but the space will be limited to 100 guests due to COVID restrictions. Food and drinks will also be served ●

For more information:
residents3000.com.au

Push for specialist rough sleeper service in CBD

Continued from page 1.

It proposed that a new entity, "Homes Melbourne", was set up to work in partnership with Homes Victoria.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp underlined the importance of collaboration in the coming years.

"This submission reflects our ability to create a game-changing, city-shaping, but most importantly life-transforming set of policies and actions in the city of Melbourne for Melburnians — that's actually why we're here," she said.

"We know housing and homelessness is absolutely a top priority for this council, for our city and for our people, and this is a moment in time."

"This submission really leverages the confluence of a long-suffered housing crisis. What we see now is a coalition of the willing, the able and now well-resourced group of organisations, led by the state government and its decision to properly fund a significant delivery of much-needed affordable and social housing."

Cr Rohan Leppert said the council's intervention into the policy space was "incredibly important" and would be "one of the most things we're going to do" in this term.

"What we have to do is continue to ensure the central city remains a destination of choice for everyone, especially for those on low incomes and not the place where normal standards of living can be waived," he said ●



David Schout

JOURNALIST

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COLLINS PLACE



▲ Protestors from Melbourne Against Horse-drawn Carriages outside the Town Hall on April 13.

Campaign to ban horse-drawn carriages fires up

Continued from page 1.

“It has spurred us on to put on more pressure,” she said. “Potentially we’ll demonstrate at every council meeting. This is the second this year.”

She said they had a petition online with almost 40,000 signatures.

“We’ve been saying for seven years that horses will be injured and killed. This is not the first time.”

Cr Leppert said that with the increase in traffic in the city and increased truck movement with the Metro Tunnel works he was concerned that an accident was waiting to happen.

“I’m nervous about people coming back to the city,” he told *CBD News*. “This might be the year the roads crack.”

In the proposed motion Cr Leppert claims that Swanston St is the busiest in the world in terms of tram traffic but horse-drawn carriages are still operating there, particularly at weekends.

Protestors say they have had enough. They cite cases of near-misses with cyclists, run-ins with trams, U-turns in the middle of the street and a host of other potentially dangerous activities.



We’ve been saying for seven years that horses will be injured and killed. This is not the first time.



The forum will include all interested parties, including Victoria Police, the RSPCA and industry representatives.

“The council alone and the state alone can’t act,” Cr Leppert said. “The only way is to get agreement.”

He said that horse-drawn carriages could operate around the Domain Parklands just over Princes Bridge where there were fewer traffic issues ●

CBD’s oldest dwelling up for sale

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
HERITAGE

Controversy has erupted over the impending sale of the CBD’s oldest dwelling and shop, Russell’s Old Corner Store, built in 1850.

The Age revealed on April 10 that the City of Melbourne would not proceed with the purchase of the property.

“The City of Melbourne expressed interest in preserving it,” Owen Dixon, nephew of the owner, said.

“I guess their priorities have changed in the past 12 months since the pandemic. They’re more interested in trying to save business.”

The two-story dwelling in King St has been in the one family for more than 120 years.

It was restored by the current owner Lola Russell in 1989 and run as a tea and luncheon room with her husband George.

Lola is now in aged care and even though the family does not want to sell the property, “my aunt is a priority,” Mr Dixon said.

He confirmed that the property would be put up for sale now that the deal with the City of Melbourne had fallen through.

“We hope in the next fortnight to be listing it with an agent,” he said. “We’re now actively interviewing agents.”

Meanwhile local CBD residents and friends of the couple have bought into the controversy.

They’re afraid that developers will buy the site, which could be worth up to \$4 million.

“My fear is that they will leave the building to deteriorate so much so that council will condemn it,” Debra



▲ The CBD’s oldest dwelling looking forlorn in its scaffolding.

Van Ommen, CBD resident and friend of Lola and George, said.

The property is already in scaffolding because of a cracking wall but she said she had a consortium willing to put \$600,000 into restoration.

“William Angliss College has expressed interest in running it as a tea room,” she told *CBD News*.

For a full report on the sentimental value of Russell’s Old Corner Store to one heartbroken local, read this month’s *CBD Local* on page 17 ●



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Ethel Carrick Flower market 1907 (detail) National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Presented through The Art Foundation of Victoria by the late Major B. R. F. MacNay, and Mrs D. MacNay, Fellow, 1994

Job Warehouse dispute headed for VCAT

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

The redevelopment of a historic Bourke St building into a large-scale bar and restaurant is headed for the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) after developers were left frustrated by a 1am closing time limit.

The O'Brien Group will contest City of Melbourne planning permit conditions for the venue, a restoration of the derelict Job Warehouse, that limits operating hours to 1am rather than 3am.

It is set to face the council at a VCAT compulsory conference on June 21, where parties confidentially discuss ways to resolve their dispute.

The heritage-listed Job Warehouse building in the CBD's east end, most recently a haberdashery business, was built in the 1840s and has sat derelict since 2012.

In 2019, the O'Brien Group acquired a long-term lease of the site, and last year unveiled plans for a large bar and restaurant, open until 3am.

But late last year councillors voted unanimously to instead grant a planning permit for a 1am closing time and for maximum patronage of 673, rather than a proposed 957.

At the time, CEO Michael O'Brien said the huge costs involved with the project meant it would require a favourable liquor licence to lock in the venue's future.

"Due to the age of the building and its heritage status, the care, time and skill needed to restore this building is three times what it would normally be. To make it viable, we need a 3am licence," he said.

The Job Warehouse has been described as one of the CBD's "most high-profile eyesores", and calls for its restoration have come from across the board.

However late last year the council sided with over 100 nearby residents that had objected to the O'Brien Group proposal.



"This is a really difficult application," Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said in December.

"It's one of those balancing acts where on the one hand, the city is very, very keen to see a vibrant nighttime economy and is very, very keen to see investment in its nighttime economy and that's what the O'Briens are offering. On the other hand, I think concerns that have been raised by large numbers of residents are very legitimate as well. It is notable to me that the apartment buildings on Liverpool [St] Lane are not new — they have been there for 30-plus years, and many of the residents have lived along the laneway for 30 years, or certainly well over a decade."

The O'Brien Group's portfolio of venues includes the Bondi Icebergs, O'Brien Icehouse in Docklands and the nearby Imperial Hotel.

When contacted by *CBD News*, CEO Michael O'Brien said the Group did not wish to comment on the upcoming VCAT hearing.

A council spokesperson said the decision to grant a 1am license was not unusual.



The 1am closure time approved by councillors is consistent with similar large-scale venues close to sensitive residential uses.



"City of Melbourne councillors unanimously supported approving the redevelopment of the former Job Warehouse site last year, believing it will offer important economic benefits to the city," the spokesperson said.

"The 1am closure time approved by councillors is consistent with similar large-scale venues close to sensitive residential uses." ●

Telstra loses phone booth court appeal

COURTS

The High Court of Australia has refused an application by Telstra to challenge the cities of Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane in relation to the rollout of their "super-sized" phone booths.

The November 2020 decision of the Federal Court preventing the telco giant from installing "next generation" payphones without planning permission will stand. Telstra will now be required to pay the legal costs of the case and the failed application to the High Court.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said that the councils argued that Telstra had intended to use the facilities to display third party commercial advertising once they were installed.

"The footpaths of Australia's cities are precious, and this is a win for the millions of pedestrians who use them," Cr Reece said.

"It was a truly David and Goliath battle and we're proud of this victory on behalf of Australia's cities."

"All along we have maintained that the supersized phone booths are designed to generate advertising revenue instead of providing a community service — they were billboards masquerading as payphones."

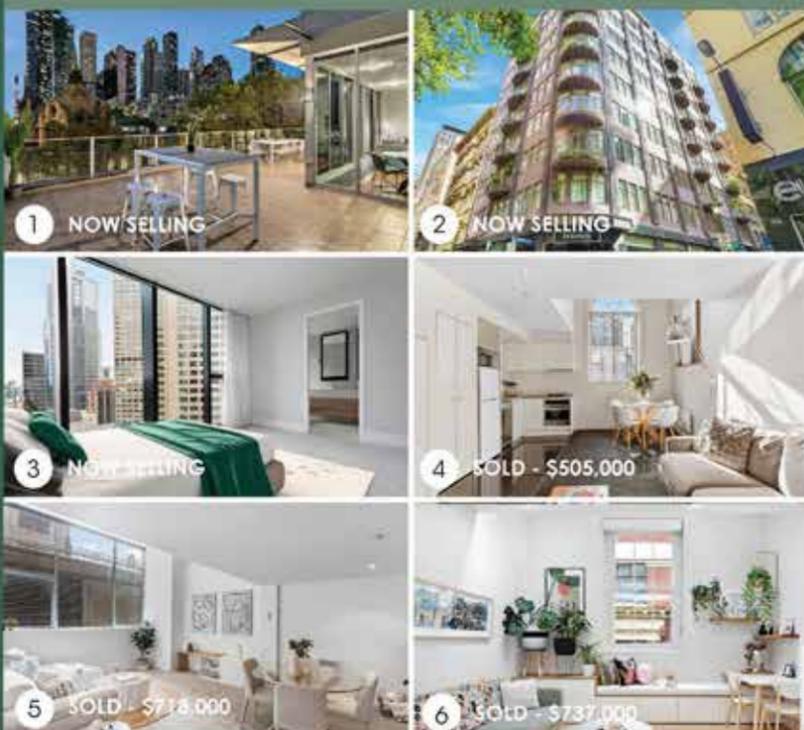
"We don't want people to be bombarded with oversized and intrusive commercial advertising on public infrastructure."

"Telstra is a major employer in the City of Melbourne and makes a very valuable ongoing contribution to our city."

"We will now work with Telstra on a coordinated plan for the installation of the next generation of phone boxes in the most appropriate places."

At 2.7 metres high and 1.2 metres wide, the new payphone structures are 600mm taller and 400mm wider than the older phone booths. They are also fitted with 75-inch LCD screens — which are 60 per cent larger than the previous signage displays — and which are programmed to show up to four advertisements per minute ●

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HOW TO GET YOUR FLU VACCINE



Get your seasonal flu vaccine at your local immunisation session

Get a seasonal flu vaccine to help protect your wellbeing during the colder months by dropping into one of the City of Melbourne's community immunisation sessions.

Immunisation helps protect children and adults against harmful infections by using the body's natural defence mechanism – the immune response – to build resistance to specific infections.

While there is a lot of focus on the COVID-19 vaccine at the moment, it is still important to get immunised for the flu. The City of Melbourne holds regular flu immunisation clinics at five family service centres.

Flu vaccines are free for children aged between six months and five years,

pregnant women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people aged over 65, and those who suffer from chronic conditions.

The flu vaccine is available for adults, and children aged five years and older, at a cost of \$20.

In your neighbourhood, flu vaccines are available every Tuesday morning in May and June at the Multicultural Hub, opposite Queen Victoria Market at 506 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

During COVID-19, we have introduced additional measures to protect our community and staff during community immunisation sessions, including physical distancing and additional hygiene and screening processes.



Bookings are also essential. For more details, and to find out how to make a booking, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/immunisation

ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

The roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines is being managed by the Federal Department of Health. For the latest information, check health.gov.au/covid19vaccines

The COVID-19 vaccination does not protect against seasonal flu. You must wait at least 14 days between a dose of the flu vaccine and a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

GREEN SPACES TO EXPLORE

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If you're in the mood for quiet



A leafy glade in the Royal Botanic Gardens

contemplation, head to the fern gully to explore three lush meditative spaces.

In this area you will find a sheltered grotto, a Japanese-inspired moss garden, a 'mother-stone' fountain and the 'bird's nest', where you can breathe in the green surroundings in a suspended swing chair.

These are just a few of the attractions at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

With Guilfoyle's Volcano, the Melbourne Observatory, the Tropical Glasshouse and numerous lakes, islands, and sculptures dotted around the site, you're sure to discover something new on your next visit.

IN-BRIEF

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DRAFT BUDGET, COUNCIL PLAN AND COMMUNITY VISION

What are your aspirations for Melbourne? We have created a draft Community Vision that outlines key priorities for the next 10 years, based on feedback from the community. The Community Vision forms part of our four-year Council Plan, the first year of which will be delivered through our Annual Plan and Budget. Have your say on all these plans from 14 May at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

MARKET SHEDS RESTORED

Visit Queen Victoria Market to shop for fresh produce, support local traders and see heritage sheds restored to their former glory. The market is open on Tuesday and Thursday to Sunday. Visit qvm.com.au

NEW PLAYGROUNDS

By July, the playgrounds at JJ Holland Park in Kensington and Lincoln Square in Carlton will get a makeover, with new monkey bars, rope bridges, BBQ areas and more. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/cityprojects

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A bumper month of news at Queen Victoria Market

There was no shortage of news to come out of the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) since the April edition of CBD News, with new market infrastructure, proposed food court designs and a new five-year market strategy all making headlines.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The news began ahead of the City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on April 13, with the council revealing a revamped design of the market's food court in conjunction with the approval of new Trader and Northern Sheds on Queen St.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the new trader and customer facilities and a "revitalised Food Hall" would create up to 400 construction jobs as part of a near \$40 million investment in the next stage of the market's \$268 million renewal program.

But while the council moves ahead with its incremental changes to the market, which it continues to reaffirm came out of the People's Panel process in 2018, opposition to its vision doesn't seem to waver.

Is it a case of a noisy minority as some suggest? It's hard to truly know.

While the council and QVM CEO Stan Liacos have consistently maintained that the vision has the support of the majority of the market floor, those on the other side, led largely by the Friends of Queen Victoria Market lobby group, tell a different story.

The Lord Mayor told submitters last month that she was "not aware of withholding any plans about the renewal" as opponents continued to voice concerns regarding the council's transparency in revealing details.

A consistent feature of any QVM-related matter at a council meeting is when councillors refer objectors back to the People's Panel recommendations, as Cr Leppert demonstrated on April 13 in relation to "Recommendation 6" – to improve food court infrastructure and amenities.

But while the council's plans to construct new infrastructure and upgrade existing facilities are no secret, the conversation among opponents has seemingly moved well beyond physical changes.

That is, how all these significant changes will impact the future operations of the market and those that make it what it is – the traders. And if "international market expert" Dr Jane Stanley's submission to the council on its new Trader and Northern Sheds is anything to go by, there is still much to be desired.

An international market consultant to the United Nations, Dr Stanley said the council's renewal for QVM lacked any economic and social impact assessments and modelling on the traders themselves and encouraged a more "collaborative" approach.

However, in acknowledging that there was "still a lot of concern about renewal as a whole", Cr Leppert said the feedback expressed by the likes of Dr Stanley on the night would indeed have its place in time.

"There's still a lot of concern about renewal as a whole. The review of the retail plan, the business case and any subsequent changes to the



master plan, etc. are matters for decisions that will come," he said.

And those sentiments more or less summed up the narrative of the April 13 FMC meeting, which saw the council issue planning permits to itself for the new Trader and Northern Sheds on Queen St following recent approvals from Heritage Victoria.

The council's chair of planning Cr Nicholas Reece issued a word of caution to submitters speaking to the two motions on the night that the council was merely considering two planning applications and whether they complied with the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

However, nearly every submission went on to focus on broader issues summed up by Dr Stanley, with other organisations such as Melbourne Heritage Action (MHA) group and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) adding that it was improper to be approving permits without first considering the impacts of such "radical changes" on traders.

The creation of a new Northern Shed in the centre of Queen St was clearly the more contentious of the two new pieces of infrastructure, with the new Trader Shed largely focused on providing new trader amenities, services, storage facilities and new public toilets.

Both councillors Reece and Leppert rejoiced at NH Architecture's "use of brick" in the Trader Shed design for complementing the heritage fabric of the market, with the new facility to present as two storeys above Queen St, with three levels of underground services.

Meanwhile, the approval of a permit for the controversial Northern Shed was much less straight forward, with the new facility set to completely overhaul the way current operations are currently conducted at QVM.

In an attempt to limit the use of forklifts and provide fixed market stalls and storage, the Northern Shed will see all deliveries, waste management and services provided by vehicle done after market hours during the late night and early morning.

Under the new plans, vehicles will travel north along Queen St, make their deliveries, and exit via Victoria St, before Queen St is closed to vehicles and returned to a flexible space for customers and market events.

Waste management services at the market will

all be moved underground as part of what Cr Leppert referred to as the "Northern Facilities", after Heritage Victoria removed the plan's roof, as well as a proposed retail pod, due to heritage concerns.

With the question around weather protection for the new facilities left unanswered, the council proceeded to issue a permit without a roof.

While Cr Reece said it would improve loading and waste management without detracting from market character, Cr Leppert said the northern facilities had "not been well explained".

"The council needs to ensure that this bespoke operation is going to work. This is a very significant change to the public realm."

But submitters continued to prosecute the case for more transparency as to how the facilities would work in practice, with fruit and veg trader Tony Ansaldo bemused as to how his business was going to make its deliveries work from Epping every day without 24-hour access.



Food Court becomes a "Food Hall"

In what Cr Roshena Campbell described as turning the food court into "a compelling reason to visit the market", councillors also endorsed a \$4.5 redesign of the QVM food court on April 13.

The concept plans, which have now proceeded to lodgement of heritage and planning permit applications, will see the space pivot from Food Court to "Food Hall" by "championing food theatre within the dining area and improved shopfronts."

"Traders have told us that the existing Food Court, which was built in the mid-1990s, is outdated and limits the potential to grow their businesses," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said. "This upgrade will include an improved dining area including more seating, flexible layout, cooking demonstration area, greenery, new flooring and roof."

The council said that construction of the Food Hall, Trader Shed and Northern Shed was expected to begin in early 2022.

A five-plan for the market

And last, but not least, QVM Pty Ltd released an "ambitious" five-year strategy to "bring Melburnians back" to the market and support

longer-term revitalisation on April 14.

With a significant drop in foot traffic in 2020, the market and its traders were among the hardest hit by the pandemic due to their CBD location and status as a top tourist and events destination.

According to QVM Pty Ltd, the strategy was informed by extensive data, research, insights and trader/customer feedback, including recent market research to understand the preferences of current, lapsed and potential customers largely in Melbourne.

QVM CEO Stan Liacos said the draft Future Market Strategy preserved the heritage and what people loved about the market, while enhancing the retail offer and experience, in particular the core inner-city catchment and a younger demographic.

Highlights of Queen Victoria Market's proposed future offer and experience include:

- New specialty shopping and services precincts: local needs, "Melbourne Makers" and a business incubator for new traders.
- Expanded fresh produce offerings: more seasonal local produce, dry goods and convenient semi-prepared and ready-to-eat items, and take-home meals.
- More hospitality options: evening dining/bars, quick/casual food and produce sampling/grazing.
- Over time, some parts of the market to open in the evening and on non-Market days (hospitality/events focus).
- Enhanced retail configurations and more placemaking, seating, weather protection and pedestrian-friendly spaces.
- More events and activations: to support existing traders and bring different people into the precinct throughout the day, week and year.

Mr Liacos said the market had to adapt to recover from the pandemic and ensure its future viability.

"Critical to the future of our market is ensuring we are relevant to more Melburnians, particularly those in our core inner-city catchment and younger people," he said.

"Our draft strategy builds on the fundamental elements that we know people love about the market and focuses on making it an even better place to visit, shop and trade."

"It has been one of the most challenging 12 months in the market's history and this draft strategy will support our recovery so we can re-emerge stronger than ever."

Market management is seeking feedback on the draft strategy from traders, customers, community and others with an interest in the market ●

For more information:

qvm.com.au/news/future-market-strategy



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Lord Mayor Sally Capp with
Beverly Caprioli, University Café



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EVENT PARTNER



Get students back by July: Council

WORDS BY *David Schout*
EDUCATION

The City of Melbourne has said it was “critical” international students began returning to the city for semester two of the tertiary year.

If they remained shut out, Melbourne risked “enduring brand damage” to its pre-COVID status as the third-best student city in the world.

The strong comments came as universities told the council that students were turning their backs on Melbourne in favour of the UK or Canada.

“The feedback we’ve been receiving from the universities in Melbourne is that students that are currently enrolled and set to start [studying] in Australia are currently changing their mind and ... increasingly turning to Canada and the UK as destinations,” council’s director of economic development and international Andrew Wear said.

Overseas students make up more than a third (38 per cent) of CBD residents, and international education was the state’s single biggest export.

However, they are currently not able to arrive or return to Victoria due to restrictions on incoming arrivals.

There was little appetite among state and federal governments to change this in the short term, and Premier Daniel Andrews said in January there was “little prospect of many students returning this year”.

But in a report tabled at an April 13 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, the council

said this would cause lasting damage.

“Stakeholder feedback indicates that Melbourne – and Australia – risks enduring brand damage if students continue to be prevented from arriving to undertake studies,” the report said.

“To mitigate this risk, it is critical that at least an initial group of students is able to arrive onshore for Semester 2 this year.”

The second semester for most universities is due to begin in late July.

The council said it would push upper levels of government to agree to a pilot program supporting the return of a “several thousand students” in time for Semester 2.

Victorian Universities recently proposed to help pay for a quarantine scheme modelled on the Australian Open program.

The council noted, however, that it should “not prioritise international students over returning Australians”.

Mr Wear said that the UK government had sent a signal that to international students it was “open for business”, which Australia had not.

“Our global competitive position is increasingly diminished and with time, we run the risk of enduring damage to our brand as a welcoming student city.”

The council said international students “contribute enormously” to the city’s economy, culture and vitality.

“They are customers, employees, tourists, performers, business operators and entrepreneurs,” the report said.

Cr Davvyd Griffiths said international

We know that international students bring far more than just economic impact. They make up to 39 per cent of residents of some of our suburbs, they’re the neighbours in our streets, volunteers and teach us more about the world.



students brought much more than just economic benefits to Melbourne.

“There are so many institutions that rely on students. It’s intrinsic to the life of our city,” he said.

“I feel the economic case speaks for itself. We know that international students bring far more than just economic impact. They make up to 39 per cent of residents of some of our suburbs, they’re the neighbours in our streets, volunteers and teach us more about the world. They become Melburnians who travel the world promoting Melbourne as ambassadors.”

Cr Philip Le Liu said it was “crucial” that the council stepped in.

“There is a place for everyone. I wouldn’t want a second-rate quarantine program – we need to get this right,” he said.

“I’m excited to see how we can shift discussion and implement a pilot program.”

Council’s “shout” a big winner

The same report noted the huge take-up of the “Our Shout” food voucher program for international students last year.

Overall, almost 10,000 students were able to access \$200 worth of vouchers to spend at the Queen Victoria Market at the height of the pandemic.

The council said that the \$2 million program, set up in less than three weeks in May 2020, was a win-win.

“This program provided much-needed funds directly to international students and QVM traders at a time when visitation to the market was at an all-time low.” ●

Salvos bring back “The Couch” for international students

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COMMUNITY

The Salvation Army last month relaunched “The Couch” – a pop-in program dedicated to international students experiencing isolation and unemployment as a result of COVID-19.

With the support of the City of Melbourne and Newcrest Mining, the program was reinstated on March 26 at The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614’s Bourke St headquarters with the help of Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

With international students some of the worst affected by the pandemic, the program will provide a safe place for students to relax, learn, socialise, connect with support services, study, and to be part of peer and social networks.

“We know that international students, given their contribution to our community, are deserving of support whether that’s a lifting of spirits, an opportunity to come and connect and have a safe space with others – particularly with others who can provide assistance and support,” the Lord Mayor said. “We hope that The Couch will become important in the lives of international students.”

“We hope that it’s here to give that ongoing support but, more importantly, that we have that ongoing connection of showing how important international students are to all of us in the City of Melbourne.”

Filipino international student Kimberly Clemencio said the return of The Couch was welcome news for the student community.

“This will be very relevant and helpful for international student community to connect with other students,” she said.

“2020 was a very tough year. Most suffered emotionally, financially and mentally. I was one of those students. It was very tough on me. I suffered mental health issues – I was very stressed. My brother passed away last



▲ The Couch is relaunched last month at the Salvation Army.

year, and I couldn’t go home.”

The Couch program first ran in 2011 and 2012 and was launched after the murder of a recently graduated international student Nitin Garg in Yarraville in 2010. At the time it was funded by the state government.

In June last year, the council voted unanimously to

undertake an assessment of The Couch International Student Program and consider funding a yearlong revival.

While the program was originally conceived and equipped as a study hub, Salvation Army Major Brendan Nottle said his team soon found that “sharing meals, Zumba

classes, yoga, and Bollywood nights” were the mainstay for participants. “These students are dealing with loneliness and social isolation,” he said. “Some international students go without nutritious meals, and face challenges with mental health, addiction and visa issues.”

“Many of these kids have come

from families who have sacrificed so much to send them here, so they have the chance of a better future. We want them to be safe and supported – that’s what The Couch is about.”

From 29 March, The Couch will operate at Project 614’s Bourke St premises each week, Monday to Thursday nights, 6.30pm - 8.30pm ●

Nicholas Building: half empty or half full?

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
BUSINESS

Up to 50 per cent of rooms in the Nicholas Building in Swanston St are empty as a result of the pandemic, according to tenants keen to see the place full of creative energy again.

“It’s half empty,” long-term tenant and gallerist Stephen McLaughlan said, who has at least survived the lockdown.

Rents were a major preoccupation during the long slow days of winter and Stephen paid his on the dot from his superannuation to make sure he kept up.

His gallery was forced to close but the efforts of the Nicholas Building Association helped, with landlords granting a rent waiver for several months, keeping up much-needed morale.

Those creatives without an ABN were vulnerable, Stephen said. “People lost their day job or they were not getting JobKeeper. Others felt it was time to draw a line.”

Now rents are back to normal and businesses are having to deal with the new normal, like it or not.

The gallery’s first post-COVID exhibition was a gap show of work by artists who missed out because of the 2020 lockdown but two new artists are currently showing, which is encouraging.

“I’m busier than ever,” Stephen said. “It’s a lot better than I expected. I’m not ahead in the big picture but I’m pretty lucky.”

Marc Dixon on the fifth floor also survived the pandemic but the patterns have been different for architects, with plenty of work during the lockdown but less on stream now.

“Projects are planned years in advance,” he said. “After June/July last year there were no calls.”

The firm is getting by on small jobs such as making the entrance to the City Baths more accessible and renewing the tuck pointing between the bricks.

“You can design a city block but equally what



▲ Gallerist Stephen McLaughlan.



▲ Architect Marc Dixon.

“

Chance meetings are off. We’re only seeing people over the past three weeks.

”

people are gripping such as a hand rail,” he said. “How high should a step be? How much grip should it have? Could there be an architectural solution?”

The old conviviality of the building is taking a while to recover and he is missing the casual way of working in the past when you could drop into the Town Hall and discuss projects with council officers.

“Chance meetings are off. We’re only seeing people over the past three weeks,” Marc said.

Another impact of the pandemic has been an increase in office expenses in terms of the server going online and more regulations in the industry.

“There’s a lot of heat in the industry,” he said. “There’s trouble getting prices from contractors. We’re loaded with extra admin requirements. There are more regulatory requirements within the building industry.”

But there’s always a chance to let off steam in the Nicholas Building and these stalwarts have not lost their zeal in this department.

Stephen had a spring in his step as he took a stroll around nearby arcades and Marc was looking forward to a glass of wine downstairs come Friday knock-off time.

There were reports that takings at Cathedral Coffee were back up to 80 per cent of pre-COVID levels and that is a measure of how full the glass really is ●



▲ Getting ready at Cathedral Coffee for Friday night drinks.



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Former local reunites with his old home

WORDS BY *Rachael Fleury*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*
HISTORY

The cottage at 17 Casselden Place in Melbourne's CBD has enjoyed a rich history since it was built 144 years ago; from sly grog shop to brothel and squatters' residence and now as a boutique gin distillery.

The cottage is the last remaining of six brick two-roomed homes built by shoemaker and small-time developer John Casselden in 1877.

The "Little Lon" precinct was long associated with slums, brothels and opium dens until 1948 when the Commonwealth Government compulsorily acquired the area to develop government offices. The cottage survived the development but was left vacant for many years until, during the early 1980s, photographer Cheyenne Morrison came across the building and started researching its history.

"I was living in a warehouse in the city at the time, but I came across this tiny little cottage right in the middle of the CBD. It had been left empty and looked like it needed some love," Mr Morrison said.

Mr Morrison went to the Land and Titles' office (now known as Landata) to do a title search. He was able to find that the government owned the building, but there had been no other records made since the 1950s. Mr Morrison decided he would move in.

"I used the 'Squatters Guide' and was very careful about what I did. I wasn't a squatter because I was poor. I squatted because I had found this amazing cottage in the middle of the city, and it was empty, so I decided to look after it," Mr Morrison said.

"The place was filthy when I moved in. I found old newspapers inside dating back to the 1950s, so I think no one had lived there for 30 years."

Despite now living in Queensland, Mr Morrison feels a deep connection to inner-city Melbourne. Until the age of five, he lived with his paternal grandmother, Hazel Morrison, in her apartment at number two Collins St. Mrs Morrison worked as a milliner for Melbourne high-fashion store Le Louvre.

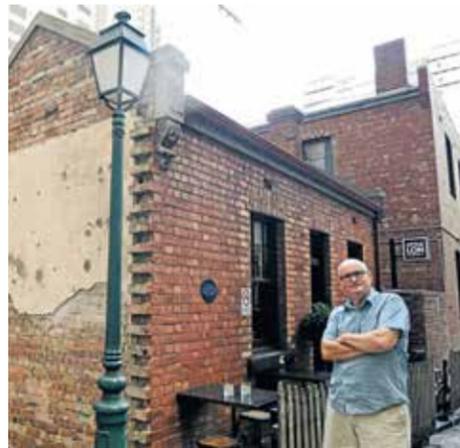
"My grandmother knew all the high-society people of Melbourne. She made hats for them all and dressed them for the races. She also knew all the fashion photographers, which is where my love of photography began," he said.

When Mr Morrison moved into 17 Casselden St, there was no water and no power. He used to fill up jerry cans of water at Parliament Station and carry them back down to the cottage.

"It was like camping in the middle of the city; I had kerosene lanterns and a little gas cooking stove. I also had a battery-powered black and white TV."

Mr Morrison left Melbourne in 2000 and, before this visit, had not returned to the city since. He lived overseas before settling in Queensland.

Mr Morrison said he began researching a few years ago into the Melbourne buildings in which he used to live. Through his research, he discovered that the little cottage was now operating as a boutique gin distillery – the Little Lon Distilling Co.



▲ Cheyenne Morrison returns to his former home in April.



Brad Wilson, founder of Little Lon Distilling Co., said Mr Morrison had reached out to him more than a year ago to tell him about his time living in the cottage and that he planned to visit Melbourne. Various COVID-19 lockdowns had thwarted their plans to meet, but finally, the two were able to meet in early April.

"It's been amazing to finally meet him, to hear his stories, and to be taken back to that time during the '80s when no one wanted this little cottage," Mr Wilson said.

Little Lon Distilling Co. has embraced the rich heritage of the "Little Lon" precinct, and each of their gins takes inspiration from the stories of the area and previous residents of the cottage. Mr Wilson said the more he researched into the history of the area, the more he realised the same names such as "Yokohama" and "Constable Proudfoot" kept popping up in the historical records.

"We have a lychee-infused gin named Miss Yoko, who we named after Yokohama (real name Tiecome Ah Chung), who was a brothel-keeper of the cottage up until the 1920s. We felt if we were going to be working in her cottage, we needed a gin in her honour. Then there's Constable Proudfoot, a robust fellow – so we created a really robust London-style gin with juniper and rosemary," Mr Wilson said.

Mr Morrison said that he loved seeing what

“

I squatted because I had found this amazing cottage in the middle of the city, and it was empty, so I decided to look after it.

”

the Little Lon Distilling Co. had done with such a tiny space and that he was "so happy" the little cottage had been protected by Heritage Victoria.

"This little house typifies the rich history of Melbourne. I'm just one in a long line of people who have lived here, from the prostitutes in the red-light district to someone like me and now Brad and his gin distillery. The history of all the people that lived here is really precious," he said ●



Explore the CBD virtually

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*
TECHNOLOGY

Visitors to the city can now learn about Melbourne's CBD in an immersive and creative way, with the launch of a new app, which uses augmented reality technology to turn the city into a giant digital game.

The app, "64 Ways of Being", covers a three-kilometre stretch from Kings Way to Queens Bridge by the Yarra and players can explore the CBD by following characters, uncovering hidden worlds, hearing stories about the city and collecting puzzle pieces.

RMIT Vice-Chancellor's senior research fellow Dr Troy Innocent, who led the project team in developing the app, said it was an amazing collaborative opportunity.

"64 Ways of Being has been an amazing opportunity to collaborate with other creative practitioners. We're really excited to see how Melburnians and visitors embrace it," he said.

Developed during the past two years, the app was created by Dr Innocent who worked with live arts collective One Step At A Time Like This, and game developer Millpede.

Victorian Traditional Owners, cultural groups, performers, coders, game developers, musicians and translators all had input on the research for the app to help bring to life key sites across the city.

The project was backed by the state government via the Creative State Commissions program.

Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said the app would showcase Melbourne in a new way.

"The 64 Ways of Being app puts Victorian innovation on show, providing opportunities for creative workers with a free, COVID-safe activity that everyone can enjoy," he said.

While the app only covers the CBD, the creative team plans to expand the game in the next year.

St Kilda, Footscray, Collingwood and Fitzroy are earmarked to feature in the game's expansion.

The 64 Ways of Being app is now live and can be downloaded from the Apple store and Google Play ●

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New off-leash opportunities for local dogs

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has invited locals to have their say on a review of off-leash areas in the municipality, with council identifying several potential sites for pooches to run free.

The council has identified 13 new off-leash opportunities across the municipality, with two locations giving CBD residents' dogs open-space options on the city's southern doorstep.

CBD resident Stan Capp said there were residents in the CBD who felt there was not sufficient access to open spaces for their dogs in the local area.

"Their perception is that there's not sufficient off-leash parks around," he said.

Locals can have their say about the dogs in open spaces issue by visiting the Participate Melbourne website.

The project overview shows that three of the 13 potential sites are parks and reserves in existing neighbourhoods, including Customs Square, sandwiched between Flinders and Queensbridge streets.

There are also five parks which the council has earmarked as potential space which could accommodate timed off-leash access, including Wellington Park, opposite Treasury Gardens.

A further five off-leash park opportunities have been identified in future neighbourhoods, including E-gate, the Arden/Macaulay Development in North Melbourne, as well as at the Kings Way under-croft site at Southbank.

Mr Capp said he felt the council's proposed off-leash sites had been carefully considered.

"They've been thought out to be respectful to our heritage gardens," he said.

The current rules regarding the use of the large, older gardens and parks around the CBD, including Treasury Gardens, Kings Domain, Queen Victoria Gardens and Flagstaff Gardens, only allow dogs when they are on-leash.

Established in the 19th century, these gardens



▲ CBD dog owners turned out in large numbers last year at Flagstaff Gardens calling on the council to establish an off-leash area for dogs.

are classified as "Capital City and State" open spaces, and according to the council's Open Space Strategy, they are "iconic and synonymous with the character and identity of Melbourne".

The strategy goes on to state that they are "often used to stage activities and events of international, national, state and metropolitan importance".

"Our view is that dogs off-leash may not be compatible with these high levels of visitation," the Participate Melbourne website states.

Mr Capp thinks the older parks should be protected on all fronts.

"I feel very privileged to be able to access all of these parks with our dog on leash. Any new off-leash dog parks really should not intrude on the existing wonderful parks that we have

available to us in the CBD," he said.

Off-leash areas in heritage parks became a vexed issue late last year, with a Change.org petition set up by local dog-owner Gavin Macleod calling for a section of Flagstaff Gardens to be cordoned off to allow local pooches to run free.

The petition attracted 388 signatures.

Another local dog-owner, Joanna, told *CBD News* last October that the available off-leash dog parks were more than 30 minutes' walk from her home near Flagstaff.

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

This situation may now change. While Flagstaff Gardens is still ineligible for off-leash activities, nearby Eades Park has been identified by the council as a potential candidate for timed

off-leash access.

Community consultation on the issue of dogs in open spaces is now underway at the Participate Melbourne website.

As well as having their say regarding potential and existing off-leash sites, locals also can also express their opinion on the types of access, as well as amenities for dogs at the site.

Community consultation will close on April 30 ●

For more information:
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/dogs-open-space

Science art gallery to open

WORDS BY *Micaela Togher*
EDUCATION

Australia's first science-art gallery will be opening in Melbourne in June.

Created under a partnership between the state government and the University of Melbourne, Science Gallery Melbourne will be positioned in the University of Melbourne's new Melbourne Connect precinct on the corner of Grattan and Swanston streets.

Designed by architect William Smart from Smart Design Studio, the gallery will feature more than 3500 sqm of exhibition space and include a theatre, learning centre and workshop areas.

Science Gallery Melbourne is the latest addition to the international Science Gallery Network which sees museums hosted by universities worldwide.

It is hoped the creation of the gallery will be a major new attraction with a focus on offering interactive exhibits and events that present scientific ideas with an artistic flair.

The University of Melbourne's director of museums and collections Rose Hiscock said the space would allow for creative engagement with science for students and the public alike.

"Science Gallery Melbourne provides a contemporary, playful and welcoming space for young people to explore issues, ideas and the great challenges of our time," Ms Hiscock said.

The mission behind Science Gallery Melbourne is to engage students aged between 15 and 25 interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Having offered a variety of pop-up exhibitions in Melbourne since 2017, Science Gallery Melbourne will now provide a permanent venue to allow local students to compete with their international peers.

The University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Duncan Maskell said the key to success lay in the gallery's model of presenting



immersive, experimental exhibitions that offered a combination of scientific theory and new technologies with creative and conceptual themes.

"By bringing together science, innovation and creative thinking, we encourage conversations and ideas about the future of the Australian and global work force," Vice-Chancellor Maskell said.

Science Gallery Melbourne will open on Tuesday, June 15 ●



▲ Matilda of Richmond constructs a story inside the library.

Kids take over the library

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
COMMUNITY

Stories are written from the ground up and the librarians at the State Library of Victoria were giving kids the right materials for their imagination over the school holidays.

Gone were the instructions and the enforced listening of the typical story-time session.

Kids were in charge for a change and not everyone was engaging in anarchy.

Matilda Holmes of Richmond was building characters in the Exquisite Story room then creating relationships between them.

"A girl came, an alien came and someone said 'run,'" she said.

Kids also got to draw evil pigeons in a mystery session by Andrew McDonald and Ben Wood, onto their seventh graphic novel in the *Real Pigeons* series.

This was the first time since 2019 that the pair was running a session for kids.

Outside the library the mood was joyous as



▲ Anarchy outside the library led by Paige.

bunches of kids swooped on pigeons and a giant snail slithered out from a corner to feel its way around the quadrangle.

Ron McCleod was down from Canberra and sitting outside the library minding his own business when the snail crept up on him and tried to eat him.

"It's good fun," he said. "I'm still a member of the library."

This is the first time kids have taken over the library and it won't be the last, a librarian said ●

“Don’t let the perfect get in the way of the good”

Reason Party leader Fiona Patten is your local member for the seat of Northern Metropolitan in the Victorian upper house (Legislative Council) of parliament. But what does that mean for locals in practice?

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
FEATURE

As an independent, Fiona’s vote is incredibly valuable to the government which only holds 17 of the 40 upper house seats, meaning her ability to advocate for change on many critical laws and issues is stronger than what many may assume.

But with a “whopping great electorate” spanning from Craigieburn to the CBD and incorporating 11 lower house seats, including that of Melbourne held by Greens MP Ellen Sandell, her role is more focused on policy than “fix the traffic light type issues”.

However, don’t think this prevents her from getting out in the community to hear from her constituents on all fronts. If anything, providing independent access to government through advocating and holding decision-makers accountable makes her the most effective representative locals could ask for.

Having first been elected to state parliament in 2014 as the leader of the Sex Party, which she founded with her partner Robbie Swan in 2009, Fiona’s acute rise in the Victorian political sphere has been no accident.

While she now represents her constituents under the admittedly “less-catchy” Reason Party, her movement to instil a “voice for reason” in parliament has garnered support from all sides of politics.

And it’s this approach, underpinned by respecting the government’s mandate and being willing to compromise and negotiate in good faith, which has seen her effect change on a diverse range of issues during her time.

She told *CBD News* that when it came to getting things done in parliament, she had always abided by a philosophy of not allowing “the perfect to get in the way of the good”.

“I wouldn’t call it horse trading, but the government does need my vote from time to time,” she said.

“So that does provide a relatively open door and I’ve always seen it as my role to work with the government, so I try and maintain good relations with the government. And that’s meant that a lot of the campaigns that I’ve been passionate about I’ve been able to successfully progress.”

“You can have an effect and it’s remembering that you’re not there to be the opposition. The government holds the chequebook and they’re the government.”

“As an independent it’s an interesting position because every vote is a conscience vote. Every week this office has to get its head around anywhere up to five pieces of legislation, plus the amendments that my crossbench colleagues or the opposition will put forward.”

“I go into all that with an open mind and we look at and assess the legislation, we talk to stakeholders about it, we ask questions of the government, we then talk to opposition about their amendments and there will be time I support their amendments. There will be times I don’t. But I won’t be opposing things just for the sake of opposing things.”

“I think you also have to take into account that governments do have a mandate. I do recognise that I’m not government. That’s not my role. My role is to represent Northern Metropolitan and to advocate for the policies that I took to the election as well.”

A proud “Canberra girl”, the 55-year-old Ms Patten said she came into politics “somewhat unwillingly” off the back of 20 years of advocating for small business, sexual health organisations, sexual freedoms and censorship reforms.

Before relocating to Victoria in 2010, she ran a small fashion design business during “the recession we had to have”, which is when she first became politically active after meeting a lot of people working in the sex industry.

This activism was brought into particularly sharp focus with HIV/AIDS, which she described as a “moment in time” through which she passionately fought against the discrimination and stigmatisation of those affected by the disease.

And off the back of such tireless advocacy and

lobbying, Australia became the first jurisdiction in the world to decriminalise sex work and continues to be a leader in dealing with a range of complex public health and social issues.

Today, with the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19 representing another “moment in time”, Fiona finds herself at the coalface once again, and like HIV/AIDS, she said the pandemic presented a significant opportunity to “do things differently”.

One such opportunity she said was ending homelessness in Victoria, which as the first independent to ever chair a parliamentary committee in Victoria, she recently led a landmark inquiry into (as reported in the April edition of *CBD News*).

But in addition to chairing the Legal and Social Issues committee, she has been central to a lot of important work through her positions on the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations committee and the Procedure committee.

Having been able to drive reform on issues including ride sharing, voluntary assisted dying, spent convictions, supervised injecting rooms, cannabis, firearms prohibition, and more recently, contact tracing and testing, she said she “loved the work of committees”.

“Victoria will be the first state to have pandemic specific legislation. Now I don’t think I’m boasting when I say that was because of the work that we did,” she said.

“We have been working with the government to ensure we have legislation that doesn’t require us to go into this State of Emergency constantly, that we can go ‘yep, we need to quarantine incoming travellers, we need to isolate people when they’ve come into contact with



“I think you also have to take into account that governments do have a mandate. I do recognise that I’m not government. That’s not my role. My role is to represent Northern Metropolitan and to advocate for the policies that I took to the election as well.”



COVID’ but we don’t have to have that sense of emergency.”

“I’m still digesting the homelessness report. It was all-consuming for most of 2020 and now that we’ve got the recommendations and now, I’m looking at those and thinking how can I progress them? And to me, that’s my job to

make sure that happens.”

But when it comes to representing her local electorate – one of the fast growing in Australia – Fiona said the vast range of issues and “big pockets of disadvantage” meant her to-do list was constantly getting bigger.

Maximising her parliamentary communication budget by employing people to communicate with her constituents, she said her Sydney Rd office in Brunswick was always there to answer the phone and advocate on behalf of the community.

“Specifically for people in my electorate, I’m more than happy to advocate for better roads, or better trains or better transport and I do that, and I certainly get to put in bids to the budget for certain special projects, but I think more importantly it comes back to that policy area and I think that’s where we can have the greatest effect.” ●

For more information:
fionapatten.com.au



Sean Car
EDITOR

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Your City of Melbourne community update



MELBOURNE'S ROAD TO RECOVERY

Enjoy the city's revival by exploring upcoming events that bring the buzz back to Melbourne and boost local business.

Festivals, events and a host of not-to-be-missed experiences will be the talk of the town thanks to a recent \$5 million investment in events as part of the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, a joint initiative from the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

The funding will support events such as the RISING festival, new night markets and the Jurassic World by Brickman exhibition, among many others.

With more than 100 COVID-safe events receiving funding support, organisers are anticipating a combined audience of up to five million people to the city – which will help support jobs and businesses in the city.

'Supporting events with this joint fund is another way we are working to bring back the buzz to Melbourne,' Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

'Our city is famous for its world-class events – whether it's sport, art, food or fashion – and it's critical we support this sector to create jobs and deliver a boost to local hospitality and retail businesses.

'Every visitor we can attract to Melbourne through events and activations provides more opportunities for local businesses for their cash registers to be ringing with more sales.'

Local businesses can also expect a boost from a five-month marketing campaign encouraging people to 'Get to the city or get FOMO'.

Businesses during COVID-19

Melbourne's businesses were hit hard this past year. Early and effective support has been crucial in helping businesses keep their doors open and

find new and innovative ways to offer their services.

This support included targeted COVID-19 grants and an expanded Business Concierge Service.

In 2020 the City of Melbourne's business grant programs delivered \$17.3 million in funding for almost 3000 businesses.

The funding helped businesses adapt through digital and online measures, business transformation, and reopening costs including COVID-safe equipment, small-scale capital works and outdoor dining furniture and infrastructure.

The Business Concierge Service was established in March 2020 to provide direct support and advice to businesses impacted by COVID-19.

The service has made more than 11,000 outbound calls and responded to almost 9000 inbound calls, providing information about ways businesses can access funding and support.

Earlier this year, the City of Melbourne sought feedback on business grants and the Business Concierge Service.

A survey of 675 inner city businesses found that two in five respondents (38 per cent) said their business would not be operating without the support, and 89 per cent said the support had had a direct positive impact on their business.

'The past 12 months have been the toughest trading conditions in living memory for many businesses and that's why it was so critical to deliver timely and valuable support to help keep Melburnians in jobs,' the Lord Mayor said.

'Many businesses indicated that the grants helped them keep their teams together or get the right equipment to keep customers safe.'

Support your local retailers

Right across Melbourne, businesses are seeing foot traffic pick up as people rediscover their neighbourhoods.

The City of Melbourne supports local precinct associations, which are at the heart of their communities.

We recently provided nine recognised precinct associations with an

additional \$100,000 one-off payment for activation programs, to further stimulate economic activity in areas such as the central city, Docklands and Kensington.

Among the many creative initiatives being delivered, the Docklands Dollars program will offer rebates for people taking a two-night 'staycation' near the harbour.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RISING FESTIVAL

See stunning art and performance in secret spaces

26 May to 6 June

Visit rising.melbourne

WINTER NIGHT MARKET

Enjoy cosy meals at the Queen Victoria Market

3 June to 25 August

Visit qvm.com.au/whats-on/night-market

JURASSIC WORLD, BRICKMAN

Explore a prehistoric world build from Lego

1 April to 31 May

Visit exhibition.thebrickman.com

OZ COMIC-CON

Experience cosplay, gaming and comic art with fellow pop culture fans

3 to 4 July

Visit ozcomiccon.com/melbourne

To find out more about what's on in your local area, browse whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au



SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

Local businesses, services and organisations are the lifeblood of Melbourne, and our support for them is multi-layered and ongoing.

Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business to subscribe to the Business in Melbourne newsletter and explore the help on offer, including grants, rate relief, marketing support and free outdoor dining permits.

For one-on-one advice, call our dedicated Business Concierge Service on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business), or enquire online at the above website.

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10 HIGHLIGHTS OF YIRRAMBOI FESTIVAL

Explore more than 150 dynamic events that celebrate First Nations culture presented by YIRRAMBOI Festival between 6 and 16 May.

Meaning 'tomorrow' in the shared local languages of the Boonwurrung and Woivurrung peoples, YIRRAMBOI Festival is a celebration of the diversity and continuous evolution of the longest living cultures in the world.

The festival features a dynamic program of free and low-cost events spanning genres and art forms including music, dance, theatre, film, exhibitions, markets, fashion parades, family-friendly events, talks and symposiums.

Creative Director of YIRRAMBOI Festival and Boonwurrung and Wemba Wemba woman Caroline Martin said this year's festival is all about what's next.

'When you immerse yourself in the many free and paid events you will be a part of the first live audience that many of our creatives have had in more than 12 months, and we can't wait to celebrate with you,' Caroline said.

Here are 10 of the festival's highlights:

1 Women's Healing Place

Thursday 6 to Saturday 15 May, various dates and times
Queen Victoria Women's Centre

Attend a series of workshops led by proud First Nations women that explore identity, culture, trauma, healing and self-care through storytelling, yarning, visual art, song and movement.

2 Arterial

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 May, 8.30pm
Meat Market Cobblestone Pavilion

Marvel at a breathtaking acrobatic performance by the Na Djinang Circus, led by award-winning entertainer Harley Mann, that explores the ancient connections that tie First Nations people together.

3 Barring Yanabul: City-wide Blak Out

Saturday 8 May, 8.30am to 8.30pm
Across the city

See 40 top acts pop-up across the city in this this all-day celebration of Blak culture. Explore the city's iconic public spaces and laneways to discover art, music, dance, theatre and fashion. Free.



4 Crumbs

Saturday 8 to Sunday 16 May, various times
ArtPlay, Birrarung Marr

Bring kids aged 5 to 10 to enjoy a magical story of a cubby, a sneaky neighbour and a fight for survival. See the epic battle unfold in this hilarious show from writers NazAree Dickerson and Nathan Maynard.

5 Blak Makers Market

Sunday 9 May, 10am to 5pm
Malthouse Outdoor Stage, Southbank

Discover something new, handmade or delicious at this outdoor market. Browse stalls showcasing fashion, jewellery, crafts and bush food - all from proud Blak makers. Free entry.

6 Madhanbaa Mayrra

Saturday 8 May, 8pm
Melbourne Town Hall

Hear traditional-style songs in Yuwaalaraay and Gamilaraay languages infused with techno rhythms and the rich sounds of Melbourne Town Hall's Grand Organ. James Henry blends unlikely genres in this unmissable gig.



7 BRED

Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 May, various times
Meat Market, North Melbourne

See the stars of Briefs Factory interrogate First Nations history with trademark drag, sass and performance art at Meat Market. This cabaret creates space to salvage cultural connections and closeness post-lockdown.



Nartarsha Bamblett will facilitate a workshop as part of the Women's Healing Place program

Photo: Yotography

8 Deadly Funny Showcase

Friday 14 May, 6.30pm
Malthouse Outdoor Stage, Southbank

Giggle and guffaw at some of Australia's freshest and funniest Blak comedians. Cheeky and loud, Blak and proud, these side-splitting acts will be welcomed to the stage by your host, Gurindji showgirl Constantina Bush.

9 Blak Fillums

Tuesday 11 to Thursday 13 May, 7pm nightly
The Capitol, Melbourne

Settle in on Swanston Street for three nights of films from First Nations creatives, including a documentary about an Australian company mining in Greenland and a revealing look into the lives of Transblack people.

10 Considerable Sexual Licence

Wednesday 5 to Saturday 15 May, various times
Northcote Town Hall

Take a flirty, filthy and passionate look at the true history of sensuality down under. This provocative performance led by proud Wiradjuri man Joel Bray celebrates country, community, consent and kinship.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the festival showcases the diversity and creativity of First Nations arts and culture.

'We're bringing the buzz back to Melbourne through Australia's largest and most exciting First Nations festival, celebrating a cultural history stretching back more than 65,000 years,' the Deputy Lord Mayor said.

'Melbourne's First Nations people make significant contributions to our city and we're incredibly proud to have this opportunity to appreciate and recognise their culture and their talent through the YIRRAMBOI Festival.'

'Not only is YIRRAMBOI Festival a celebration, it also provides genuine economic benefit to more than 200 First Nations people working in the creative sector.'

For bookings and further information, visit yiramboi.com.au

Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur.

KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne* magazine online at magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au

You can also join conversations to influence plans for your neighbourhood through Participate Melbourne at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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Community Garden comes to life

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

After being pushed back due to COVID-19, the Drill Hall Community Garden finally held its official opening on Saturday, March 27.

The event saw some 80 people, including Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Federal Member for Melbourne Adam Bandt, attend a morning that included a smoking ceremony and speeches from those who have played a part in the garden's establishment.

The garden, situated at the corner of Victoria and Therry streets and next door to community health provider Cohealth, was previously a disused space chained off from the public.

However, in recent years it has been transformed into a space with garden beds, planter boxes and a seating area enjoyed particularly by Drill Hall residents next door.

Drill Hall Residents' Association president Martin Mulvihill told *CBD News* that the garden was a culmination of many contributions, and was an area of peace in an otherwise busy CBD space.

With winter replanting already underway, there are now plans for the garden to extend down Therry St ●



Applications open to shine a light on small business

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*
BUSINESS

Longstanding small businesses in the City of Melbourne will be celebrated and recognised for their contribution to Melbourne, with applications for the Lord Mayor's Commendations program now open.

Eligible businesses have until early May to apply for the program, which sees winners enjoy publicity and marketing support through the council's channels, as well as networking opportunities.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said small businesses "are the beating heart of the city".

"Melbourne's small businesses have had their toughest year in decades, and we want to celebrate their resilience as the city recovers," she said.

The commendations program was suspended last year due to COVID-19.

It was a tough year for businesses in the local area, with foot traffic in the CBD sinking to just 10 per cent of the previous year's figures during the second lockdown.

Cr Capp said that the council would continue to support business through the economic recovery, with the pandemic creating "the most difficult trading conditions in living memory".

She said small businesses were critical to the city's economy and created lots of job opportunities.

"[Small businesses] are crucial to a thriving, buzzing and creative Melbourne," Cr Capp said.

"Small businesses are the beating heart of our city. They keep our residents, workers and tourists well-fed, expertly styled, and immersed in culture."

To be eligible for the commendations, applying businesses must employ 20 people or less, have been in continuous operation for more than 10 years, and be located within the City of Melbourne.



There are five categories for the commendations:

- 10-plus years
- 25-plus years
- 40-plus years
- 50-plus years
- Generational.

Any business venture which fit these criteria are encouraged to apply, with more than 620 small businesses receiving recognition through the commendations since the program began more than 15 years ago.

Past recipients of the commendations including Nicole Papisavas at Stalactites Restaurant (pictured), Jeff Gordan from the Lady Cutler Melbourne Showboat, and barrister and solicitor James Mapleston, who operates his own legal practice in the CBD.

The Lord Mayor said the council was proud to support independent and family-owned business.

"Whether you're a hairdresser, physio, accountant, shoe cobbler, dentist, dry cleaner or sell the freshest produce, I encourage all small businesses with a long-standing connection to our city to apply," she said.

Applications for the commendations opened on April 14 and businesses have until Tuesday, May 4 to get their applications in ●

For more information:
melbourne.vic.gov.au



▲ A drawing of the proposal.

Plans approved despite "facadism" calls

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

City of Melbourne councillors have approved renovation plans for an Exhibition St restaurant, despite them being labelled "facadism" by a heritage group.

Owner The Lee Superannuation Fund has sought to renovate the 1858-built two-storey building at 165-167 Exhibition St, once the Shakespeare Hotel, after it had sat vacant in recent years.

The project would include partial demolition and other works, which the council said would "sit comfortably in the streetscape" and "would not unreasonably dominate the heritage place".

However, in its submission to the council's Future Melbourne Committee meeting on April 13, Melbourne Heritage Action (MHA) argued the proposed works were disappointing, and objected to the application.

"It involves a version of facadism, where only three external walls are proposed to be retained, and new construction projecting beyond the retained walls," MHA vice president Rohan Storey wrote.

"Given it involves a heritage building rated 'significant', and the new City of Melbourne heritage guidelines, the extent of demolition is completely unsatisfactory."

Mr Storey noted that the earliest mention of the building being called the "Shakespeare Hotel" was in 1869, something discovered on painted signage on one of the building's walls.

The chair of the council's heritage portfolio Cr Rohan Leppert thanked MHA for their research, which he said had informed him of the building's history.

However, he did not believe the works constituted "facadism", which is when only the facade of a heritage building is preserved and the rest is demolished to make way for a new building.

He disagreed with MHA's interpretation of new heritage policies.

"I don't think this is facadism. I think it's unfortunate the extent of heritage fabric that is being lost, but because of the act of uses behind the fenestration this is actually a really good outcome," Cr Leppert said.

A number of other objectors to the application came from nearby residents of the Paramount building, particularly those whose apartments overlooked the proposed restaurant.

Concerns centred on the roof terrace being turned into a rooftop bar, and the associated amenity impacts that could bring.

However, Lucas Paterno, director at town planners URPS and representing the site's owner, said this was not among plans.

"Most of [the objections] refer to a rooftop bar which is not proposed," he said.

"Not at this stage [is that being considered]. If I can I add, if it was the intention or that was the purpose, then another planning application would be required."

Mr Paterno confirmed the site would be used as a restaurant ●

Despondent about the CBD's heritage

When people move into the CBD they love the novelty of being able to walk everywhere and discover new places down small alleys, particularly ones with great back stories.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Debra Van Ommen was no exception when she bought a first-floor apartment in Collins St and began exploring.

Her legs led her one-day past Russells Old Corner Store on King St and she was hooked.

Dora and George were sitting in the luncheon room of their historic home and "I fell in love with George," Debra said. "He was very charming."

She found herself wanting to help the couple in their daily lives – with washing, sweeping and making sandwiches.

"They didn't have a washing machine," she said. "George washed the sheets by hand."

By this stage George was looking after Dora. They were in their 90s yet they were still offering tea to passers-by at \$5 a pot from their lounge room, plus putting on the occasional play.

To the former Doncaster resident, they epitomised CBD history. Lola had lived in the CBD's oldest house since she was one month old and written a memoir, *City Kid*, about her life.

"She used to see herds of cattle go by along King St to Kensington Saleyards," she said.

Now, just a few years later, Lola is in a nursing home, George is dead and their heritage-listed building is up for sale.

Debra is worried that it will be bought by a developer and allowed to deteriorate so that it is condemned by the council.

She said the couple had offers which they rejected and that land-banking was prevalent in the area. She claimed that one developer owns the strip of shops to the south.

"We call ourselves sentimental," she said. "But people don't care. It's really sad. In Paris they don't let you pull down old buildings."

Debra had tears in her eyes when she spoke to *CBD News* about her times with Lola and George.

She went down to the council with George when a passer-by complained about cracks in the wall. That's when she organised a consortium prepared to spend \$600,000 on the repairs. They were already at the stage of taking the bricks to Adelaide for assessment.

Then George went into hospital. She sat by his bed and didn't want him to go. "He was 93 when he died and he was still writing his play."

That was two years ago but she hasn't forgotten her friends. "I was gutted when I read the article [in *The Age*]. The only memories now will be photos."

She said she was selling her apartment and felt despondent about the future of the city's heritage ●

▼ CBD local Debra Van Ommen mourning the loss of Russells Corner Store.



ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE



More than a walk

For many of us, the walk from the city to the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) usually signifies one thing. Bright lights, colourful scarves, meat pies and butterflies running rampant. But for indigenous man Rob Hyatt, the walk to Melbourne's cultural home of footy means much more. "There was a ceremony camp at the site of the MCG," he said.

WORDS BY Spencer Fowler Steen

"In the modern context, whether it's a major event, we still have Welcome to Country, and elders practising ceremonies there where their ancestors before them practised."

As Koorie Heritage Trust's (KHT) manager of education and visitor experience, Mr Hyatt takes people on walking tours across Melbourne, educating and informing the public about indigenous culture, language and diversity. "Culture is practiced in the urban landscapes, and that means the broader public, tourists and visitors can experience Culture as well," Mr Hyatt said.

"I enjoy promoting Aboriginal Victoria and Aboriginal Melbourne because there's still sometimes a lack of understanding, or a lack of knowledge if you like, of the fact that Aboriginal people are present in our urban spaces."

The Birrarung Wilam walk begins with an introduction to Aboriginal artefacts at the KHT centre at Federation Square. Along with providing a space for the broader community to engage with culture, Mr Hyatt said the KHT also enabled local Aboriginal

community members to visit and experience the artwork in their own ways as well.

"One of the things our visitors come to learn is that there is a diversity to Aboriginal Victoria, and the Heritage Trust and the site that we're on actually is the lands of a particular nation, and in this case, we talk about the Wurundjeri people," he said.

From there, walkers amble along the banks of the Yarra River adorned by Aboriginal art installations, while Mr Hyatt explains the nuances of life by the river and the impact of colonisation.

He also highlights the towering legacy of Wurundjeri elder, William Barak, who became a spokesperson for Aboriginal social justice in the 1800s during Melbourne's formative years. Known for his artwork depicting indigenous life and encounters with Europeans, Barak also played a key role in the survival of his own people while gaining the support of non-indigenous people, Hyatt said.

The William Barak building in Swanston St – a visually striking 32-storey residential apartment block – displays Barak's face through the ingenious use of negative dark spaces flowing through balconies.

As part of the walking tour, Mr Hyatt explained how the building was the largest piece of Aboriginal artwork in Victoria.

"The entire building is the canvas," he said. "He's looking over his traditional country right across the CBD."

Up until recently, the Aboriginal walking tour was delivered only in person.

But now, in the wake of COVID-19, the walk is also delivered online, ensuring regional Victorians, including students, can gain the same experience as Melburnians. And for city and country folk alike, Mr Hyatt said the experience "blows people away".

"It's about understanding your own backyard and understanding the connection," he said. "It takes people away from the typical or romanticised perspectives of Aboriginal environments."

"Aboriginal culture is everything – it's connection to country, it's connection to your ancestors, it's connection to our stories." ●

For more information:
korieheritagetrust.com.au

The need for clear rules on accessible housing

“

Welcome to the ninth 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 centered 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 Dr Ben Gauntlett, Disability Discrimination Commissioner, to share his thoughts about why the objective around housing all Australians is important, and in particular, for those of us who have disabilities...

Good disability policy benefits all Australians. Sometimes it requires governments to mandate outcomes to overcome market failures.

It is important that we house all Australians, rich or poor, because it reduces pressure on Australia's health, welfare, disability support and aged care systems.

More than four million Australians presently have a disability and to future-proof the country from health and disability policy challenges it is necessary for all levels of government to act decisively (and cleverly) on housing policy.

It is not enough that governments give someone a roof over their head and ignore their other needs. The housing must be adequate and appropriately designed for a person's circumstances so they can remain healthy and undertake social, community and economic participation.

For Australia to have enough accessible housing will take a combination of well-designed social housing, mandatory laws regarding the incorporation of accessibility features into new houses, and the temporary or permanent renovation of existing housing. The scale of the problem requires action from both government and non-government organisations.

Some people and organisations think social and economic policy concerning housing can be divided into “disability” and “non-disability” silos. This siloing ignores that around 80 per cent of disability is acquired in a person's life, universal design principles benefit everyone and the majority of disability is invisible. For example, parents of young children can benefit from step-free access to a house and a bathroom area just as much as a retiree living at home and dealing with mobility challenges.

In addition, accessible housing is not just of benefit to individuals who presently have mobility challenges. It may also benefit individuals of all ages with a significant intellectual and cognitive disability (e.g. early-stage dementia), sensory disabilities (such as people with low vision) and people who are neurodiverse. When care or support is provided in the home, it is cheaper, safer and easier if it is provided in an appropriately designed space. Furthermore, a well-designed home can mean care or support does not need to be provided.

In the United States of America, it has been estimated that there is a 60 per cent probability that any new house will be occupied by a person with a disability over its life span. In Australia, more than 90 per cent of people with disability live in private housing. There is no reason to expect this US figure to be different in Australia. This highlights the need for private housing to exhibit accessibility features.

But it has been estimated that only five per cent of new private houses built in Australia are accessible. This is troubling given the human rights imperative to live in appropriate housing, the likelihood of people with disability living in poverty, the wish of many Australians to remain in their own home as long as possible and the dangers created by institutionalisation.

All Australians have a human right to an adequate standard of living, which includes appropriate housing. This right has been

recognised in numerous human rights' treaties that Australia has signed and ratified. For example, the right has been recognised in Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)* and Article 11 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1996)*. Later human rights treaties, including those relating to violence against women and the elimination of racism, have also acknowledged the importance of an adequate standard of living and appropriate housing.

For people with disability, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities acknowledges the right to an adequate standard of living (which includes housing) and social protection. This right has been recognised together with a need for accessibility in the community and a right to live independently as part of the community.

However, in 2019, when Australia's compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was reviewed by the supervising Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it was found Australia needed mandatory rules regarding accessibility of new houses. Furthermore, it was concerning to the committee only limited consideration of persons with disabilities, particularly indigenous persons with disabilities, had occurred in strategies to reduce poverty and homelessness – including the National Affordable Housing Agreement and National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. Any organisation advocating for compliance with human rights or sustainable development goals should be concerned by these findings of the committee.

People with disability are more likely to live in poverty, be jobless and require social or public housing than people without disability. The Australian Institute for Health and Welfare has reported in 2020 that 41 per cent of all households in social housing include a person with disability and 62 per cent are single adult households. Therefore, social housing policy must be informed by the ongoing and future needs of people with disability in Australia.

Perhaps unsurprisingly Australians want to remain in their communities near families and friends for as long as possible. When the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety commissioned a research paper in July

2020 concerning, “What Australians Think of Ageing and Aged Care” the following question was asked: “where do Australians want to live if they need support or care?” Older Australians indicated a strong preference to stay in their own house if they need support or care. Only 25 per cent stated they would prefer to live in a residential aged care to access required care.

Care institutions, which includes aged care facilities, can unfortunately be gateways to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The World Health Organisation has found that people in aged care facilities are twice as likely to experience abuse. Institutions for people with disability are unlikely to be any different.

Reliance upon institutional care options has led to the need for Royal Commissions and compromises the efficacy of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

But what is the solution? The National Housing Dialogue on Universal Housing Design in 2010, which led a consensus agreement by industry, the community, government and human rights organisations to seek to have minimum liveable housing design standards by 2020 has failed.

It is obvious we need clear rules.

I hope you found the above perspective by Ben interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our view of the world, we all need to listen and digest what is said by others in order to find common ground. This is why we are focusing on the fact that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need (not human right) and without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that will span generations.

As I said in my first article, doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act and we need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts ●



Rob Pradolín

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

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TRADER PROFILE

Shopping bags with love, beauty and emotion

Life is canvas.

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*

That's the phrase that came to mind one day when Annie Li and her husband Dennis visited a gallery in Melbourne.

They had been in business together for some time, with a background in interior design and fashion, but now they wanted to try to something different: selling canvas eco-bags.

The business is now thriving, and Ms Li and her husband have now been selling the bags at Queen Victoria Market (QVM) for just over two years.

Ms Li, who is the chief designer at DM Ecobags, said with their knowledge and experience in the garment and fabric industry, it was a natural transition to shift their focus to canvas bags.

“With the changing trend of giving up plastic bags to more eco-friendly shopping bags, we suddenly thought it would be a good idea,” she said.

But it was not only the practical and environmental aspect of the canvas bags they thought about when deciding to sell them.

“[The bags] served as a means, just as the canvas painting, to express people's memories, life experiences, emotions and feelings,” Ms Li said.

Ms Li remembered one time when a customer

wrote to DM Ecobags to express her thanks after purchasing one of their canvas bags for her mother, who had moved to regional Victoria after 60 years in Melbourne.

The customer had bought one a bag which featured an old-fashioned W-class, route 35 tram.

“When her mum opened the bag, she burst into tears. That was the tram that accompanied her since childhood, carrying tonnes of her memories,” Ms Li said.

Each bag features a printed watercolour-style illustration, elegant and beautiful, with many designs including a big slice of Australiana, whether it be an image that showcases Melbourne or cute interpretations of Australian animals.

As well as canvas bags, cushions with the artworks printed on them are also available, as well as gift sets which include a bag with a matching card and fridge magnet.

Some of the artworks are designed by Ms Li herself, while others are created by local artists she and her husband discover via Facebook groups, exhibitions, and even just by searching online.

It's a win-win for both DM Ecobags and the artists, with each of the chosen artists receiving a licence fee or royalty for their printed work.

“Many artists have difficulty generating income from their work ... eventually many artworks sell into thousands of pieces, so this is a win-win outcome for both of us,” Ms Li said.



Ms Li and her husband opened up shop at QVM in March 2019.

They love the mix of customers, both local and international, and enjoy chatting to people from all over the world. “It has been a wonderful experience,” Ms Li said. ●

For more information:
dannie.com.au

Watching the world from behind



The best work comes out of the imagination of artists rather than curators at public institutions or sanctioned trends.



▲ Brendan Huntley among his winged creatures.

Growing up in the art world helps. The parents of Brendan Huntley, showing at Tolarno, were potters.

This gave him the impetus at an early age to follow his bent.

“In my nature I’m somewhat OCD but not crazy. I like to see something all the way through. It kept calling for more,” he said of the work he did during lockdown.

There are 36 paintings on paper, done in pastel, oil and graphite, and 17 raku-fired figures in *Without Within*, all of butterflies and moths.

The figures could be called raw. They definitely have personality, and they cross that difficult divide from the graphic work of the illustrator or cartoonist to the more substantial style that is collected.

Many figurative artists have succumbed to the pressure of abstraction or camera-based influences. Not so, Huntley.

From his first show at Hell Gallery about 20 years ago he combined figurative ceramics with

drawings and commanded the respect of the old guard.

Molding with clay has influenced his painting style and it remains blunt, rounded and blocky like a substance that offers resistance.

“In early April 2020, I found myself searching for some peace of mind amongst the chaos of the pandemic,” Brendan wrote in his artist statement.

“One day, I heard someone on a podcast describe how a moth or butterfly doesn’t simply grow wings on its already fully formed caterpillar body but breaks itself down into a kind of soup and slowly reforms itself in the cocoon, reusing its body parts to come out at the other end as a completely new creature.”

“Transformation often requires stillness. Like a cocoon, stillness shuts out the static and noise of the outside and gives us a chance to rethink and reimagine who we are.”

The works on paper seem to tell a story, numbered as they are from one to 36. Close up,



the human characteristics dominate, and these insects turn into characters.

Number one is cerebral; two has a rather lovely body; three is quite pleased with itself; four is very fleshy; five is uptight; six is made of earthenware; seven is seductive; eight is a totem pole; nine is into geometrics; 10 is into jokes; 11 is confused, 12 is just pleased to be alive; 13 has prominent eyes on its wings; 14 is rather wise; 15 is twisted; 16 is psychedelic and so on.

This is Huntley’s third show at Tolarno and the gallery had a “meet the artist” afternoon instead of a traditional opening, encouraging punters to respond to the work.

One thing that can be said is that the advantage of 3D is demonstrated in this show with the ceramic butterflies having all of the patterning of the paintings, and more.

From the back some are not the fitting creatures of the sunshine we expect but are more severe and watchful, keeping an eye on the world from behind.

Without Within, Brendan Huntley, Tolarno Galleries at level 4, 104 Exhibition St, until May 15 ●



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WE LIVE HERE

Insurance snub to short-stay risks

Insurance companies seem to have developed a distinct distaste for Airbnb and short-stays in general.

Check out the small print in your latest home insurance policy Product Disclosure Statement (PDS). Just below the charming exclusions for hazardous materials or illegal drugs, you may find another squeamish aversion: short-stays.

Your policy may well have something like this:

“No cover unless the property is leased to permanent tenants.

This policy does not provide any cover unless the property is used by tenants as their permanent residence. This means if the property is used for short-term rental, holiday letting or house sharing (including arrangements booked through an online booking platform) - this policy does not provide cover.”

If you are an owner-investor, you will be responsible for ensuring that your tenant does not use your property as part of a short-stay business. Even if you have no knowledge of the activity, you would be hard-pressed to get a payout if your apartment were trashed, or worse still, if there were a personal injury relating to a short-stay.

The insurance industry’s unequivocal disinclination to support short-stays is bound to have knock-on effects. Specifically, we anticipate an uncomfortable tightening of restrictions in leases and, potentially, the introduction of indemnities.

We now have explicit and empirical evidence that insurance industry accords a significantly

higher-risk rating where a property is used for short-stays.

Here it gets very interesting because of the recent update to the Victorian short-stay legislation. The *Owners’ Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act 2021* was passed by both houses of the Victorian Parliament in March and will take effect from the beginning of December this year, unless an earlier date is proclaimed.

The “benefit principle” in the new legislation will allow owners’ corporations (OCs) to charge more for an individual property based on attributable costs. The logical extension is that a higher percentage of insurance can be levied on lots that carry on short-stay business.

The “benefit principle” clauses are very clear that other costs such as increased wear and tear and additional security can be sheeted home to those lots that obtain the benefit. Previously only “works” were captured as a cost that could be charged to a beneficiary lot. The new legislation broadens that catchment immensely.

OCs may finally realise the right to have a fair and equitable distribution of expenses beyond lot liability.

Too chummy?

An unsavoury aspect of the *Owners’ Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act 2021* is the fate of owners in large apartment complexes.

In very large buildings, it is almost impossible to reach a 75 per cent vote to take legal action against companies responsible for the use of flammable cladding.

The Greens had proposed amendments to the legislation including a reduction in the threshold to 50 per cent, the standard benchmark for a plebiscite of just about any description. Those sensible amendments were desultorily

dismissed by the government and the legislation remained silent on the issue, maintaining a cloak of protection for the culpable parties in the building industry. It all sounds excessively chummy.

Cladding and your health

We promised to update our readers on the second research paper from RMIT researchers on the health impacts of the cladding issue. The paper, by RMIT researchers David Oswald, Trivess Moore and Simon Lockrey, presents a sobering illustration of the far-reaching impacts.

The reports state that in Victoria alone, hundreds of buildings with flammable cladding have been officially classified as posing a risk to the safety of residents: 71 extreme-risk, 368 high-risk and 342 moderate-risk, plus more at the lower end of the scale.

These owners are being forced to find solutions, and it’s not easy because it is often unclear who caused the defect and who should bear the cost of rectification.

The report described the cladding issue as a major stressor, detailing reactions among participants including shock and a sense of feeling unsafe in their own homes, particularly those in the high-risk buildings. A common response was uncertainty about the future. Financial anxiety was also a recurring theme.

The participants also expressed frustration and anger, with a litany of complaints:

“... no-one is listening, unfair costs, insurers refusing to insure their buildings, builders liquidating their existing business and starting a new one if legal action was threatened, etc.”

The report also included a community swipe at short-stay operations being responsible for

a growing inclination to ignore fire alarms – certainly not a good outcome for any building, especially those with cladding:

“... every short term let person doesn’t know what they’re doing, doesn’t understand that if they burn the toast, you open the window. No, they open the door to the passageway which sets off the fire alarm and the fire brigade turns up. So, every time this happens is an evacuation call, which we’ve all learned to ignore.”

Most respondents saw the cladding issue as a very long-term problem with serious effects requiring residents to adapt. Liveability and behaviour have been impacted, with some participants believing it will be at least five years before the cladding is rectified on their building.

The full report is available online – just search for “flammable cladding and the effects on homeowner wellbeing”.

Campaign donations

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



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COUNCILLOR PROFILE

Olivia gets the ball rolling on council

First-time councillor Dr Olivia Ball is bringing a renewed focus on human rights to the City of Melbourne.

As a member of The Greens, Cr Ball joins her experienced Greens colleague Rohan Leppert on the new-look council and fills the party's void left by the departure of former Cr Cathy Oke, who served three terms at the City of Melbourne.

While the experience of an election campaign last year wasn't new to her having run on the Greens ticket at the previous two City of Melbourne elections, she told *CBD News* that nothing could have prepared her for stepping inside Town Hall.

"I've run twice, but you don't know until you get inside really the magnitude and the detail," she said. "There's no way of campaigning on any of that. It's just massive – you have no idea!"

"I mean people say it's just roads, rates and rubbish and that's the least of what council does. I have two portfolios now, which I'm delighted with, and they have nothing to do with roads, rates or rubbish!"

Born in East Melbourne, a current resident of Carlton and having lived, worked and studied in the City of Melbourne for most of her life, you'd be hard pressed to find a more "local" councillor if you tried!

As the chair of the council's health, wellbeing and belonging portfolio and the deputy chair to Lord Mayor Sally Capp on the Aboriginal Melbourne portfolio, Cr Ball's wealth of human rights expertise is already being put to good use at the council.

With a Masters and PhD in human rights, Cr Ball began her career as a psychologist working with refugees and survivors of torture and trauma. She is also a published author, a founding director of the non-government organisation Remedy Australia and currently works at Fitzroy Legal Service. And as if that's not enough, she is also currently studying urban planning.

When it comes to the portfolio she chairs, which focuses on the city's health, recreation and community services, and oversees critical issues like homelessness, she said she was "delighted" to be playing a leading role.

"I think human rights is relevant in all levels of government but the most obvious issue for me is homelessness, which falls under my



portfolio. We have some very exciting potential there," she said.

"Housing lies with all levels of government so it's not just an advocacy role. We have a role. We can provide land and build social housing as we've done before, and we can do again. And we certainly provide services for people experiencing homelessness."

"But I'm pleased to say that the council already has a housing-first model which is a philosophy or approach in homelessness that is not focusing on services which basically allow people to remain homeless. That's not what we want to do."

While originally a Labor Party member as a student, Cr Ball has been a member of The Greens for the past 20 years. She said like many other generational Greens members, she was drawn to the party by the then-federal government's handling of the Tampa affair in 2001.

But she said her political activism first began as a student when she campaigned against the apartheid in South Africa, kickstarting a life-long passion for human rights which has since extended to a range of other issues, including the environment, refugees and indigenous affairs.

And now as the deputy lead on the council's Aboriginal Melbourne portfolio, which last year passed its new Reconciliation Action Plan complete with a landmark component of "truth-telling", she said her experience from South Africa was very applicable.

"Coincidentally, I wrote a book with a Zimbabwean activist named Paul Brady, he's a British academic and specialised in the Truth Commission [South Africa], and that winds us back to Victoria – we're going to have a truth commission in Victoria."

"It's a very exciting time to be alive! It's

terrible in many ways but I'm very thrilled to have this [Aboriginal Melbourne] portfolio."

"Of course, we have an Aboriginal department that is fully staffed by indigenous people. But we [the council] are keen to look at ways of how we can govern with the five sovereign nations that are components of this municipality. What does it mean to recognise their sovereignty?"

While she is still learning the ropes as a councillor, she said the new council was a diverse and hard-working group of individuals who were all equally committed to "revitalising" Melbourne amid COVID-19.

But while the pandemic has caused a great deal of devastation on the city, Cr Ball said it had presented new opportunities to do things differently.

"Revitalisation of Melbourne is our biggest priority. I won't use the word 'recovery' because it implies going backwards. I don't want to go back. A lot of what he had before wasn't working. We have, in fact, worsening inequality," she said.

"We have just finished a community consultation and the number one issue is health and wellbeing, which is hardly surprising in these crazy times. If you haven't got your health, what have you got?"

"But the number two issue, is climate. We [the council] have declared a climate emergency and we need to make that part of our everyday activity on council. Economic revitalisation is primary, but we don't have an economy without the environment."

"I know we [councillors] can work together and grow to understand and listen to each other. I'm adamant that we have to work together – I'm not interested in party politics for its own sake. I want to get the outcomes." ●



Sean Car

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METRO TUNNEL

Seventy-seven engineers

Have you ever wondered how many different types of engineers it takes to bring revolutionary signalling technology to Melbourne, in order to run more trains, more often in the Metro Tunnel?



Well, it's 77 different kinds – and that's without counting scores more building tunnels and stations, too.

The Rail Systems Alliance – which is responsible for the signalling and technology "brains" of Melbourne's flagship public project – has an incredibly diverse and capable group of experts delivering this work.

High Capacity Signalling will be installed on the Cranbourne/Pakenham and Sunbury lines, and in the Metro Tunnel itself, creating a more reliable public transport network.

Real-time data will be used to oversee and control both the location and speed, allowing trains to run closer together.

Network operators, based at high-tech signalling control centres in Sunshine and Dandenong, will monitor their progress, to ensure trains maintain safe stopping distances.

The engineers delivering this work are passionate about providing positive outcomes for train passengers, using their passion for maths, science and problem-solving.

Integrating new technology into an existing rail network can be both complex and challenging work.



▲ Automation engineer Da Lu.

Indeed, when completed, this change to signalling on Melbourne's metropolitan network is the biggest experienced for more than 100 years.

Automation engineer Da Lu is passionate about providing positive outcomes for Melburnians, and an opportunity to be part of a landmark project was one he just couldn't turn down.

"We all love Melbourne," he said. "Instead of just witnessing the history here, we want to be part of that."

"People in the future won't need to wait for trains, or check the timetable, they can just show up and jump on the train."



▲ Signal engineer Liza Kierans.

Signal engineer Liza Kierans appreciates the variety and complexity of her position.

"In my role, I get to be a problem-solver daily," she said. "Every day is different and novel, and our interactions with people are different, due to the problems we're trying to solve."

For engineers such as Liza, this project is one they will never forget.

"Success for me is getting (High Capacity Signalling) into Melbourne for the first time ever," she said.

"I think this project will show people that signalling is something you can actually cut a ribbon on." ●

HISTORY

The parade that almost didn't happen

To celebrate Victoria's centenary in 1934, well-known philanthropist, businessman and he of Cherry Ripe fame, Sir Macpherson Robertson, sponsored a trail-blazing air race from Mildenhall RAF Base in East Anglia to Melbourne.

It was promoted as "The World's Greatest Air Race" and there was plenty of incentive to take part – a magnificent gold trophy, gold medals for participants and prizes valued at £15,000. (The relative value today is about \$1.3 million.)

Twenty entrants left England in October 1934, destined for the finish line at Flemington, a distance of 18,200 kilometres, with compulsory stops at Baghdad, Allahabad, Singapore, Darwin and Charleville. Only 12 aircraft made it, the winning British team of Charles Scott and Tom Campbell Black arriving in just under three days.

Up to 100,000 excited Melburnians flocked to Flemington Racecourse mid-afternoon on Tuesday, October 23 to watch the winners cross the finish line in their specially designed racing aircraft, a crimson De Havilland Comet. The newspapers of the day described the plane "flashing out of the sky like a fiery particle" as the ecstatic crowds whistled, cooed and cheered.

No further celebration was planned until the prize giving at Laverton several weeks later, Melbourne's Lord Mayor believing that a parade through Melbourne's streets would draw attention away from what was a key part of the state's Centenary celebrations. He soon succumbed to public pressure and you see here some of the seven cars in the lunchtime parade (held on Wednesday, October 31), wending their way through huge crowds as they moved from Bourke St into Swanston St on their circuitous route to Parliament House for a state government luncheon. *The Herald* reported that "in a riot of flowers, cheers, streamers and milling thousands, 14 airmen passed by, bewildered, nervous, but very proud."

The airmen were treated like film stars and the sound must have been deafening as the crowds roared their approval as the cars drove past. The first car you see here in this image from the State Library of Victoria's Picture Collection, held the British team. The car behind them, just turning from Bourke St into Swanston St, held the second place-getters, the crew of the Dutch DC-2 Uiver. And behind them, the American Boeing crew whose car is surrounded by spectators.

There were actually two races – a speed race and a handicap race – and if you want to know more about this exciting moment in Melbourne's history, the RHSV's current exhibition *Tales from the MacRobertson International Air Races* features stories that are full of the romance of the skies and derring-do worthy of Biggles himself.

A particularly spectacular story is that of the second-place getter, the Dutch KLM plane *Uiver*, which made an emergency landing in Albury during a wild electrical storm, helped by locals who used the town's lights to flash out the name of the town in Morse code while others lit the make-shift airfield (the race-track) with car headlights to guide the plane to safety.

One of the more unusual stories is that of Harold Brook, a novice pilot with only 100 hours flying experience. He was accompanied by a paying passenger – 28-year-old Ella Lay, herself a pilot, who knitted her way to Australia, remained here, trained as a nurse and enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service during World War II.

The youngest pilot, the only solo flier in the race, and one of the few Australian entrants, was 7th place-getter, 21-year-old C.J. (Jimmy) Melrose, whose *De Havilland Puss Moth* was named *My Hildegarde* after his mother who had funded him. He won second place in the handicap division.

And, of course, there were those who didn't make it. Australian pioneer aviator Horrie



Up to 100,000 excited Melburnians flocked to Flemington Racecourse mid-afternoon on Tuesday, October 23 to watch the winners cross the finish line in their specially designed racing aircraft, a crimson De Havilland Comet.

Miller engaged James Wood and Don Bennett to fly the race but they came unstuck in Aleppo. As Bennett told the story in his autobiography, they "... hit the ground with a fair wallop and the undercarriage collapsed; down she went and the nose went in as we whipped over on our back. I was in the tail of the machine and my velocity from one end of the cabin to the other was remarkable. Even more astounding was the degree of 'concertina-ing' of my body which took place at the far end." That was the end of their race.

The *Tales from the MacRobertson International Air Races* exhibition is on at the RHSV Gallery Downstairs, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne, 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday through to mid-September 2021 ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

PRECINCTS

Explore the Greek Precinct

“*Greek migrants significantly helped shape Melbourne into Australia's cultural hub.*”

History of the Greek Quarter

Greek culture has a long history of being represented in Melbourne. Melbourne is home to one of the largest Greek populations in the world outside Athens. The story of the Greek Quarter in Lonsdale St is amplified by the broader history of Greek presence within the inner city, a history that can trace its beginnings to the gold rushes when a handful of Greek immigrants joined the rush for overnight riches.

It was after World War II that the Lonsdale St precinct evolved as an enclave of cafes, restaurants and businesses set up for, and by immigrants, for whom Greek culture was a way of life. The culture found many expressions, from the orthodox faith through to political movements, clubs and brotherhoods, and by gathering with friends in cafes and restaurants.

It is an old story, a pattern repeated in immigrant communities worldwide. The post-war immigrants – many of whom came as single men, or men who had left behind their families to pave the way to the new land – were in search of the familiar ambience of the homeland, and a place to feel at home as they established themselves in the new country. They were in search of familiar food and music, for Greek language newspapers and company.

Many newly-arrived immigrants lived in city boarding houses, and in the rooms of the Continental Hotel that stood on the corner of Russell and Lonsdale streets. Responding to their needs, there emerged clubs above the restaurants and cafes of Lonsdale St.



The quarter reached its peak in the 1960s through to the 1980s, with a mini revival at the end of the 1990s when many Greek bars and nightclubs sprang up on Russell and Lonsdale streets like mushrooms after autumn rain. There was a second mini revival, coinciding with the winning of the Euro Cup, when the precinct became a centre of celebration, the natural place to party late into the night.

Being the third largest Greek-speaking population in the world after Athens and Thessaloniki, Melbourne's Greek sister city, the Greeks have based their community in Lonsdale St since the early 1900s.

For more than 100 years people have been

playing tavli on the al fresco tables drinking coffee or "Kok" and it continues attracting locals and tourists who enjoy the food, cakes and culture our precinct has to offer ●

Explore restaurants, cafes and shops in the Greek Precinct by visiting:
greekprecinct.com.au/business-directory

Between Swanston and Russell streets in the CBD, there is a concentration of Greek restaurants and shops. This is known as Melbourne's Greek Precinct.

The precinct is reflective of Melbourne having the largest population of Greeks outside of Greece.

The precinct originally came to life through the post-war immigrants – many of whom came as single men, or men who had left behind their families to pave the way in the new land. They were in search of familiar food and music, for Greek language, newspapers and company and thus this hub for Greek-Australians manifested in the central part of the city of Melbourne.

It has since blossomed and changed in form but still sits as a representation of the Greeks of Melbourne, as well as an entertainment, arts and culture hub.

How building community can help revitalise our CBD

2022 will be the 30th anniversary of Postcode 3000, the 1992 planning policy that successfully brought population and, therefore, vibrant life back to a dying Melbourne city centre.

WORDS BY *Dr Rita Ellul and Dan Ong*

The policy encouraged imaginative residential development and the promise of a sophisticated, inner-city lifestyle. Alongside the apartments, bars, restaurants and cafes came essential neighbourhood infrastructure, like supermarkets, libraries and medical clinics. And with these additions, and the work of community organisations like Residents 3000, a strong sense of place and community developed.

That sense of community in Melbourne's CBD was highlighted during the lockdown, as we kept in touch with our neighbours, assisted the elderly with their shopping, organised phone-ins and the delivery of food parcels, just as other communities did right across metropolitan Melbourne. Despite the marked drop in the city population and commerce, local businesses reinvented themselves as neighbourhood hubs, while many longer-term residents stuck it out and did their best to support the remaining local traders. This reinvigorated mutuality between many residents and businesses has been a silver lining as we grapple with our current COVID reality and imagine our future.

As the discussions, strategising and politicking gather pace to revive and recreate Melbourne, it is vital that the residents' voices also be heard as we re-think how we strengthen community in a very changed city. By "we", I



▲ Photo by Geoff Maddock - R3000 Garden Club.

mean residents working collectively with businesses and the City of Melbourne. As residents, we dine, shop, exercise and socialise in the CBD. We walk in the parks, go to the theatre, the libraries and galleries, but it is the connections we make with other residents, businesses and the City of Melbourne that will make us strong as one community.

A new Postcode 3000 strategy would build on this community by attracting new inner-city residents from Australia and eventually, from abroad once again. Prior to COVID, there were around 61,000 residents living in the CBD. COVID's massive impact on our university sector and the city's international student population left many apartments vacant. Slowly but surely though, new streams of city dwellers are finding their way back to town, drawn by the

same amenities that led many of us to choose to live in the CBD in previous years. Attracting a diverse range of people to move to the city is part of the solution to building Melbourne's resilience ahead of future shocks.

But without a sense of community, especially at a time when there are so many empty shops, fewer workers, students and tourists, it can feel like we are still living in a hollowed-out city. Community takes effort to build. Living in the same apartment is one thing. Sharing a story, a meal or a pandemic lockdown chat with a neighbour is an entirely different experience of community building. A revitalised Melbourne CBD would balance the building of spaces for commerce with establishing more spaces and opportunities for shared, community-building experiences.

Building community also depends on building a balanced economy together. The past few months have seen a flurry of initiatives led by the City of Melbourne and businesses to encourage people back to the CBD, with the hospitality sector being central to many of these. Yet an excessive focus on an alcohol-led recovery poses risks to the CBD's identity as a genuine neighbourhood for longer-term residents of all ages. Such neighbourhoods not only need cafes and bars, but also a new generation of neighbourhood infrastructure, such as more open, green and multipurpose spaces for all residents to meet, work and play throughout the week.

With such a big challenge ahead of us, the City of Melbourne should continue to use innovative community engagement strategies to invite ideas from all residents and offer a more balanced approach to the recovery and re-invigoration of the CBD. For its part, Residents 3000 continues to work with its members and allied community groups to connect residents, to build a sense of community and to encourage active participation in all aspects of city life.

Almost 30 years on from Postcode 3000, we have a similar challenge of revitalising the CBD as it re-emerges from the long COVID lockdown. Yet we are also faced with the challenge of building back better, attracting a more diverse group of residents and businesses for the long run and creating a stronger community than that which existed before.

This is the first article in a series of re-imagining post-COVID Melbourne by Residents 3000. Next month's focus will be on community building and the "20-minute neighbourhood".

Come and meet like-minded residents at our next event which will be Neighbourhood Marketplace at 6pm on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at the Kelvin Club.

Details can be found at residents3000.com.au

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Nature Therapy

"I didn't know that sting rays could wag their tails."

Forecourt, State Library of Victoria

Modern slavery and vertical villages

The nature of modern slavery is that it hides in our plain sight.

When speaking of slavery, often images of chained labour-gangs or back street sweatshops come to mind – images with little apparent relevance to our nice vertical villages.

But according to The Australian Human Rights Commission “it is the nature of modern slavery to hide in plain sight”.

And it can do this because modern slavery involves offenders using “invisible” coercion, threats or deception to exploit victims and undermine their freedom. It includes human trafficking and practices such as servitude, forced labour, debt bondage and forced marriage (but excludes substandard working conditions or underpayment of workers).

Modern slavery involves serious exploitation – and it is present in current-day Australia.

In recognition of this, in January 2019, the Australian Government began implementation of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018*. This Act requires large businesses (and other entities with annual revenue of more than AUD\$100 million) to formally identify and address their

modern slavery risks, and maintain responsible and transparent supply chains. And they must register their plans - modern slavery statements – on a publicly assessable site – modernslaveryregister.gov.au

So, what has this to do with our vertical villages?

Obviously, we don’t generate annual revenues exceeding AUD\$100 million!

However, we do interact with sectors and businesses that do.

Take for example, the property and construction sector.

This sector has been identified by the Australian Human Rights Commission as facing an elevated risk of modern slavery within its operations and supply chains which, as we vertical villagers well know, are extensive and complex, often involving multiple international entities. As buyers of their end product, how confident are we in their practices? As a step in the right direction, the Property Council of Australia (PCA) is leading a collaborative group of the 17 largest property companies (including Vicinity, Dexu and Mirvac) to develop a platform to gather and collate information from industry suppliers on their modern slavery exposures in operations and supply chain. Also, companies such as Mirvac, are registering

their individual modern slavery statements on the government site which are available to us to peruse.

Also of relevance to us is the cleaning sector, which has been specifically identified by the government as a key risk area for modern slavery in Australia. Our vertical villages routinely utilise cleaning services, but how much do we know about their work practices? To assist with this, the Australian Human Rights Commission has partnered with the Cleaning Accountability Framework (CAF) to tackle modern slavery and labour exploitation in this industry. But the question remains, as beneficiaries of such services, what is our responsibility to ensure there are no exploitative practices occurring on our property?

While I am not aware of any dedicated activity in the residential strata sector, the facilities management industry is taking steps. The Facility Management Association (FMA), the peak national industry body for facilities management, recently hosted a webinar on “The Modern Slavery Act & FM”. This session identified the security sector as another industry which often suffers from exploitative labour practices and noted the need for us to be aware of the practices used by the services we engage.

As regards specific actions for us vertical

villages, the advice is to:

- Consider our supply chain – in particular, our cleaning and security services, by checking if they have registered a modern slavery statement;
- Ensure building management is aware of labour practices and procurement guidelines (e.g. CAF building certification process, a holistic assessment of a building or precinct’s cleaning supply chain).
- Monitor apartment usage (e.g. overcrowding) as the Human Rights Commission advises there are key signs which can indicate exploitative practices, such as multiple unrelated people (with a lack of belongings) living at one address.

And finally, check if your strata and building management companies have registered their modern slavery statement – or are even aware of these requirements! ●



Dr Janette Corcoran
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT
LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/
SKYPADLIVING/

SALVOS

Liminality – the time and place we find ourselves in

COVID-19 has caused many emotions to stir within me as I’m sure it has for you.

One of the very strong emotions that I feel is a sense of incredible pride that I feel for so many of our small business owners, be they café, restaurant or Queen Victoria Market (QVM) stallholders.

The common perception, or should I say, misconception, was that small business owners were simply in the business to benefit their own commercial interests. The reality is, they also very much exist to provide employment to numerous individuals which in turn brings much needed support to families right across Victoria. Small businesses in the CBD also bring great benefit to the people who access the city as well as to the city itself. Small businesses play a highly significant role in creating a sense of vibrancy, diversity and creativity to the city, hence attracting visitors from far and wide.

Sadly, as I wander the streets of our city, I see that one in four shop fronts are now closed. The impact of COVID-19 on the CBD has been nothing less than devastating. But still, small business owners keep turning up, plying their trade in the hope that things will improve.

But as my animated conversations with small business owners continued, I was surprised to hear another theme being constantly reprised. I cannot recall the number of times I heard the phrase, “We just need to get back to normal. Once we do that, everything will be fine.” In other words, the hope and belief of many is that things just need to return to what they were before COVID-19 struck, and then we will be able to get on with our lives.

Sadly, I cannot see the days of old ever returning. Even with the roll out of the vaccine, many of us have been so scarred by the COVID induced events of 2020 that it will lead us to maintain our reluctance to warmly hug and shake hands with friends, attend sporting and entertainment events or even visit the city.

This state of flux that restaurants, cafe’s, QVM stall holders and other small business owners feel at the moment is a horrible place to be entrenched in.

It is disorienting, dark and directionless. However, this place that many of us find ourselves in may well have a silver lining. A word to

describe where we find ourselves is, “liminality.” It describes that place between what we have had, loved and treasured in the past but no longer have, and what is to come in the future. The reason why liminality or liminal spaces are so confronting and unsettling is simply because we have let go or lost what we have known but we still don’t quite know what the future will look like.

It is absolutely critical that we start to ask ourselves, individually and corporately, what do we want our future to look like in our city? What do we truly value from our past that we want to hold onto? What do we need to let go of and leave behind? What new things do we want to embrace? The future in our city is uncertain, but it is ours to shape.

Surely, it’s time for us all to turn our minds to dreaming about the type of city that we want to metaphorically build going forward. But the reality is that time for talk has well and truly ended. We must begin to strategise and act, not simply based on replicating what we have known. Instead, we need to build a city that creates opportunity for all. A place where everyone can flourish and no-one is left behind.

There is one thing that gives me hope that revival in some form will visit our city again. It is the entrepreneurial, incredibly hard working, “can do” attitude of so many small business owners that make Melbourne the great city that we knew before COVID-19. If we work together and are prepared to create a new vision for our city that is informed but not limited by our past experiences, we will contribute to making Melbourne the thriving, creative city that we all long for it to be ●



Major Brendan Nottle
COMMANDING OFFICER
OF THE SALVATION ARMY
MELBOURNE - PROJECT 614
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BUSINESS



A new look Woolworths at QV

Shoppers in the CBD are set to experience a refreshed Woolworths QV Melbourne supermarket from today, with an expanded fresh food experience, new convenient shopping options and health at the heart of its offering.

Woolworths QV, offers sushi made to order, artisan breads from the bakery and a Macro wholefoods market with an extended range of health and wellness products.

The store also has an extensive premium cheese selection, as well as “Scan&Go” technology which allows customers to scan goods with their smartphone as they walk through the store and pay in the app before tapping off at a dedicated kiosk.

For those who choose to shop online and pick up their orders in-store, a dedicated pick-up counter is located conveniently at the customer service desk.

“The new look store is designed with the local customer at the forefront and we are pleased that the enhancements will offer CBD residents a great new shopping experience, enhanced fresh offer and the convenience they are looking for,” Woolworths QV store manager Shane Crowley said.

“You can also pick up a lunch time snack or we have plenty of dinner options in our extended grab and go section in store.” “With Scan&Go, we have made it even easier now for customers who just want to duck in and out for a few items. We expect the speed and ease of Scan&Go will be quite a popular offer in this store.”

Woolworths QV Melbourne Store highlights include:

- Sushi - Fresh sushi made to order and handmade by expert sushi chefs. Platter pre-orders also available.
- Deli - Inspired by a classic Italian delicatessen, the deli cabinets at your

new-look Woolworths QV are brimming with cured meats, salami, salads and antipasti from local and international producers. All these delicacies are ready to serve but the team can slice your meats just the way you like it.

- Macro Wholefoods Market - Check out hundreds of certified organic lines, loose nuts, seeds and grains and an expanded gluten-free range to suit various dietary requirements.
- Bakery - Your one-stop shop for gourmet loaves, perfect pastries and cakes.
- Seafood - Woolworths have a great variety of fresh seafood, perfect for a light dinner or an indulgent feast in the new look fish market. To enjoy the catch of the day be sure to ask the team what they’ve been buying and what they’ll be taking home for dinner. The range covers everything from locally-sourced juicy prawns to the freshest fish fillets and 100 per cent Tasmanian salmon. If you’re looking for ideas on how to cook your selection, try the free “Bag & Bake” option ●

Woolworths QV Melbourne is located on the corner of Lonsdale and Swanston streets and is open 7am to 11pm, seven days a week.

Pet's Corner

Disco dog!



“He’s very cheeky” is the first thing owner Teagan said of three-year-old Japanese Spitz Disco, when CBD News met her on Bourke St in April.



WORDS BY *John Tadigiri*

Disco takes every chance to go out for a walk with Teagan, or her partner Jack, who live in an apartment in the CBD.

According to Teagan, Disco eats just about anything and makes no fuss in taking a poop on the balcony when it’s urgent!

“He loves eating everything, he loves eating rice, even eats raw vegetables, raw broccoli, raw beans, sometimes an apple and a pumpkin ... maybe just to surprise us.”

When asked about what it felt like having a dog in a city apartment, Teagan told *CBD News*, “I think he likes being in the city, as there are many gardens nearby; there’s Carlton Gardens, Treasury Gardens, Fitzroy Gardens. We go out for long walks every day. It was super special last year when we couldn’t go outside that

much; it saved us from being too bored.”

They brought Disco from Shepparton in northern Victoria when he was only a few days old. “He just walked up to us when we went there, we thought it was really cute and he seemed to like us as well,” Teagan said.

“He is very cheeky and loves treats and can do a lot of tricks, but all on his own terms only.”

“He is not very obedient but very loyal. He loves going to the beach. Sometimes we drive up to Port Melbourne Beach. Sometimes we walk to the markets: South Melbourne Market, Queen Victoria Market. We tend to take Disco everywhere with us so he feels out and about and doesn’t feel bored.”

“He is usually friendly with other dogs ... but if a puppy is too playful he can be a bit grumpy. His best friend is another Japanese Spitz called Noodles; he is my friend Karen’s dog.” ●

MUSIC

Big screen music

Some of the best bands and musicians of many genres have worked over the years with animation artists to produce the most sublime pieces of art.

It is created to be seen on the big screen of an indoor cinema, with a tremendous sound system. Melbourne International Animation Festival (MIAF) has for many years presented the most cutting-edge animation on the planet.

The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) at Federation Square, Flinders St, is the venue for the rebirthing of MIAF. It presents its retro opus 2020 edition MIAF 2020 Re-Animated from May 13 to 16.

Music does play an integral role in propelling narratives and action in animation and the ultimate experience is hearing the soundtracks to animation in big cinemas like the ones at ACMI. The MIAF has been at ACMI from its inaugural year and is a cornerstone of programming at ACMI. Tickets will be available soon.

The full-flavoured MIAF 2021 will be happening in July 2021. From May 13, ACMI will also present a special showcase of animation from the Walt Disney Animation Research Library. *Disney: The Magic Of Animation* will open up on the same day as opening night for MIAF 2020 Re-Animated. ACMI is presenting the best Walt Disney animation for this sublime exhibition. There will be original sketches and rare artworks in the catalogue.

Melbourne is one of the great horse racing cities of the world, this is confirmed when Daryl Braithwaite with his superb band of musicians sings *Horses* at Moonee Valley Racecourse on Cox Plate Day and 27,000 people are singing with him. Marise Maas’ most recent exhibition was at the magnificent Flinders Lane Gallery (FLG), located on level one, the Nicholas Building, Swanston St. Throughout her career Maas has utilised the image of horses to express her creativity. In a curious move, the signature piece of the exhibition was a painting of a collection of chalk drawn trumpets on a black

background. This painting is entitled *The Stash*. Among the trumpets there’s a French horn and a trombone. No horses. A mute becomes a scented perfume bottle with its sweet odour emanating forth. There’s a bit of Cy Twombly in this work.

In the centre of the painting she has two trumpets crossed over another (one horizontal one vertical) with white noise emanating from the vertical trumpet lifting up to a bell-shaped yellow light fitting. A very musical piece in a very musical city.

Pool House looks like an LA building in a canyon that Lisa MacKinney (Taipan Tiger Girls guitarist) highlighted recently on her Facebook page. There’s an aquamarine circle in the lower middle section of the painting with a clip tie, black with white stripes attached to the right side. On the top corner is a red elephant’s trunk, making one think of the theme from *Sesame Street*. There are red arrows flying up from the roof of the pool house. Standing one metre away from Pool House in the gallery, one thinks it could be the location of a Kylie Minogue or Taylor Swift film clip.

Shame File Music (SFM) is a specialist record label that focuses on chronicling Australian experimental music, contemporary and historical. SFM has released *Music Under Lockdown: Melbourne 2020* by various artists. This 11-track album is a musical document of the response of Melbourne musicians to this extraordinary time. Compiled by Clinton Green, this superb album is available at Shame File Music’s Bandcamp page and is worth investigating ●



Chris Mineral

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New gallery space for a familiar face

A new gallery is set to open at Collins Place, welcoming former state Member for Bayswater, Heidi Victoria, as its inaugural resident artist with her photographic exhibition, Where to Next?

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

Ms Victoria, a theatre photography and portrait specialist, and newly published author, will take over the space at 45 Collins St nestled between Pope Joan Café and the florist, with the soft opening on April 27.

Where to Next? will showcase a number of different works by Ms Victoria from across the globe.

"It is travel photography, but not as we know it. Rather than looking like someone's holiday snaps, it has a sharp artistic focus, capturing images in well-known places, but from a different perspective," Ms Victoria said.

"There are photos in New York, but none at the Statue of Liberty. Paris, but no pictures of the Eiffel Tower. It is very different to what you will find in usual photography."

According to Ms Victoria, many of her shots would struggle to be replicated, whether it be from the top of the now burnt viewing areas of Notre Dame or a frozen lake in Tibet at 5000m, this is a truly unique exhibition.

No stranger to a camera, Ms Victoria spent 12 years in parliament with five of those years serving as Minister for Arts, Women's Affairs and Consumer Affairs.

Following the 2018 election, Ms Victoria's



exit from politics saw a return to her "first true love" of photography.

"Other than upgrading all of my equipment, the transition back into photography was incredibly easy. Once a photographer, always a photographer," Ms Victoria said.

"The transition coming out of parliament, was a lot easier than the transition entering parliament. It [photography] is something that has always been natural for me."

To accompany a long career in photography and politics, Ms Victoria can now add author to her list of achievements, with the publishing of her first book *Show Must Go On*.

The book documents Melbourne's performing arts scene during COVID-19 induced lockdowns.

Now, with her eyes firmly set on her residency at Collins Place, Ms Victoria is excited to welcome visitors into the freshly curated exhibition, with all works available for purchase.

"Collins Place have been just a delight to deal with. They made everything happen so quickly. Completely different to my time in politics where everything is filled with different layers of bureaucracy. It has been an absolutely pleasure dealing with them," Ms Victoria said.

"It is an affordable way to get something bespoke, something that is individual, that won't



be printed in huge numbers, with a limited number of larger works of just 25 prints."

Gallery hours will be between 11am and 2pm, Tuesday to Friday with out of hours access available by appointment seven days a week •

For more information visit, collinsplace.com.au

A true pioneer in Melbourne's boutique property market

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

With almost 24 years specialising in Melbourne's boutique, heritage and premier residential property market, Gina Donazzan knows a thing or two about high-end real estate.

Having founded Melbourne Boutique Property 15 years ago, Ms Donazzan is now operating under the banner of Donazzan Boutique Property; Melbourne's premier agency for bespoke and heritage homes.

By providing the most unique and tailored advice to her clients, Ms Donazzan has seen the sale of more than 563 properties in Melbourne's CBD and surrounding suburbs.

From her breathtaking heritage office on Flinders St, Ms Donazzan told *CBD News* her pursuit to avoid being your "typical real estate agency" shone through in everything she did.

"We deal with clients who have large property portfolios as well as clients who have a single property," Ms Donazzan said. "For me, it's just as important for us to look after that person with one property to that person with a number of properties."

"Whether it be a little one bedroom or a whole floor penthouse, it doesn't matter. It is the same service for every client I have. We aren't all big bells and whistles and carry on. What we list we sell, and we do it in record time."

Ms Donazzan's personal and professional approach has seen her thrive in an industry where competition is the name of the game.

Despite this fierce competition, Ms Donazzan is unwavering in attitude and commitment to instil her clients with the most pertinent and honest advice possible.

"Say what you mean and mean what you say, is a mantra that is very important to me. We do that in everything we do," she said.

"Sometimes it means we may miss a property



because a potential client wants to hear something else, but we won't do that just to please, we need to stay true to our brand and true to our word."

"We can't list everything, I know that. But we work very hard to list as many properties as we possibly can within our boutique property brand."

Having launched in February 2020, Donazzan Boutique Property has grown to a

team of eight, including the recent acquisition of well-known Melbourne agent, Kim Davey.

"Kim and I are old friends and colleagues, someone who I have huge respect for from the moment I met him. I just admire him because of his work ethic and integrity," Ms Donazzan said.

"As a director he will bring the perfect fit for the business and complement us in every way."

Born from a growing voice among her clients, Ms Donazzan has added property management to her list of services, making Donazzan Boutique Property a truly full-service agency.

According to Ms Donazzan, starting a new business amid a growing global pandemic certainly presented some challenges, but out of that adversity she has seen her business grow from strength to strength.

"With COVID, it was hard. I had clients who wanted to put their property on the market, but I had to tell them to wait. We thought it was best to wait until lockdowns were eased and my clients were so supportive and willing to follow my advice," she said.

"Then when the time was right, we put those properties on the market and they were sold in record time."

"My market is quite unique in the sense that it doesn't feel the effects of financial crisis like other property markets may. I have been around long enough to witness events like the recession and the global financial crisis; high-end, quality heritage buildings, have always remained steady throughout."

As is the case for many people, purchasing their first property is one of the biggest moments of their lives. That fact is not lost on Ms Donazzan, who prides herself on bestowing the best quality advice to all of her clients regardless of circumstances.

It is an authenticity and old-fashioned attitude that has overseen the sale of Melbourne's

“

Say what you mean and mean what you say, is a mantra that is very important to me. We do that in everything we do.

”

most distinctive and distinguished luxury homes.

"Interestingly, residents within my market always gravitate towards a similar type of real estate because they appreciate what boutique heritage buildings offer; they are low density, predominantly owner occupied with beautiful architectural features that people fall in love with," Ms Donazzan said.

"I have a huge mix of clients, all who understand the value in quality. In one case I have had clients who have lived in their building for 35 years."

"Some clients that have always loved living in the city, and always will. Then I have clients who have lived in the leafy suburbs who want to make the transition into the city because they find themselves as empty nesters and they love the idea having the city at their doorstep." •

For more information visit, donazzanboutiqueproperty.com.au



禁止马车运营的示威

上个月，北墨尔本Arden街一匹马不幸死亡，引发了中央商务区(CBD)一系列有关马车的抗议示威。

Rhonda Dredge

本报在四月份报道了这匹马在一次营业中死亡的消息。

图像显示，这匹马被毯子覆盖着，但仍然拖挂在马车上，引发了动物保护主义者的抗议。

4月13日星期二，抗议示威者在市政厅外面，希望将此信息转达给市议会。

第二天，绿党议员Rohan Leppert提出了一项动议，要在4月20日下一次委员会会上

议上讨论。

该动议得到了市议员Olivia Ball博士的支持，呼吁在未来三个月内就这一问题举行一次论坛。

可能有些人希望要有一个更有力的结果，但Leppert议员表示，这个论坛至少可以尝试一个长期解决这一复杂问题的方法。

示威者在市政厅前要求，在市中心禁止马车的运营。

市政认为对此没有一定的执法力。抗议者表示，马车的街头营业许可证在2017年

就吊销了，但执法却一直如此困难。

他们呼吁市政游说州政府，对交通工具定义立法。市政官员无权管理车辆驾驶员。

Leppert议员的动议旨在打破他所说的地方政府和州政府在这个问题上的“僵局”。上个月，当死马的图片公布时，这个问题达到了抗议情绪的顶峰。

“墨尔本反对马车运动”组织的经理Kristin Leigh说，这一事件引发了最近一轮示威游行。

市区露宿者的专门服务

David Schout

墨尔本市政提议为中央商务区(CBD)的露宿者提供新的“专门”支持服务。

这个专门服务将提供住房推荐和健康支持，帮助那些在市中心的露宿者，并将“7天24小时”开放。

这个提议是市政向维州政府提交的维多利亚社会和经济适用房十年战略计划的一部分，该计划预计今年晚些时候公布。

市政表示，该计划的开发项目将耗资150万至500万澳元(取决于所选的地点)，并建议由州政府出资。

拟议中的服务中心还将管理墨尔本市露宿者“名单”数据，这是一个共享的数据库，包含本市目前和最新露宿者的姓名和信息。

露宿者是那些露宿街头、睡在公园里、或蹲在废弃建筑里临时避难的人，视为社会中最脆弱的人群。

维多利亚相当部分的露宿者都在墨尔本市中心。

在新冠疫情最严重的时候，许多露宿者都得到了紧急酒店住宿的安排。

据市政府统计，约有720人仍住在紧急住所，据了解这个紧急住宿资助计划将于6月结束。

市政在提交的计划中指出：“随着这个资助计划即将结束，越来越多的人又重返街头露宿。为这些露宿者找到一个长期的解决方案，这是至关重要的。”

目前墨尔本CBD已经有一些这方面的服务，据了解，如果市政的提议获得批准，该服务将更扩大范围，服务时间更长。



市区养狗的福音

Jess Carrascalao Heard

墨尔本市政邀请当地居民发表意见，针对都市狗狗放跑场所的评估，以及市政对几个狗狗放跑潜在场所的确定。

市政已经在全市范围内确定了13个可能的狗狗放跑场所，其中两个为CBD居民的狗狗提供了位于城市南部的开放空间。

CBD居民Stan Capp说，一些居民感到当地没有足够的狗狗放跑空间。

他说：“他们认为周围没有足够的狗狗可以放跑的公园。”

当地居民可以通过“参与墨尔本”(Participate Melbourne)网站对狗狗的开放空间发表意见。

这个项目介绍显示，13个潜在场所中有3个是现有街区的公园和保护区，包括夹在Flinders街和Queensbridge街之间的海关广场(Customs Square)。

市政已指定了五个潜在空间，可以定时让狗狗进入，其中包括财政花园对面的惠灵顿(Wellington)公园。

还确定了5个未来开放公园，包括E-gate，北墨尔本的Arden / Macaulay开

发区以及Southbank的Kings Way路桥下面。

Capp先生说，他觉得市政提议的狗狗放跑区经过了仔细地考虑。

他说：“已经考虑过对我们传统园林的尊重。”

有关CBD周围的大型花园、旧的花园和公园，包括财政花园、Kings Domain花园，维多利亚女王花园和Flagstaff花园，目前的规定是，狗狗必须牵着进入。

以上这些花园建于19世纪，被归类为“州首都城市”的开放空间，根据市政的开放空间策略，这些都是“墨尔本的标志性建筑，是墨尔本特征和身份的同名词”。

该策略指出，这些花园“经常用来举办国际、联邦、州和大都市的重要活动和庆典”。

参与墨尔本网站指出：“我们的观点是，放跑狗的数量与高流量的游园者不可能相比。”

Capp先生认为，较老的公园应在所有方面得到保护。

participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/dogs-open-space



让留学生7月份返回

墨尔本市政表示，让国际学生在大学第二学期返回“至关重要”。

David Schout

在COVID疫情前，墨尔本享有世界上排名第三的最佳学生城市，如果这次国际学生还被拒之国门外的话，将面临着其“持久品牌的损害”。

市政发表以上这些强烈评论的原因是，从一些大学获知，国际学生正在放弃墨尔本，而转向英国或加拿大。

市政府经济发展和国际事务主任Andrew Wear说：“我们从墨尔本大学收到的反馈是，目前在澳大利亚注册并准备开始(学习)的学生正在改变主意，越来越多地转向去加拿大和英国作为留学目的地。”

国际学生占中央商务区(CBD)居民的三分之一以上(38%)，国际教育为维多利亚州最大的出口事项。

然而，目前由于入境人数的限制，他们无法前来或返回维多利亚州。

州政府和联邦政府都没有意愿在短期内改变这一状况，州长Daniel Andrews在1月份就曾表示，“今年许多学生返回的可能性

很小”。

在4月13日未来墨尔本委员会会议上提交的一份报告中，市政表示，这将对本市造成持久的损害。

该报告称：“利益相关者的反馈表明，如果继续阻止国际学生来墨尔本学习，墨尔本以及整个澳大利亚将面临着持久品牌损害的风险。”

报告指出“为了减轻这种风险，关键是今年第二学期至少第一批国际学生能够到达入境。”

大多数大学的第二学期将于7月下旬开学。

市政表示，将敦促上级政府同意一项试点计划，让“几千名国际学生”及时返回参加第二学期的学习。

维多利亚大学最近提议资助一项隔离计划，是以澳网公开赛隔离计划为蓝本的模式。

然而，市政指出，“国际学生的返回不能优先于归国的澳大利亚公民”。

What's on: May 2021



NEIGHBOURHOOD MARKETPLACE - THURSDAY, MAY 6

The Kelvin Club - 14-30 Melbourne Pl
 You are invited to the Neighbourhood Marketplace hosted by Residents 3000, City of Melbourne and City Precinct. Meet a range of exhibitors from the community from 6pm - 8.30pm.
residents3000.com.au



SATURDAYS @ DEGRAVES ST

Degraves St traders hit the street!
 Businesses operating along the CBD's iconic Degraves St bring their products out from their shops to the street. The event runs all day - weather permitting.
 For more information contact Melanie: info@clementines.com.au

THIRD TUESDAY OF MONTH @ 10AM

EastEnders meet-ups, Quest on Lonsdale
 Representing residents living in the CBD's eastern quadrant, EastEnders have returned to monthly meetings in person at Quest on Lonsdale St. For more information contact president Stan Capp: eastendersinc@gmail.com

TUESDAYS VIA ZOOM @ 7.40AM

Rotary Club of Central Melbourne
 Due to the necessity to remain out of public spaces where possible, Rotary continues its Zoom breakfast meetings until a decision is made to return to face-to-face meetings.
rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au

10.30AM-2PM WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 10AM-3PM SUNDAY, 326 LONSDALE ST

Meet up with friends
 Instant coffee or tea with a biscuit for \$2.00. Meet up with friends or enjoy meeting others at St Francis Pastoral Centre (entry next to the book shop in the

WALKING WITH NEIGHBOURS - LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Residents 3000 hosts monthly walks around the CBD and surrounding areas each month on Thursday evenings at 6pm. For meeting times and information contact: walks@residents3000.com.au



LANEWAY LEARNING

Cheap, fun classes in anything and everything. Weekday evenings in cafes, bars and other spaces around Melbourne. Classes usually have about 20 people to keep it friendly.
melbourne.lanewaylearning.com



NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN CLUB SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

Hosted by Residents 3000, come at 4pm for one hour at Green Room, L1 Central House, Baptist Place Laneway and enjoy a range of different gardening activities with your neighbours.
gardenclub@residents3000.com.au

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QVM.COM.AU



Donazzan Boutique Property

Gina Donazzan has the pleasure to announce yet another quality addition to her Boutique team, her friend and colleague of many years, KIM DAVEY.

Joining forces with Gina, Kim has signed on as a Director making for a powerful business team. With years of experience in Property Management and Sales, a passion for building strong business relationships and quality service, Kim is the perfect fit. With his unique experience and expertise, coupled with the same integrity and honest approach that is paramount to Gina and her boutique firm, Kim provides the complete Boutique experience that our respected client's value.

Gina Donazzan 0412 430 326



Kim Davey 0418 924 324

... Melbourne's Finest

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Donazzan Boutique Property, Licensed Estate Agents, Licensed Member REIV, Property Sales and Property Management.