

# CBD NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia - P21



**Elizabeth St shutdown for penthouse garden**  
*Photo by John Tadigiri*

While the city slept through the early hours of the Queen's Birthday public holiday, a spectacular feat of logistics and engineering took place high above Elizabeth St as part of a penthouse rooftop garden renovation on a heritage building by local architect Shelley Roberts. *Continued on page 9.*

## COVID-19 forces city transport review

*Key transport visions for Melbourne could be adjusted after the City of Melbourne commissioned an independent review into post-pandemic trends in the city.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
TRANSPORT

The review would use "evidence and data to drive decisions" according to Lord Mayor Sally Capp, after COVID-19 forced a change in transport activity.

The pandemic had been responsible for a shift in trends — for example the "skyrocketing" number of gig economy delivery riders — and the council said it was important city-shaping policies now reflected that.

There was no indication, however, that the council's Transport Strategy 2030, which broadly prioritises pedestrians and cyclists while reducing the number of cars entering the CBD, would be significantly altered as a result of the review.

"We know that the way people travel into and around our city has changed in that [COVID] time," the Lord Mayor said at a June 15 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

"We've seen usual behaviours altered, particularly thinking about the slow uptake of use of public transport, and I think it's worthwhile for us to look at current and future trends, look at evidence and data, and consider the way forward."

There was pushback when one councillor said the review could be an opportunity to wind back Town Hall's aggressive rollout of bicycle lanes throughout the city, in favour of space for cars.

Cr Roshena Campbell, who was

not on council when it endorsed the 10-year transport strategy in 2019, said that for anyone who lived 15km or more away, "riding your bike is not how you get into the city."

"While I accept a lot of work has been done by this council on its transport strategy, in my view it may be the case that some of that work will be found to be inconsistent with what is necessary to support our city's recovery and at that point, if it is the case, decisions will need to be made," Cr Campbell said.

She quoted a recent NAB Consumer Insight report that found seven in 10 people had either stopped visiting the CBD or were visiting less, and one in four said it was because parking was either too expensive or they did not want to use public transport.

"If you are priced out of driving in, or you are forced to take certain streets that are now less accessible and have been reduced to one lane because of bike paths, that may be a deterrent for you," she said.

"And if that is the evidence that comes back, for my part I think we as a council group need to take it seriously, because our city's economic recovery has to be a priority this council term."

But Greens councillor Rohan Lepert refuted this, and said the independent review was merely to update evidence to reflect the post-pandemic environment, not entirely re-evaluate long-term goals.

"The only way we can make good decisions for the city is with

*Continued on page 3.*

## Council picks up vaccination slack

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HEALTH

People who get a COVID-19 jab will be rewarded with "irresistible offers" as part of a new City of Melbourne campaign.

Councillors voted at the June 15 Future Melbourne Committee meeting to offer a range of perks and incentives to encourage not just Melburnians but all Victorians to get vaccinated as soon as they were eligible.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the measure was aimed at stamping out further lockdowns and to "bring back the buzz" to the city.

"We want Victoria to be the most vaccinated state so that we can move beyond lockdown and restrictions and build confidence for local businesses, residents and tourists, and so that we can open and stay open," she said.

Rewards could include a premium package offers in re-

tail, hospitality, and entertainment.

The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration recently approved the provision of incentives and rewards for people who have been fully vaccinated.

"We don't want to have a lockdown number five to keep us motivated around vaccination. We want more 'Vac-torians' as we are called," Ms Capp said.

"A vaccinated Victoria is vital for our city to thrive and it's the key to containing the pandemic so we can fully enjoy the amazing experiences our city has to offer."

The incentive campaign comes after the federal and state governments have come under pressure for Victoria's slow vaccination rollout.

During the state's fourth lockdown, Victorian acting Premier James Merlino vented his frustration saying "we might be facing a very different set of circumstances" had more people been vaccinated.

So far, more than 1.7 million doses have been

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# So long, Scoop

Vale Shane Patrick Scanlan – 1958 to 2021

WORDS BY Sean Car  
OBITUARY

This newspaper's founding publisher Shane "Scoop" Scanlan died suddenly at his home in Blackwood in May. He was 63 years old.

Shane truly was one of a kind. An "old soul" who immersed every ounce of himself into the art of journalism; from putting pen to paper right through to delivering the actual publication himself.

Whether it was by cargo bike, scooter or on foot, you could often spot him in his unmistakable Akubra doing the rounds in his beloved Docklands, or dashing across the river to Southbank, with pen, notepad and camera at the ready.

To borrow a line from his close friend Doug Jarvis, Shane was "a bloodhound with the tail of a Labrador".

While his dogged desire for his next "scoop" was unrelenting, his passion for the Docklands community, and those who made it special, was unwavering.

And it was through his first and original community vehicle, *Docklands News*, into which he poured so much of himself, ever since its first edition in 2003.

Where others threw stones at Docklands, Shane never missed the opportunity to staunchly advocate on its behalf.

Never was there any fear in creating a bit of havoc, or treading on a few toes, so long as it meant getting things done for the ever-evolving Docklands community.

And through his passion and love for Docklands, he's had a profound impact on so many people's lives – more than he ever could have imagined.

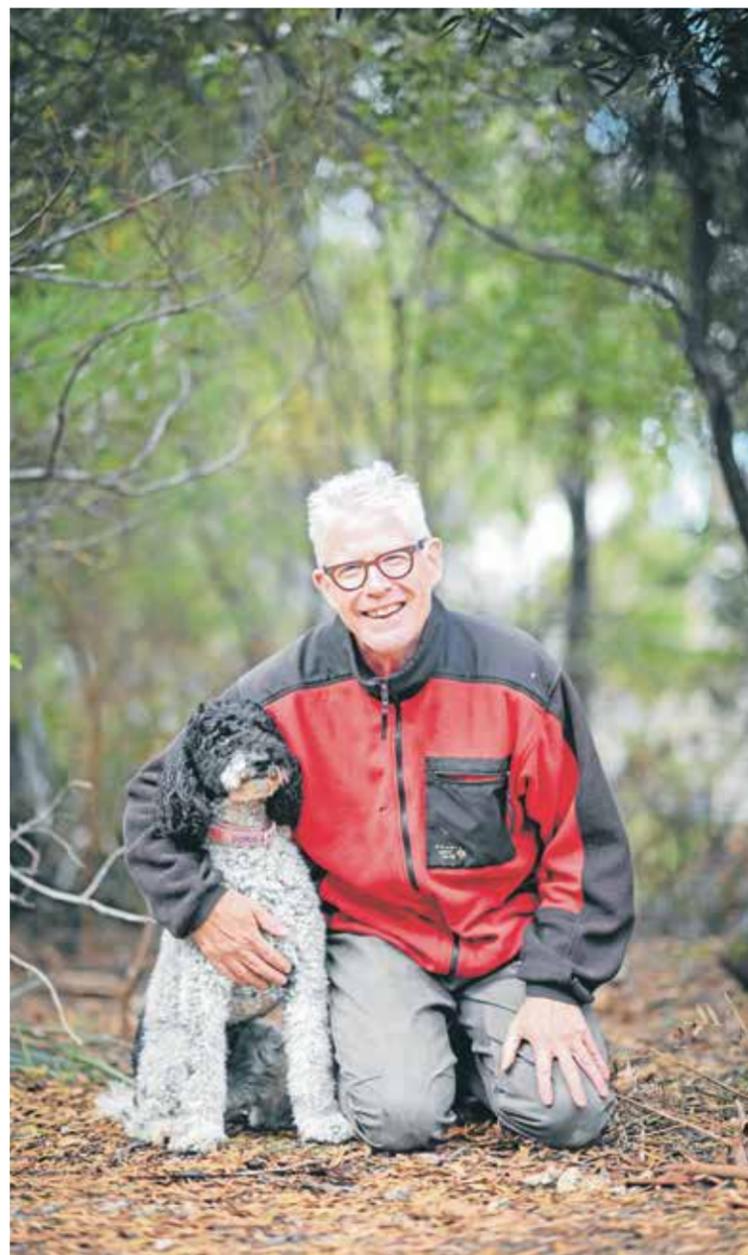
It was a passion he would carry over to neighbouring central-city communities, through *Southbank News* and *CBD News*, right up until his retirement two years ago.

Across the city, and indeed right throughout far wider circles, there will be people feeling the shock of his loss for some time, but none more so than his wife Louise, his boys Patrick, Ryan, Courtney and Clancy, and his entire family, to whom we send all of our love.

But while we will forever miss his presence, it's important we can celebrate the life that was, and the legacy he leaves behind; a legacy continued through this very newspaper.

As a friend and a mentor, few have had a more profound impact on my life and I'll forever miss having him in my corner.

So long, Scoop. Thank you for everything ●



▲ Shane Scanlan at his home in Blackwood, with dog Doris.

Photo: John Tadigiri.

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# Council picks up vaccination slack

*Continued from page 1.*

administered across the state, general practice, and Commonwealth programs in Victoria.

In June, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said more than five million Australians had had at least one dose of a vaccine including 61 per cent of people aged over 70.

Forty-four per cent of people aged over 50 have received at least one dose of vaccine.

All Australians aged over 40 are now eligible for vaccination, with Victoria's online booking system launching on June 17.

"We want to encourage as many Australians as possible, but in particular to say to the older Australians we would very much like you to come forward as early as possible," Mr Hunt said.

Speaking at the council meeting, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece pointed to the success of vaccination incentives overseas, particularly in the US. He said the state of Ohio was offering a \$1 million prize for a "lucky person" while other states had offered free university tuition scholarships.

Australian companies such as Qantas have begun their incentive programs including rolling out frequent flyer points rewards or flight vouchers to help expand vaccination rates.

To further increase vaccination uptake, the City of Melbourne will boost its communications campaign in multiple languages to reach out to multicultural communities.

According to the latest Essential poll, 32 per cent of Victorians have reported vaccine hesitancy with a further 12 per cent stating that they would choose against getting the vaccine.

On June 20, the state government announced it would develop and make Australia's first local mRNA COVID-19 vaccine that will be ready for clinical trials by the end of the year.

The state will invest \$5 million to support Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences to manufacture doses of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for trials, which are due to start soon.

Health Minister Martin Foley said, "our message to Victorians today is get vaccinated if you

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*We want Victoria to be the most vaccinated state so that we can move beyond lockdown...*

”

are eligible to do so – for the sake of yourself, your family, your friends and your community”.

Australian Medical Association president Dr Omar Khorshid welcomed the Federal Government's recent announcement of extra funding that allows GPs to spend more time with patients.

Dr Khorshid said this would ensure patients were aware of all the benefits of a COVID-19 vaccination, and boost confidence in the vaccine.

"It is a big step in allowing doctors to take the time to sit down and discuss fully with their patients, some of whom are nervous, the benefits and incredibly low risks associated with vaccination," he said.

Eddie Micallef, chairman of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV), said the vaccination rollout had been "very disappointing" with a lack of an "appropriate, thought-out, and effective" campaign.

Mr Micallef said there had been "inconsistent messages" and called for translated material "to be more informal and tailored to specific communities".

"The data that's been collected by federal and state governments is not uniformed so we don't know which areas are missing out. If we knew that we could target specific areas," he said.

"One of the things that were encouraged was community leaders to do their own Facebook presentation and send it around to their communities." ●

# COVID-19 forces transport review

*Continued from page 1.*

good quality data and that is the purpose of this exercise. So, that's the reason I'm going to support this, because we need good quality data, not because it's a smokescreen to change the transport strategy, certainly not on my watch."

He said the city had moved beyond the binary "car versus bikes" debate and that wider views on the topic – including from the RACV who voiced their unwavering support for a "bike friendly city" at the meeting – had progressed.

"I, for one, am not going to revert back to a tired old argument from [3AW's] Neil Mitchell or any other bloviator that only people who drive cars increase the economic value to the city. We're way past that. I remember when the RACV were against bicycle lanes, right? It's a new world, we're going to deal with it."

Findings for the review are expected to be released in August.

## Cycling lanes Melbourne's "edge"

Amid fears an independent review could stall progress on the council's protected cycling lane rollout, a number of submitters urged the council against such a move.

Bicycle Network CEO Craig Richards pressed councillors to "bravely move forward rather than slamming the brakes on progress", while RACV general manager of mobility Elizabeth Kim said investment in active transport benefited everyone.

James Garriock, executive director of Melbourne-based consulting and research group Insync, said creating a cycle-friendly city was crucial.

"If I'm going to make the most of my office in Collins St, if I'm going to build team spirit by having people together, I need Melbourne to have an edge. And that edge is not property prices like it is on the Gold Coast, and that edge is not sunshine like it is in Sydney. Bike lanes are part of that edge. I think that reversion to the car-congested mean would be a real symptom of Melbourne losing its edge."



## "Pain points"

The Lord Mayor, however, acknowledged that infrastructure works had created "clashes" in the city, and the review would investigate these "pain points".

The council has not only accelerated its protected cycling lanes rollout, but also installed a number of outdoor dining "parklets" and has continued footpath-widening in some areas.

"We've heard from our community that there are pain points across the city," she said.

"It's been one of the number one things in my inbox, and that there have been clashes between infrastructure that we've installed and the behaviour of commuters on different transport modes, and it would be good to identify those and understand how we can improve them." ●



David Schout

JOURNALIST

DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

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# Businesses pick up the pieces after another lockdown

*Businesses in the CBD have been dealt a devastating blow after the city was plunged into yet another lockdown. CBD News spoke to a number of eateries, cafes, and restaurants, as well as hair and beauty salons who have been left counting their losses after the state's COVID-19 restrictions again turned the once-bustling streets of the city into a ghost town.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*  
BUSINESS

Johnny Vakalis, who runs The Journal Café on Flinders Lane, said he was left picking up the pieces after revenue plunged.

"It's hard when you're a small business and you're trying to fight for one dollar and we're in an area where it's very competitive," he told *CBD News*, after only a handful of customers had visited his café that day.

"It was a little bit tougher to be honest because we were sort of building up and then almost stopped the momentum."

He said his son, who helped run the business, had encouraged him to stay open despite the pair "working for nothing".

"We've got good solid regulars who support us to a great degree, and they love going in there for their daily chat and all that sort of thing. They keep me going, to be honest."

Mr Vakalis said he applied for government support but believed it "doesn't cover anything", adding "when you lose the 20 to 30 grand a week, how's that going to make an inroad? And you're still owed people."

While he was glad to reopen for dining after restrictions were lifted, he said he felt like he was starting from scratch after the Queen's Birthday long weekend proved to be disappointing.

"There's no football, and you've still got the 25km limitation, so how many people can come into the city when there's nothing there anyway? It's very hard, very hard," he said.

"What do you do? Keep at it I suppose; hopefully things turn around."

Bill Morton, the owner of The Paperback Bookshop for the past 20 years, said the latest lockdown had had a "huge impact" after he was forced to go digital.

"We were still able to operate in terms of our online presence, but it probably reduces it to about 20 to 25 per cent of the normal business that we would do," he said.

"This latest lockdown – even though it's relatively short – will have put a real dent in our momentum."

"We chose to keep all our staff on. Again, we're going to get through it and continue on."

While he understood safety was a priority and acknowledged the state government had "done a pretty good job in keeping us safe", he said the "trade-off with that, is that it does affect people's lives and affects small business like ourselves."

"A major difference from the long lockdown is that some of the really crucial support mechanisms for business weren't there, in particular JobKeeper ... that's what we're going need to continue to get through," he said.

"If this happens again that's going to be an ongoing major concern because you know that support for staff probably won't be there."

Mr Morton said it had been a relief to reopen his popular shop which had been a boost to staff morale and their loyal customer base, whom he described as "really fantastic".

Also grieving the effects of the latest lockdown was John Gleeson who has run a dry-cleaning shop Your Personal Dry Cleaner in Collins St for nearly 30 years.

"We stayed open; our worst day was \$10.70. Our best day was about \$200," he said.

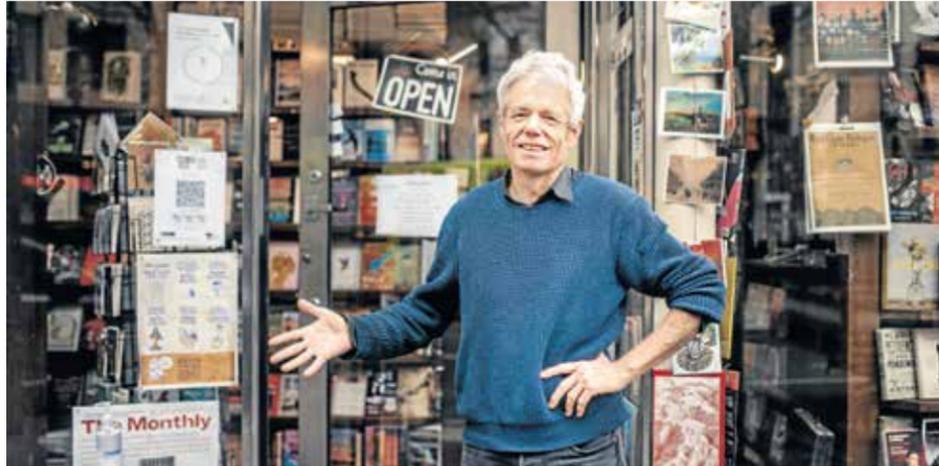
"We need to average about \$1300 a day – that was pre-COVID. We haven't got back to that yet. It was pretty tough."

"This lockdown was more severe than last year. I think people thought 'it's only short, we've got to do it,' so everyone stayed home and stayed indoors."

Mr Gleeson said he would normally launder and iron between 80 to 90 business shirts a day but had been lucky to do 15 or 16. Before the pandemic hit, he would have 120 a day.

He said his business had slashed its hours from 10am to 2pm during the lockdown but "there's no one around ... people have just hibernated".

"Our stockpile of clothing has actually gone



▲ Bill Morton - owner of The Paperback Bookshop on Bourke St.



▲ John Gleeson - Your Personal Dry Cleaner, Collins St.



▲ Georgia Mackie - Seedling Cafe, Equitable Place.



▲ Michael Mawas - Blackstone Barber, William St.

up because people aren't coming to pick it up and they're not using it. Our racks are totally full and we've brought in an extra rack," he said.

"People who are dropping them off don't have an urgency to pick them up."

To survive, Mr Gleeson said his staff had resorted to sowing facemasks to sell because "it's either that or nothing".

Meanwhile, Mr Gleeson said he had applied for a government grant, which, despite being just a few thousand dollars, he acknowledged it would at least help pay his staff.

"You've just got to hang in there and know it's going to get better later, because if you cave into all the negativities around then you will go under."

Also left reeling was Georgia Mackie, whose Seedling Café at the corner of Little Collins St and Equitable Place, took a hit at a time when trade had just begun "gaining momentum".

"We've definitely lost more this time. It's all well and good to be open for takeaway, but there's no people here," she said.

"You don't just want to drop all your staff either. You want to help people out. They're all students not earning huge wages. They don't have massive savings that they can go and live off for a few weeks."

"We stayed open, but it was really just to cover paying some staff to have some shifts."

In terms of government support, Ms Mackie said, "I guess we've always felt a little hard done by the grants because we own two shops in the CBD and we only ever get one grant."

"It's definitely been more challenging this time around without JobKeeper."

Looking ahead, she said she expected to see "a little bit of momentum" but not a "drastic change until the restrictions change".

At the Queen Victoria Market, Linda Li, who runs a gift and souvenir stall called Woodcrafts Australia with her husband, said the lockdown had been heart-wrenching.

She said trade had still remained "very quiet" despite being able to reopen after restrictions were eased.

"There are no international tourists and customers from interstate. It's very difficult for us," she said.

"We have some products for locals like

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*What do you do? Keep at it I suppose, hopefully things turn around.*

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chopping boards, but we need more customers from overseas."

Michael Mawas had also been left shattered after being ordered to shut his pride-and-joy barber shop during the lockdown.

He said he was anxious about how his business, Blackstone Barber on William St, would stay afloat if further lockdowns were imposed.

"That's a big thing in my mind: how I can keep my four boys on the floor?" he said of his staff.

"I'm more stressed every day I think about it. I hope things get better ... a lot of people work from home and we rely on them."

While he was grateful business had been busy since reopening, he wondered how long it would continue after enduring "very, very tough" times.

"If I've got to work just to cover the rent and give the boys money for nothing there's no purpose to stay on," he said.

"Luckily I've got a good landlord, he's still looking after me but I'm not sure for how long."

The wedding industry is also on its knees with caterers, florists, artists, photographers, and bridal designers gathering in the CBD on June 15 to hold a public demonstration at Old Treasury Building where they called on the state government for more certainty and confidence.

Olive and Thyme Catering co-director Renee Patsiaouras, who attended the demonstration, said she was suffering \$80,000 in losses every month.

"I'm already getting cancellations now for the end of June/early July because people don't have the confidence to know what's going to happen," she said of her Clayton South business.

"We've had phone call after phone call asking for credit, and having to reschedule."

"We need certainty; we need to understand that businesses can open and work COVID-safe."

Patrick Coghlan, CEO of credit reporting agency CreditorWatch, warned with no "clear path" to mass vaccination, and issues still emanating from hotel quarantine "we expect substantial increases in external administrations above the norm in the state".

The Collins Street Precinct Group (CSPG) said it was "very much looking forward" to the continued easing of restrictions and the return to normality.

"With the further easing of restrictions this week, we know that the CBD greatly needs the continued support from Victorians and we look forward to once again welcoming them to the Collins Street Precinct," a statement from CSPG said.

"We are grateful for the funding that the State Government and City of Melbourne have provided to the precinct."

"This funding reinforces our efforts to support CBD businesses including a new campaign which we will launch this winter to encourage regional Victorians and Melburnians to visit, stay, shop, dine, do business and be entertained in the city."

Last month the City of Melbourne launched an initiative to bring people back to the city, with visitors able to claim a 20 per cent rebate on their total food and drink bill at Melbourne's restaurants, cafes and bars.

The state government announced a \$460 million support package to support 90,000 businesses with grants of up to \$7000.

The federal government also announced disaster payments of \$500 to help Victorians who would normally work 20 hours per week.

The Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chief Executive Paul Guerra said it was vital businesses get back to "viable trade as soon as possible" as the mental health toll from restrictions was "immense".

Restaurant and Catering Industry Australia CEO Wes Lambert said the lockdown had been a "crushing blow" to the thousands of restaurants, cafes, and caterers ●

# 端午佳节

## Dragon Boat Festival

Festival Day/Date:  
Monday, 14 June 2021

Celebrate in Chinatown Square, Cohen Place

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Story of the Dragon Boat Festival/Duan Wu Festival  
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- S&B Curry Sauce

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# Cohealth backs government's search for new injecting room

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
HEALTH

The community health provider long expected to house a new safe injecting facility in the CBD has backed the state government to find a new appropriate site.

Cohealth, whose Victoria St facility near Queen Victoria Market (QVM) was for much of the last year the government's "preferred" site for the state's second safe injecting room (SIR), said it supported wherever the government looked to next.

Former police chief commissioner Ken Lay, appointed to oversee the rollout of Victoria's second SIR, is understood to have determined that Cohealth Central City was not an appropriate site in a soon-to-be-released report.

It was taken off the table after strong pushback related to its close proximity to vulnerable residents and QVM, not because of the service Cohealth would provide.

The government was widely tipped to announce the former Yooralla building at 244-248 Flinders St as the new preferred site, after it confirmed in June it had bought the building.

Cohealth chief executive Nicole Bartholomeusz said there was simply a need to prevent overdoses in the CBD, irrespective of the location selected.

"We fully support the thorough process being undertaken by the Victorian Government, led by Ken Lay, to identify a suitable site for a CBD supervised injecting service," she said.

"With one person dying of heroin overdose on our city streets every month, there continues to be a need for a CBD supervised injecting service that will save lives and move public drug use off the streets."

Cohealth did not answer questions regarding whether there was a level of frustration with the government's handling of the rollout.

From June 2020 until earlier this year, the 53 Victoria St site was the only location considered to become the state's second SIR.

However, the eggs-in-one-basket approach came back to bite the government as it was forced to shift focus when it became clear the northern CBD site would create significant amenity issues.

The City of Melbourne had



*We fully support the thorough process being undertaken by the Victorian Government.*



strongly opposed the site due to it being within 100 metres of the Queen Victoria Market, "vulnerable residents", a transport interchange and child care services.

Late last year it had "provided factual information to Ken Lay to demonstrate why this location is not the right choice".

Ms Bartholomeusz said it was important that whichever location was selected had integrated assistance.

"We want to see a service that connects people struggling with drug addiction, mental ill-health, homelessness and other disadvantage, to health and social support services," she said.

"As an organisation that works with marginalised people right across the north and west of Melbourne, we know when society is facing a health crisis, we must respond with greater investment in health services."

A 2020 report by an independent panel of experts revealed that Victoria's first ever SIR in North Richmond had saved at least 21 lives in its first 18 months of operation, and thwarted 271 "extremely serious overdose incidents".

The report determined that the facility required help dealing with demand, which prompted the government to announce the state's second facility should be located in the City of Melbourne.

Between January 2015 and September 2019, Ambulance Victoria data shows there was around one heroin-related death a month in the municipality.

While it will not house the state's second SIR, Cohealth Central City will continue to operate a range of services for people experiencing homelessness and other disadvantage at the 53 Victoria St clinic, which includes GPs, nurses, allied health, mental health and social support services ●

# Council backs new tower near Queen Vic Market

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne has endorsed development plans for a multi-project site at the corner of Queen St and Franklin streets in the Queen Victoria Market precinct, with one of the sites progressing with a 20-storey residential tower.

Two concurrent council motions at the June 15 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting saw councillors unanimously support a development plan for multiple sites, paving the way for a new development at 432-450 Queen St.

The proposal by developer Golden Age (QVM Development Pty Ltd), which will now go before Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for approval, would include 129 high-end apartments, as well as a voluntary contribution of 13 affordable rental apartments.

Six ground floor retail tenancies are also included, with the Bates Smart designed proposal seeking to demolish two of the three existing heritage buildings, while the third, considered to be of higher heritage value, will be largely retained.

An east-west laneway separates the two parcels of land that councillors considered under the development plan along which council officers advocated to lower the laneway's street wall height from 40 to 20 metres.

The building is located next to the nearly completed Munro development and connected to the future "Munro Square" at rear via a network of laneways, which the council's chair of planning Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said could become "famous".

"We want the network of laneways in this quarter of QVM precinct to sit alongside other famous laneways of Melbourne such as the Flinders Lane precinct or Guilford Lane," Cr Reece said.

"That is why we have required more of the heritage red brick walls and bluestone laneways to be retained as part of this development. The message to developers with proposals for this precinct is clear: we will be standing firm to protect and enhance this wonderful network of laneways."

However, some neighbouring residents and heritage advocates raised concerns with the proposal at the meeting, with Melbourne Terrace residents suggesting it was an "overdevelopment" which would block sunlight to their homes.

Melbourne Heritage Action president Tristan Davies also said that the proposal didn't "adequately respond to heritage concerns", arguing the demolition of what were previously "D-graded" heritage buildings set a dangerous precedent for the city.

But the council's heritage portfolio chair and deputy planning lead Cr Rohan Leppert said the two low-grade buildings had "limited architectural interest" and that there was no way of providing any integrity through retention.

"The buildings are too small and too degraded," he said. Councillors Reece and Leppert commended the developer and architect for the lengths that they had gone to in preserving heritage fabric in their proposal, with the two-storey C-graded brick warehouse at 432-438 Queen St to be largely retained.

Cr Leppert said the council would also "invest heavily" in the future Munro Square.



## Fresh produce point of sale storage endorsed

The June 15 FMC also saw councillors unanimously endorse a suite of storage and refrigeration units for fresh produce traders at QVM.

The dry storage and cool room and refrigeration options, informed by "extensive trader engagement" during the past 18 months, could be made available to traders by the end of this year.

A report from council management stated, "traders will be able to select a combination of modules to suit their storage requirements. A co-contribution arrangement will be put in place to assist traders' transition to the new storage options."

"Traders are under no obligation to take up these solutions; however, all traders will be required to meet relevant statutory standards relating to food safety."

General manager of operations at QVM Mark Bullen told councillors that the storage units would be temporary with no fixing into the ground or sheds and made of robust materials for the market's open-air environment.

"These will sit underneath and not dominate their point of sale," Mr Bullen said. "We understand the difficulties they face in an open-air market."

QVM CEO Stan Liacos said considerable research had been conducted into markets across the world in order to establish the best outcome for traders.

"There are very few [markets] that are in an as open-air environment at QVM. In our open-air environment, we need more storage that is rodent proof, and weather proof," he said.

"The markets we liaise with regularly have far better storage facilities than we do."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the storage and refrigeration was "much-needed".

"People [traders] can make a point of difference and the market can keep its open character," she said.

Cr Leppert said while important market renewal documentation required updating, he said the council was approving units based on "extensive engagement".

The council will also seek Heritage Victoria's advice on guidelines for what best point of sale storage should look like ●



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## CBD NEWS



## Plans lodged to “reinvigorate” David Jones store

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

Plans for a \$30 million revamp could see David Jones’ Bourke St menswear store transformed into a new city landmark, with a flagship retail tenant and modern offices, if approved by the City of Melbourne.

Newmark Capital, which owns the historic building, recently lodged plans to “reinvigorate” the building at 299 Bourke St while being “sympathetic and respectful of the existing heritage fabric”.

The application, prepared by leading architects Bates Smart, has sought a planning permit to replace the Bourke St frontage with a stylish shopfront, metal canopies, and glazed facade, as part of an enhancement of both the Bourke and Little Collins street frontages.

A pitch to the City of Melbourne said a refurbishment of the heritage-listed building would “add to the vibrancy of the retail core and contribute to the existing mix of land uses and activities” while bringing the “building up to date for the next generation of retailers”.

It’s proposed the basement, ground and first floors will be dedicated to retail, with a mix of modern office spaces across the four upper floors, and the rooftops to become “stylish and contemporary” outdoor terraces.

The upper floors, currently used for storage and administration, would be opened up and refurbished as modern offices, “providing unique workplaces with high-end facilities”.

Under the plans, there will also be a supermarket in the basement along with 45 bicycle spaces.

Newmark Capital’s property general manager Angus Machutchison said if approved, the upgrade would begin, once David Jones’ intended closure of its menswear in 2022 occurs.

“We believe this building will play its part in the revitalisation of Melbourne’s CBD, which has borne the brunt of COVID-19 restrictions,” Mr Machutchison said.

“We are in the final stages of negotiations with leading international and national retailers, who have expressed strong interest in the site.”

Mr Machutchison acknowledged the iconic building occupied a “unique place in Melbourne’s retail history”, with the new additions to take a respectful approach to the building’s significant heritage.

“Our vision for the building is inspired by the original architecture and stays true to 299 Bourke St’s history while adding new, high-quality, retail spaces and reactivating the building’s upper levels,” he said.



City of Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said while the proposal was “incredibly exciting”, the application would be “very carefully considered”, noting it “would need to recognise the area’s special character and history”.

“As with all development applications, this will be judged on its merits,” he said.

“Bourke Street Mall is the heart of our city and a prime retail destination known across the country.”

“It shows there is great confidence in the future of our city’s economy to recover from the impacts of COVID-19.”

The David Jones store on the south side of Bourke St was built in two stages in 1929-30 and 1938 as the flagship store of G J Coles Pty Ltd. It was designed by prominent Melbourne architect Harry Norris.

A four-storey extension to the west was undertaken from 1938 to 1939, before being sold to David Jones in 1986 when it was altered and partially restored.

Along with the City of Melbourne, Heritage Victoria will also consider the plans.

The Victorian Heritage Register lists the iconic building as “architecturally significant for its distinctive and intact terracotta facade, making it one of the most exuberant and colourful interwar buildings in the city” ●

## Man performs sexual act in CBD

CRIME

Melbourne Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team detectives are appealing for public assistance after a man performed an explicit sexual act towards a woman in the CBD last month.

Investigators have been told a 23-year-old woman was using a gym at an apartment complex on Elizabeth St at around 7.30am on Thursday, May 27.

While the woman was exercising, she noticed a man standing in an adjacent public carpark on Franklin St.

The man performed an explicit sexual act for some time while looking at the woman before exiting the carpark via a lift.

He then left the building on foot through the lobby area.

Detectives have today released CCTV footage and an image of a man who they believe can assist with their enquiries.

The man is perceived to be Caucasian in appearance, aged 25 to 35 years, unshaven and was wearing a grey jacket, grey shorts and a black beanie.

Anyone who recognises the man or has information regarding the incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers ●



**Crime Stoppers:**  
1800 333 000 or  
[crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au)



▲ Kit Espresso: the centre of community life in the west wing of the Royal Arcade.

## Landlords adopt a personal touch

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
BUSINESS

Shops are renting out swiftly in the west wing of Royal Arcade thanks to “brave” businesses and a personal touch introduced by one of the arcade’s landlords, Ilias Megas.

Just one of the four shops Mr Megas’s family owns in this tiny annexe was tenanted at the end of the city’s major lockdown in October.

Retail was at a standstill and there was little hope of a rush of businesses seeking CBD opportunities.

Even though one shop was rented out in November, the others were a sad reminder of what has happened to CBD retail with too many empty properties on agents’ books.

Last month Mr Megas took things into his own hands and put up signs in this quiet little beauty spot, so that those who went past to get their shoes repaired, nails done or to pick up a recycled frock, knew what rents he was asking.

The signs went up in the windows of number 43 and 46 declaring the pop-up rent to be \$800 a week and calling for interested parties to contact him on his mobile.

Now there are two new jewellers, Sky Gem and Curiosity Merchant, and a small clothing importer is about to move into number 43 which had been empty for 18 months. This deal was clinched in June.

Tenants say the personal touch has worked well to allay fears that they’d be forced into long leases or required to pay bonds of up to six months.

Zora Bell Boyd moved into Shop 45 last November and opened Curiosity Merchants with her locally made jewellery. She took a six-month lease on pop-up rates.

The New Zealand jeweller painted the walls black and can’t stop admiring the copper frames on the period windows nor the black spiral staircase that lead to a storage room above the shops.

“I asked the landlord if people back in the 1920s lived here with boutique businesses but he said ‘no’. The annexes are so great. This was built after the main arcade. We don’t have a lot like this in New Zealand,” she said.

Zora has nothing but praise for Ilias. She said he grew up in the annexe. His father Tom owned the shops and he ran around in the arcade as a kid, she said.

“He knows lots about the history of the arcade. He’s very personable. He’s a good person.”

Zora is a happy tenant compared to others in the annexe who claim their landlords have even put up the rent during the pandemic. Even so, there is a community spirit with Kit Espresso at the centre.

Further down, Evans Shoe Repairs, trading since 1956, had a queue after the long weekend. There’s also a small pastry shop in slotted into what used to be a stairwell.

“It used to be a dead space under the stairs,” Ilias told *CBD News*. “I can’t stand up there. I have to bend down. I would hit my head. I had to rent it to petite girls.”

He said he made the decision to deal directly with businesses themselves so they could have short-term leases and test out ideas.

“It’s something different,” he said. “I looked at the main arcade and what other landlords were doing and the shops are still sitting empty.”

He does not want to blame agents but there is



▲ This Royal Arcade shop rented out in two weeks.

evidence that the personal touch is catching on.

Shops available for rent in the main arcade include those formerly occupied by Roxanne, Hoot, Chocomamma, Tivoli, Habbot, Jasper Junior and the old Bank West shop.

But there’s now a sign on the door of Shop 20 from the landlord. “As the owner of this shop I am prepared to offer significant incentives,” the note said. It was signed by Joe and a mobile number was given.

“Let’s not kick the poor agents while they are down,” Ilias said. “It’s been a rough few years for the leasing agents who predominantly rely on commissions as part of their salary.”

“I think it is more of a case of being able to be more flexible and creative to get a deal done.”

“I think the agents are sometimes in a rough position of dealing with unrealistic rentals for a pre-pandemic market and the fact that they need to secure a longer three- or five-year lease to justify their commission, which in this environment is tough for a lot of small business owners to commit to.”

Ilias was complimentary about those who had taken a risk in an uncertain period. He thought his tenants were “very bold and brave to start new businesses in the face of a pretty quiet CBD retail market.”

He said he was not complaining about the rent reductions. The shops used to command up to \$55,000 per annum. “We had 20 to 30 years of good times,” he said ●



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# Elizabeth St shut down to build luxury penthouse garden

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*  
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*  
 BUILDING

While the city slept through the early hours of the Queen's Birthday public holiday, a spectacular feat of logistics and engineering took place high above the streets.

Elizabeth St was shut down from midnight until five in the morning while a crane lifted another crane on top of an eight-story building as part of a penthouse rooftop garden renovation.

The penthouse apartment at 55-57 Elizabeth St tops off one of Melbourne's iconic heritage buildings, originally a sports depot designed by the architect Nahum Barnet and built in 1901.

Now, architect Shelley Roberts has taken over the reins in designing the complete renovation of the 440 sqm penthouse apartment, giving the old building a modern shakedown with an innovative "winter garden".

For Ms Roberts, it's one of the biggest projects she had ever worked on.

"Without hesitation, this is one of the most exciting builds I've done in my career," Ms Roberts said.

"That night was right up there in terms of the most exciting, seeing this crane with its legs fully extended flying through the air. It was just hovering there in the middle of space."

While the crane lift was a roaring success, Ms Roberts said it was a "logistical nightmare" involving everyone from the City of Melbourne, a host of engineers, builders, architects, surveyors and other specialists.

"It's been a cast of thousands to get this across the line," she said.

First, Ms Roberts said the roof of the building had to be removed which exposed multiple places where water could seep down into the building, requiring her to treat the roof as if it was a swimming pool.

Juggling the "really high" heritage grade of the building with the current nervous climate around flammable cladding added to the stress,



▲ Usman Javed, Shelley Roberts and Victoria Ashwell.



Ms Roberts said.

And when it came to lifting the crane eight storeys through the air, a series of support beams were first installed on the roof for the crane to sit on and manoeuvre around.

The lift also required Yarra Trams and the whole of Elizabeth St to be shut down, costing a total of \$35,000 – an expense which would be duplicated getting the crane down, Ms Roberts said.

Next, a 220-tonne crane lifted the second crane, which has four mechanical support arms like a spider, up to the site of the rooftop garden while dodging dangerous power lines and tram wires.

Ms Roberts said the owners of the penthouse



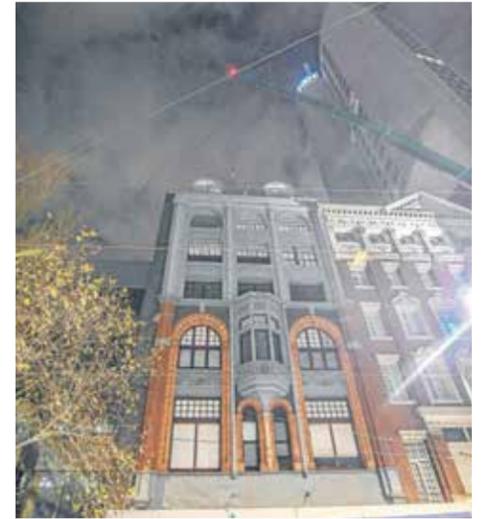
apartment watched via live video link from Vietnam where they currently worked and lived.

"I think it's so personal building homes for people; it was a great crane lift, it was terribly exciting. It's about creating a home for someone," Ms Roberts said.

Once completed, the winter garden will look like a conservatory complete with glazed glass walls and sliding doors.

A spectacular helical staircase will lead people up to the rooftop garden which feature a wet bar, teppanyaki bar and plenty of plants, Ms Roberts said.

During the next year, the rooftop-crane will haul the materials needed for the renovation up



and down the building until its owners move in.

But for now, Ms Roberts said she was basking in the glory of having the crane operation complete.

"I was jumping for joy," she said. "This is all about community, the community of consultants with the clients."

"After the crane lift, the builders did a barbecue and we took bacon and eggs down to the crane operators."

Ms Roberts said building company MRU Construction has been "absolutely stellar" in realising her design.

"I always think the best result you get in any project is if you have a good architect, a good builder and most importantly, a good client." ●



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▲ The Athenaeum's building manager Sue Westwood.

## Windfall for Athenaeum Library

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COMMUNITY

The Melbourne Athenaeum Library is celebrating after securing a \$10,000 state government grant that will help buy new Victorian-made timber tables to complete its major refurbishment.

The Athenaeum's building manager Sue Westwood said it was exciting news as the funding would replace old, donated and mismatched furniture.

"It's fantastic for us because it means this is the finishing touch to a library refurbishment that started two years ago," she said, which had included new carpet, new electrical wiring, and a repaint as part of a \$150,000 upgrade.

"The last thing we needed were new tables, so our members donated funds to enable us to buy new chairs. This funding will really complete the library transformation," Ms Westwood said.

The Melbourne Athenaeum Library was one of 10 Mechanics' Institutes this month to share \$100,000 from the state government's public libraries funding program to create public internet access, buy audiobooks, replace furniture and undertake renovations.

Built in 1842 and originally known as the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute, the Melbourne Athenaeum continues to operate as a library, theatres, and shops in Collins St.

Its first tenant was the Melbourne City Council, which held meetings while the Town Hall was being built. The world's first feature film, *The Story of the Kelly Gang*, was premiered there in 1906.

Today, the heritage-listed library holds a 30,000-strong book collection and hosts regular events, talks, book clubs, and a screen club.

"Our focus has always been to provide a kind of a cultural and recreational service to the community," Ms Westwood said, adding the library had around 700 members and attracted 2000 visitors a month.

She said the not-for-profit library was also proud to sponsor a short story prize with Sisters in Crime, an Australian women's crime writing organisation.

"They have the annual Scarlet Stiletto Awards which is announced in November each year, and we sponsor a category called 'The Body in the Library' short story competition," she said, which had been running for 10 years.

"Hopefully in July we're having a reading of some of those stories as a social event."

When asked about the effects of the pandemic, Ms Westwood conceded it hadn't "been easy" but they were doing everything to ensure their tenants including two theatres, a restaurant, and a jewellery store stayed open.

"We're really working as a whole building community to ensure we're all here on the other side of this pandemic," she said.

It is the third time the building has endured a pandemic including the Russian Flu in 1891, and the Spanish Flu in 1918.

Local Government Minister Shaun Leane said he hoped Mechanics' Institutes would be around for many decades so they could continue their "amazing record of service" ●

**For more information:**  
[melbourneathenaeum.org.au](http://melbourneathenaeum.org.au)

## Smaller, "superior" office tower approved for La Trobe St

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
PLANNING

A 31-storey office building less than half the size of a previously approved development at 383 La Trobe St has been endorsed by the City of Melbourne.

The northern CBD site, currently housing the Australian Federal Police, could accommodate up to 4000 future workers once complete.

At the ground level, a public arcade and laneway will provide pedestrian access through to Little Lonsdale and Queen streets and would feature a range of retail venues.

It would also feature public steps designed as a "meeting place" on the La Trobe St frontage.

Council planning chair and Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the comparatively modest Mirvac development at the edge of the Hoddle Grid was "in many ways superior to what has been put to council previously".

"It's a very significant development and we welcome that, as we bring back the buzz," Cr Reece said.

"This is a high quality, well-articulated proposal that responds appropriately to the site's context."

In 2016, a 70-storey hotel and apartment tower designed by French architect Jean Nouvel was approved for the site, but was not built by then developer Sterling Global.

Mirvac then purchased the existing five-storey Royal Mint Centre building for \$122 million in 2018.



▲ An artist impression of the 31-storey office building on La Trobe St.

Deputy planning chair Cr Rohan Leppert said the latest proposal was of "high quality".

"What a brilliant vote of confidence in the future of commercial and retail in our city and what a beautiful way to design future commercial and retail uses in our city as well," Cr Leppert said.

"This is a really stunning design and

everything about the lower levels in particular and the care with which the permeability of the ground floor and the way the retail interacts with those new through-block links ... has been done in a really, really smart way."

The design, by Cox Architecture, also features a "flexible facade" where tenants will be able to "curate" their own terrace zone ranging from two to nine metres.

"Terraces are orientated to the north and will have views over Flagstaff Gardens and, collectively, have the potential to provide a green vertical spine to the building's facade," the proposal read.

Cr Reece said the links through to the south of the site — soon to house a 32-storey Victoria University vertical campus — were the "most pleasing aspect" of the designs.

"In years to come this is going to be a really, really busy part of Melbourne, so those linkages are going to be extremely important and it's going to make this part of the city, and this particular site, a real hive of activity."

Councillors recommended that the central arcade be open seven days a week from 7am to 10pm.

"Obviously what we're trying to avoid here is what we've seen in some other parts of the city where if you try and visit an arcade outside of working hours you find out it's closed, and it creates these dead spaces around the city."

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne will make the ultimate decision on a permit for the site and if approved, Mirvac would look to begin construction in 2022 ●

## High calibre female president a first for the State Library

WORDS BY *Emma Hartley*  
COMMUNITY

Christine Christian OA has been announced as the new president for the State Library of Victoria — the first woman to hold the position in the library's 165-year history.

Ms Christian already has a strong connection to the institution, having been on the Library Board of Victoria since 2013 and deputy president from 2016.

"I look forward to continuing to promote the Library in its crucial task in society and to deliver on community expectations," she said.

On top of her eight years with the library, she brings decades worth of experience in business and finance to the role and was formerly chief executive for Dun & Bradstreet Australia.

The latest data from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency shows around 28 per cent of directorships in Australia were held by women, in addition to just under 15 per cent of chair positions for 2019-20.

Ms Christian followed the presidency of John Wylie AM who, like Ms Christian, also came to the role with a strong background in business.

Victoria's Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said, "Christine will be an asset to the library and is well placed to ensure it remains a thriving place of knowledge, ideas and connection at the heart of Victoria's cultural life."

She has already made a lasting impact on the innovative future of the State Library in her role as deputy president.

A \$2 million donation in 2017 from Ms Christian for the development of StartSpace — the Library's hub dedicated to supporting start-ups — has helped pave the way for emerging entrepreneurs.

StartSpace officially launched in 2020 and has fostered the ambitions of young leaders such as Kateryna Tsysarenko.

Ms Tsysarenko was the pitch winner at the 2020 Future Founders Festival dedicated to international students seeking to advance in the start-up ecosystem.

The Ukrainian expat and software engineer is the co-founder of the AI on Spectrum which has created an app with the aim of helping neuro-divergent children navigate a neurotypical



▲ Christine Christian - the State Library's new president.

world so they could enjoy independence and agency.

Ms Tsysarenko said they wanted to help children, "form special connections, to help them learn emotions and the context behind them ... to help cope with big feelings and manage social anxiety."

AI on Spectrum has expanded to regional Victoria and, after that, the next stages will be to spread interstate and then go global.

"We won prize money and we're still spending it," Ms Tsysarenko said. "We're not revenue generating just yet, we're very much bootstrapped."

StartSpace has continued its supportive work after Ms Christian's appointment to presidency, and will provide workshops, panel discussions, networking and pitching opportunities for the 2021 Future Founders Festival from July 15 to 16.

In the meantime, Ms Christian will settle into the highest position at Australia's oldest and busiest public library.

"This is an extremely special moment for me. I feel honoured and privileged to be given this opportunity, together with the board and management, to build on our exciting plans for this world-class Library," Ms Christian said ●



## Truffle trouble

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
BUSINESS

Troubles rather than truffles were being shared at the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) on the weekend of June 19 and 20 as Melburnians took advantage of the lifting of the travel ban to catch up.

Like many events across the city, the Truffle Festival was postponed because of COVID but the courtyard was still sunny. Those who came for truffles, though, were disappointed. At 11.30am truffle dogs were meant to be giving demonstrations in one of the sheds but the festival had been postponed until July 10 and 11.

The festival was cancelled the week before it was due to start because of "mass cancellations", one stallholder told *CBD News*.

Fiona Macali at The Epicurean said it was "really hard. We were all ready to go then the lockdown."

She said a small tour went ahead on the Saturday. Forty people were expected but "in the end there were four. Then they signed up another four. There were eight on the tour."

She said people were intrigued by the truffle because of "the flavour, the smell and the look of it".

She stocks truffles from Western Australia, selling at \$2295 a kilo. She orders them on a Monday, they're dug out of the ground on a Tuesday and airfreighted across so they're available at the market on a Friday. They last for a week. She said that a lot of preparation and planning is required for a truffle dinner. Some people make their own pasta as well.

"I'm glad the festival isn't cancelled but pushed out," she said. "It's going to be a longer season."

She said interest in the truffle had increased as they had become more available ●

# CBD locals honoured on Queen's Birthday

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COMMUNITY

From a former City of Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor to a judge to selfless volunteers, a dozen CBD residents have been named in the Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List for their outstanding services to the community.

Leading the way was former Australian Ballet head, David McAllister, who was bestowed with the country's highest-level award, the Companion of the Order of Australia.

Mr McAllister, 57, said he was "totally surprised" to receive the prestigious award, which recognised his "eminent service to the performing arts".

"For people that do outstanding work, it's quite extraordinary to be put in that category," Mr McAllister told *CBD News*.

"To be able to have spent my whole career doing the thing that I love it's just such a great reward in itself."

Born in Perth, Mr McAllister joined The Australian Ballet in 1983 and was promoted to a senior artist in 1986 and to principal artist three years later.

He danced the lead in productions including *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Don Quixote*, *Coppélia*, *Manon*, *La Sylphide*, John Cranko's *Onegin* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Looking back at his career, which included a 20-year stint as artistic director of Australian Ballet, Mr McAllister said, "I feel very blessed to have been in the one company for my whole career".

"I think that's quite unusual these days and especially in ballet circles and to go from being a dancer to being a director is a great highlight."

In April, he was presented the coveted international award, the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award, by the Royal Academy of Dance.

Mr McAllister said he was still "tenuously connected" to ballet since stepping back as artistic director.

This has included teaching, mentoring, and making a new production of *Swan Lake* for Finnish National Ballet, which has been postponed until next year due to the pandemic.

"I'm working with a lot of younger dancers and also people that are really passionate about the art form, so I'm sort of becoming a bit of an advocate now rather than hands-on," he said.

The Queen's Birthday list also honoured Sue Carr, a passionate interior designer whose notable works include the Southern Hemisphere's tallest residential skyscraper, Australia 108.

She was appointed a Member (AM) of the



▲ David McAllister.

Order of Australia in recognition of her "significant service to interior design, to education, and to women in business".

Since opening her first interior design studio in Melbourne in 1971, Ms Carr has championed the power of design to make a positive difference to people's lives.

She is the founding principal of Carr Designs, a Melbourne-based architecture and interior design studio with more than 50 years of experience.

Ms Carr graduated from RMIT University and has been a life-long supporter of design education through advisory, graduate and scholarship programs.

"Sue's approach to establishing initiatives that transform aspiring young graduates into outstanding interior designers is visionary," Dr Suzie Attiwill, an Associate Dean of Interior Design at RMIT University, said.

"Her commitment to education and the future of the profession is unparalleled".

Upon receiving the news of her award Ms Carr said, "I am humbled to have been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia. It has been a rich and rewarding journey, and one I continue to share with so many remarkable and talented people".

Elizabeth Cousins, a selfless volunteer, was also awarded an AM in honour of her decades of "significant service to the community through charitable initiatives".

For the past 30 years she has dedicated herself to various community organisations, some of which she is a life member, including the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Recital Centre, Geelong Gallery, Australian Ballet, Melbourne Grammar School, Life Education



▲ Peter McMullin.

Victoria, and National Trust Victoria.

"I just like seeing results. You have to have a reason to be in your skin and if you can do these things and make time to do it gives you enormous satisfaction," Ms Cousins told *CBD News*.

Asked what inspired her, she said, "I think it's the way you're brought up. My parents were the first on the scene. If anyone needed help, they were there and you just take that as a natural way that you go about life".

Others to be honoured with an AM included County Court of Victoria Judge Felicity Hampel for her service to the judiciary, legal organisations, and women; Angela Emslie, for her significant services to the finance and superannuation sectors, as well as her work in suicide prevention; and Victims of Crime Commissioner Fiona McCormack.

Former City of Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor Peter McMullin received an AM for his services to business, law, and the community.

With a career spanning 40 years, Mr McMullin has an impressive list of achievements including serving as Lord Mayor of the Greater City of Geelong from 2004 to 2008, and positions such as secretary of the Victorian Council of Social Services, honorary consul of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and vice-president of the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chamber of Commerce.

"It's great to know recognition and the work that you've done is appreciated," Mr McMullin said of his award.

"It was a very well-kept secret among lots of my colleagues ... and I'm really appreciative of their efforts."

Mr McMullin, who served as Deputy Lord Mayor with the City of Melbourne from 1996



▲ Sue Carr.

to 1999, said he was deeply saddened by the "profound impact" the pandemic had had on small businesses in Melbourne's CBD, conceding it will "take us a long time to recover from it".

"I'm doing whatever I can to encourage people to hang in there with the city because it's such a wonderful place," he said.

"In Melbourne and Victoria there's a great community spirit; it's so valuable, it's precious and I've lived it for many years. I'm inspired by it, so we really want to encourage the continuation of that community spirit."

The honours list also recognised five CBD residents with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) award.

Recipients included Jackie Brown for her services to people with a disability; Carmel Arthur, a member of the Post Sentence Authority, Victoria, for her services to the law; and Owen Hegarty for his services to the minerals and mining sector.

Associate Professor Dr Hyam Rawicki, a medical director of Paediatric Rehabilitation for the Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service at Monash Children's Hospital, received an OAM for his services to medicine as a rehabilitation specialist.

An OAM was also awarded to Faye Spiteri for her work in social change organisations through her various roles including CEO of aged-care provider Fronditha Care and as a board member of InTouch, a Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence.

Governor-General David Hurley congratulated all recipients across the country, saying "each of these individuals are unique and their story deserves to be shared widely and celebrated" ●

# Sweet success for home-based chef

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COMMUNITY

Early last year, Michelin-trained pastry chef Aidan Robinson went from working frantic 80-hour weeks to being jobless. What he did next is an inspiring small business success story in the age of COVID-19.

It was Valentine's Day 2020 and pastry chef Aidan Robinson had just worked his last shift at Dinner by Heston at Crown Casino.

The CBD resident and his colleagues were told just one week prior that the restaurant, helmed by celebrity chef Heston Blumenthal, had gone into liquidation.

Life had quickly flipped.

The UK native who moved to Melbourne in 2017 was not only jobless, but had his visa sponsorship attached to the now-defunct company.

"We got a week's notice," he tells *CBD News*.

"I'd been on the sponsor with them, I didn't know if I had a visa after that, so it was just a nightmare. Then COVID happened, so that was even worse."

Aidan went from working 80-hour weeks to "sitting on the sofa", and was at a loss what to do next.



▲ Pastry chef Aidan Robinson established a small business from his CBD apartment during Melbourne's COVID-19 lockdown.

His residence, the heritage-listed Port Authority building on Market St, had a WhatsApp message group to communicate with other residents and during his now copious downtime, decided to tell others his story.

Aidan said he had been a pastry chef since the age of 15, was now out of work and was willing to cater to bespoke orders in the building.

"Straight away, people started saying 'oh I

have a birthday this week' and within no time I had 20 orders," he said.

"Because no one could get out, right? And everyone still wants to celebrate their birthday. So, it all started here in this building."

In his home kitchen, he began making (now popular) classics like Portuguese tarts, macaron cakes and boozy brioche.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Support from other residents, Aidan said, was "amazing".

And from there, he decided to make a real fist of it alone, launching online cake business Chic de Partie.

In a short time, he acquired a relevant home-based food licence and a space in his apartment — once a second bedroom — became a dedicated baking area.

Business came from both individuals ("people just message me what they want and I'll make it") and businesses.

Soon enough, he landed regular work with a prominent Melbourne businessman, supplying cakes and other pastries to his connections and associates.

The week before speaking with *CBD News*, he had flown back and forth by helicopter to the foothills of the Victorian Alps for a special

lunch put on by the prominent client.

"All my contacts are very CBD-based. I've just signed a contract with Cartiers, I'm doing Chanel for their events and VIPs. It's getting really busy."

To put the icing on the cake, Aidan and his partner applied for a de facto visa and were swiftly approved.

At this stage Aidan is happy to be a one-man band, and continues to do everything by hand which he admitted was tough, but rewarding.

"Obviously because I'm doing it at a small scale it takes a lot longer. If I had a machine I could laminate the dough, but I'm doing it by hand ... I'm happy with this though, I'm not looking to expand yet," he said.

And while busyness has returned, it was the all-encompassing work that he savours.

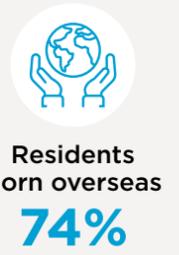
"I won't go work in a restaurant again. Working for yourself is stressful, but a different type of stress. I'm definitely enjoying it," he said ●

**For more information:**  
[chicdepartie@aol.com](mailto:chicdepartie@aol.com)

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Your City of Melbourne community update

# INVESTING IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD IN 2021-22

The City of Melbourne is a dynamic municipality with a range of diverse neighbourhoods. Our draft Budget 2021-22, which will be presented to the Council meeting on 29 June 2021 for adoption, sets out how we plan to invest in the CBD - Hoddle Grid to support local services, maintain and improve parks, public spaces and recreational facilities, and fund events that will bring back the buzz to our city.



## INVESTING IN CAPITAL WORKS

The City of Melbourne will deliver its biggest ever infrastructure program by investing \$244.7 million in projects across the municipality in 2021-22 to create jobs and plan for the future needs of the community.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp sees a strong link between delivering city-shaping infrastructure projects and support for local businesses.

“We know how critically important it is to invest in our city right now and that’s why we’re delivering more capital projects than ever before, with our record infrastructure investment,” the Lord Mayor said.

“These projects provide opportunities for work on job sites right across the city and workers on those sites provide opportunities for our local traders, whether it’s a coffee and a sandwich, a trip to the physio, or a new pair of shoes.”

New investments and upgrades in the CBD - Hoddle Grid in the draft Budget 2021-22 include:

- More than \$5 million - Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Program
- More than \$3 million - Exhibition Street Bike Lanes

- Almost \$3 million - Major streetscape improvements
- More than \$1 million - Public art
- More than \$1 million - Waste and Resource Recovery Hub Expansion Program
- \$1,000,000 - City Library
- \$1,000,000 - Library Pop-Ups
- More than \$500,000 - Cycle infrastructure
- \$200,000 - Investigate Deployment of Distributed Battery Systems
- Almost \$600,000 - Other new capital investment including pedestrian sensors, road safety, wayfinding and property works.

Renewal and maintenance works in the CBD - Hoddle Grid in the draft Budget 2021-22 include:

- More than \$6.5 million on renewal works including for roadways, footpaths, drains, kerb and channel, parks, landscape, banner poles, library collection and property
- More than \$3 million on maintenance works including at community facilities and other property, for urban forest health, pedestrian infrastructure, wayfinding signage and smoke-free areas initiatives.

## INVESTING IN LOCAL SERVICES

### Libraries and community spaces

Our City Library has approximately 7100 members and runs programs for children, teenagers and adults. Spaces for community use can be booked at the Melbourne Town Hall, Multicultural Hub and Drill Hall.



### Culture and tourism

We attract visitors to the city through our investment in the creative sector. This financial year we will stage exhibitions at City Galley, the Ditty Dozen and Capsule. ArtPlay and SIGNAL will provide creative opportunities for children and youth. The Town Hall’s Grand Organ and the Federation Bells will be involved in numerous performances. Our three Visitor Information Centres will continue to operate at Bourke Street, Town Hall and at Queen Victoria Market.

### Parks and open spaces

In the CBD - Hoddle Grid we manage and maintain many public spaces for the community including Batman Park, Cohen Place Plaza, Customs Square, Eight Hour Reserve, Enterprize Park, La Trobe and Exhibition Street Reserve, Merritts Place Reserve, Northbank and Royal Society of Victoria.

### Sport and recreation

The Melbourne City Baths has approximately 1300 members and clocks up around 200,000 visits annually. The historic venue is home to a gym, group fitness classes, swimming pool, swimming lessons, squash, facility hire and a Mikvah Bathhouse.

To find out more about what’s happening in your neighbourhood over the next 12 months, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/budget](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/budget)



Investing in your neighbourhood, with our City Library

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Missy LaMinx, Sasha Starr and Bae L'amour at Midsumma Festival Live at the Bowl

Photo: Suzanne Balding

# MIGHTY MELBURNIANS PROMOTE CARE AND COMPASSION

For nearly 20 years, the Melbourne Awards have been our city's highest accolade, celebrating inspirational people who dedicate their time and energy to make Melbourne a world-leader.

We recently caught up with past winners, who work in diverse fields, to see how their organisations are evolving in response to COVID-19.

## Midsumma

Karen Bryant is the CEO of Midsumma, Australia's premier LGBTQIA+ cultural festival and the winner of a Melbourne Award in 2019. The first lockdown began just after one of the team's best-ever festivals in 2020.

'Many people in our communities have experienced isolation - from families, workplaces and social spaces - so having safe venues and support networks taken away during COVID was a trigger for re-experiencing past trauma for many,' Karen said.

'We initially set to work to create a safe, meaningful online space on our website where people could access information in one place, connect and share stories and art.

'Even though, after many iterations of plans, we were able to present another great in-person festival in 2021 amid glorious weather, we are still in a pandemic and need to reactivate and adapt within this environment.

'Looking to the future, I hope we can learn to get along better with each other, understand and champion differences, and fight injustice and discrimination with respect and graciousness for

people with different perspectives or lived experience to our own.'

## Youth Projects

Melanie Raymond OAM is the Chair of homelessness support agency Youth Projects, which won a Melbourne Award in 2010.

Since its win, Youth Projects has continued its mission in earnest, including launching a night-outreach nursing program, to deliver health-care on the pavement to people experiencing homelessness, and significantly expanding its employment services.

'We see the "giving" side of Melbourne all the time. There is a high-level of concern and care for people on the margins and immense curiosity about what solutions can be found,' Melanie said.

'The initiatives to house people sleeping rough during the pandemic showed that we can move quickly on this issue in an emergency and this creative and collaborative work continues today.

'For many people in Melbourne, their isolation and marginalisation existed pre-COVID. Let's hope post-COVID we see more effort to connect people in meaningful ways.

'This is vital to improving mental health, and community-based answers are there for us to implement.'

## In Harmony With Health, Royal Melbourne Hospital

Dr Emma O'Brien leads the music therapy program at Royal Melbourne Hospital, which won a Melbourne Award in 2018. During COVID-19,

the program became more important than ever for staff and patients.

'Melbourne is this incredible city that really understands the powerful, vital role that the arts plays in people's wellbeing,' Emma said.

'Royal Melbourne Hospital had a tough time during 2020 - we were at the front line of COVID-19 and, while many people recovered, sadly many older adults passed away.

'I am so proud of my exceptional team members, who never give up finding ways to connect with people through music.

'Even in the worst of times we were there, singing to people in full PPE, from behind glass. That's the kind of tenacity that Melbourne has. No one was giving up and everyone was trying to have a moment of happiness.'

## MELBOURNE AWARDS 2021

Stay tuned for the announcement of this year's Melbourne Awards finalists in October. In November, there will be an awards ceremony and a televised event on Channel 9 to announce the winners.

For more information, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards)

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

## IN-BRIEF

### BOOK YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE NOW

If you are eligible, now is the time to book in for your COVID-19 vaccine. To learn more and find a vaccination centre near you, visit [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine)

### SHOP LOCAL

We're helping local businesses bounce back with \$100,000 Precinct Activation grants as part of the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, a partnership with the Victorian Government. Want to support local traders? Subscribe to the What's On Melbourne newsletter for top tips on shopping, retail, dining and events. [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### WELLBEING SUPPORT

Our Community Support Directory is a resource for anyone whose health and wellbeing has been affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides information and contact details for mental health support, financial services, food relief, housing assistance, medical services and more. [melbourne.vic.gov.au/communitysupportdirectory](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/communitysupportdirectory)

### SELF-GUIDED WALKS

Explore the city at your own pace with our new suite of self-guided walks. The new maps are a great way to explore gardens, laneways, street arts and hidden gems in the city and inner suburbs. [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/walks](https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/walks)

### NEW PLAYGROUND OPENS

The new play space at JJ Holland Park is now open, featuring three new play spaces, a new play bridge, space-net, monkey bars and a flying fox. The space also includes new BBQ, seating and picnic facilities.

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

Watch meetings live from wherever you are thanks to our live-streaming capability. Tune in live or catch up later. Find all the details about Council and committee meetings at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil)

## 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](https://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](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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# Reducing homelessness in the City of Melbourne

“

Welcome to the second last article of our 12-part series which will attempt to explore the role that housing can and should play within Australian society and why it is important to our economy that we house all Australians, rich or poor.

”

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

This month we have asked Melbourne's Lord Mayor Sally Capp to share her thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians is important, especially within the City of Melbourne...

Surviving a Melbourne winter without safe and warm accommodation is a brutal challenge that too many Melburnians are forced to endure each year.

Reducing homelessness remains one of my top priorities. Melbourne is a caring city but we need to do more to help and support those experiencing homelessness – particularly those sleeping rough on our streets each night.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we witnessed what was possible when different levels of government, service providers and the local community agreed on mutual goals and cooperated to deliver a stellar outcome. Everyone sleeping rough on our city streets was offered accommodation in inner-city hotels.

This was not a perfect solution but it showed what was possible when we focused on what could be achieved rather than the reasons why something couldn't be done. That same spirit of cooperation remains but it is true that more people have returned to sleep rough on our city streets.

We have already shown how quickly and effectively we can reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness when critical circumstances, such as a pandemic, demand action. We cannot lose this momentum and I am committed to continuing my campaign of advocacy and delivery on this issue.

Unlike some neighbouring councils, the City of Melbourne wants to secure as much of the Victorian Government's \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build investment into social and affordable housing as we can.

We want more of the investment in public housing by the government delivered within our municipality and we want more investment in affordable rentals from the private-sector and community housing providers.

The City of Melbourne has commissioned research on the current level of affordable housing within the municipality and longer-term consequences if we don't act now. In 2019, it was estimated that we had a shortfall of

5500 affordable homes in the City of Melbourne. By 2036, this shortfall will grow to 23,200 affordable homes.

These are more than just numbers and statistics. Every time that number increases it means a Melburnian or a local family misses out on the accommodation they need to have a secure future in our city.

There is a wide range of people who experience homelessness. People experiencing financial hardship, domestic violence, mental health and other acute health issues are forced to sleep on our streets, live in their cars or are constantly on the move between friends and acquaintances never really knowing how long they are welcome.

Secure and affordable housing options for everyone in need is the right thing to do and is also the best investment we can make. Every dollar invested into housing saves multiple dollars needed to deliver services over the long term. Homelessness is often cited as a complex issue with complex solutions but it's really quite simple: people deserve a safe place to sleep every night and cannot address their problems, and ultimately flourish, without appropriate accommodation.

The City of Melbourne is continuing to work on a project to deliver an increase in the number of beds available for those sleeping rough, with appropriate support services. We are hoping to be able to announce the details of this soon.

Our city has been through a devastating 18 months. We started 2020 with thick choking smoke from the national bushfire crisis and then Melbourne was hit harder than any other city in Australia by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The challenges to overcome can sometimes seem insurmountable but I am always buoyed by the courage, resilience and spirit of Melburnians.

During the most difficult period that we have faced as a city for generations, there have been so many stories of individuals that have gone out of their way to care for family, friends,

neighbours, colleagues and even total strangers.

We are a city that is distinctive because we believe in, and invest in, the connections we make with other Melburnians.

I want to encourage everyone to consider how best each of us can help a fellow Melburnian experiencing homelessness this winter.

Starting with a genuine conversation that can literally be life-changing for someone who is experiencing homelessness.

Not just “we can do this”, but “we must do this” Melbourne.

*I hope you found the above perspective by Melbourne's Lord Mayor 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.*

*We have been working with the Lord Mayor and her Team on “the project” she referred to, and we have a group of amazing organisations that have offered their skills and expertise and skills, which would normally equate to around \$3.5 million in costs, on a pro bono basis to help vulnerable Melburnians.*

*As I said in my first article, doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act and we need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts: [info@housingallaustralians.com.au](mailto:info@housingallaustralians.com.au)*



Rob Pradolín

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

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## TRADER PROFILE

### A hand-made touch to Australian knitwear

WORDS BY Emma Hartley

From regular customer, to part-time worker, and now running her own store, Wendy Voon had a strong relationship with the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) long before setting up Wendy Voon Knits.

“I used to enjoy going there as a customer. I loved the fresh produce and just the atmosphere really,” Ms Voon said.

Wendy Voon Knits has been at QVM for around five years, selling scarves, wraps and clothing designed and created in Melbourne.

The store has sold other independent labels as well and has only stocked Australian-made products – an impressive feat considering the small size of Australia's knitwear industry.

Ms Voon has used a domestic knitting machine to make her products – the machine is manually driven and has given her knits a hand-made touch.

“If you look at the designs close up, it's quite apparent that they haven't been made by an industrial machine,” she said.

A machine has been set up in the store itself and that means during quieter times of the day, “whoever is working in the store can be making a jumper,” Ms Voon said.

“That also gives customers the opportunity to see what is involved in the process as well. It gives people an appreciation about how much work actually goes into making an item of clothing.”

Ms Voon dedicated eight years to a career in IT before she decided to pursue knitting commercially. She was grateful for the hands-on approach of her TAFE studies in textiles as that provided her with the skills she needed to start her own business.



“I had always been interested in clothing,” she said. “But I knew I just didn't want to study fashion.”

Her part-time work at a fruit and vegetable store and then in a deli at the QVM meant that Ms Voon had plenty of support behind her when she started Wendy Voon knits.

“Having that association, you know a lot of faces and you know the people, and that's really nice,” Ms Voon said.

She decided to take the plunge when, “One day I noticed that a whole lot of pop-ups had gone up in what was the old building on Therry St, which has since been knocked down ... that was kind of perfect – to try it out for four months.”

“It's a pretty unique opportunity to be able to do that without a massive financial risk and I didn't have to pay three months' worth of rent and finalise a lease or anything like that,” she said.

Since then, Wendy Voon Knits has moved to Victoria St. “It kind of made sense to stay!” ●

[qvm.com.au/shops-stalls/wendy-voon-knits/](http://qvm.com.au/shops-stalls/wendy-voon-knits/)

## METRO TUNNEL

### Metro Tunnel puts success within Lilian's reach

Lilian Sokolski has seized an opportunity as an indigenous trainee on the Metro Tunnel Project with both hands.

Lilian, whose family hails from the Trawlwoolway Plangermaireener tribe of Flinders Island, has joined the bustling social inclusion and procurement team on the Rail Systems Alliance (RSA), ensuring the project links with local Aboriginal and social enterprise suppliers.

RSA will deliver train and power control systems plus signalling on the project.

Lilian said her first foray into major transport infrastructure was made slightly more difficult by COVID-19 enforcing remote working.

“I found I was able to overcome my challenges starting my new role working from home by being determined and not giving up,” she said.

“I asked a million questions if I didn't understand something, rather than sitting back and expecting the answer to come to me, and I've got a will to learn new things and apply them to my everyday work.”

“What motivates me when it come to my work challenges is probably myself, having a will to never give up is sometimes hard but knowing the outcome of my work and the importance of it is all worthwhile in the end.”

Raised by her grandmother Jennifer, Lilian said her family was instrumental in her seeking out a new career path.

“Everything I know about my heritage today is because of her [my grandmother], she taught me how to cook, clean and take care of myself,” she said.



“She pushed me to be a better version of myself, she pushed me to complete high school and she even pushed me to go through with the interview for this job.”

“She's always told me I can achieve anything if I put my mind to it and she has proven that right many times. Without her I wouldn't be the person I am today.”

Therefore, Lilian feels working with and assisting indigenous businesses is a perfect match.

“The most fulfilling part of my role is to be able to make a difference and change in people's lives,” she said.

“To be able to work in the indigenous space is something I have always wanted to do, because of my background, and finally being able to do so warms my heart completely.”

“I love seeing all the indigenous companies we have on board succeed on the project and all the inclusive events we celebrate.”

“It's just simply amazing.” ●

# The community councillor

*An educator, publican, family man and proud member of the Flemington-Kensington Bowls Club – you’d struggle to find a more community-minded councillor than Davydd Griffiths.*

WORDS BY *Sean Car*

Originally from Bendigo, the Flemington resident has lived and worked in the City of Melbourne for much of his life since first moving to the city as a uni student in the 1990s.

Since then he has worked as a secondary school teacher having previously taught at Mac. Robertson Girls High School. And in more recent years, he has earned his living in hospitality.

Now operating two venues in Kensington and West Melbourne, the renowned local publican said he first entered the world of hospitality through an unlikely source ...

“I basically got into hospo by becoming voluntary president of the Flemington-Kensington Bowls Club back when the coffers there were empty. I love having a roll. I still bowl down there,” he said.

“I had to learn how hospo works just to keep the doors open. Yes, the beers are cheap but we also went down the craft beer road very early which was controversial back in the day, don’t you worry about that ... it’s probably still controversial now!”

“As a publican, people speak to you very directly. It just means you’re encountering everyone in society, regardless of the issues. It’s not just people who naturally tend to come to council and pitch their needs. You hear everyone’s needs.”

But while he’s passionate about his local community, he said education was the driving force which first drove him into politics and joining the Labor Party.

The first-time councillor was elected to the City of Melbourne at last year’s elections on Labor’s endorsed council ticket, and he has been



able to apply his passion as chair of the council’s education and innovation portfolio.

“In one sense, to come full circle and have that [education] as my portfolio at the City of Melbourne sort of returns back to the issues I started my public policy career around,” Cr Griffiths said.

With the city on its knees after a fourth COVID lockdown and key issues such as drawing international students back to Melbourne high on the agenda, Cr Griffiths’s experience in education and business provides a valuable mix on this council.

In addition to attracting international students back to the city, he said he was particularly

keen to use the council’s auspices to continue advocating for big changes that would see more education, training and employment opportunities provided in the municipality.

“The latest most liveable city in the world-type rankings [show] Melbourne was still getting 100 out of 100 in the education area. When I talk to locals around here with the new school opening in Docklands, the new school in North Melbourne, it just re-emphasises the fact that people expect high-quality education from preschool right through to U3A.”

“It seems foolish to me to have jobs at the hospitals or the universities going out to places such as Werribee, where people from Werribee

are coming into the city to do a job that a resident in the city could take on.”

“It’s that type of reimagining of the roles of what local education can be about. It’s that notion of worker housing, which is an important component when you think about how expensive some housing in the city is and how that precludes people of certain jobs including nurses, young doctors and others who can’t live in the city.”

The husband of former state Member for Melbourne Jennifer Kanis and father to nine-year-old son Blake, Cr Griffiths said he loved getting out and experiencing the city with his family at every opportunity.

And as one of six new councillors on the City of Melbourne, he said one of the silver linings to come out of the pandemic was how it had forced the council to come together and work positively for the community right from the outset.

“It doesn’t matter whose good idea it is, everyone is supporting all of those initiatives that help local residents recover and local workers to get jobs and local businesses to keep the doors open,” he said.

“It has to be about ensuring that various areas within Melbourne still have a sense of community about them that’s meaningful at a time of rapid change, even before COVID came along. I think that’s a really positive thing.” ●



*Sean Car*  
EDITOR

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## HISTORY

# An early Melbourne home in Bourke St west

*Dilapidated, abandoned and unfit for human habitation, this decaying single-storeyed building was photographed in August 1915 just prior to its demolition.*

Located in Bourke St west not far from the corner of William St, it was one of the few buildings left standing from the CBD’s earliest days. Built in 1841 by Dr Farquhar MacCrae, brother-in-law of the diarist and artist Georgiana MacCrae, it was occupied for most of the 1840s by that legal luminary Redmond (later Sir Redmond) Barry until Dr Arthur O’Mullane bought it in 1852 and set up his practice there. Years later it was used by the Cameron Tobacco Factory and its most recent use had been, according to the *Australasian* newspaper, as a “humble, battered appendage to the Metropolitan Mission in Bourke St” where “old people ... engaged in mending chairs and doing other light work”.

Dwarfed in 1915 by much more substantial structures, such as Goldsborough, Mort and Co’s wool store (just visible here to the west of the house) and the Supreme Court building (behind it in William St), in its day this was a substantial five-room home. It was built of brick covered with plaster, as can be seen in the crumbling chimney wall in this photograph. Roofed in slate, there was no veranda, as was the fashion of the day.

You have to use your imagination to picture the pleasant, shady garden that fronted on to Great Bourke St, as Bourke St was known

then. It had trim lawns and flower beds, rather than the patches of weed and rubble you see here. In 1912, one newspaper described the one remaining remnant of that garden – “a fine old mulberry tree, whose gnarled and twisted trunk is as thick as a man’s body”. So, it must have been a picturesque setting once the garden was established, a testimony to the settlers’ determination to bring a touch of “home” to the fledgling settlement.

The house faced south and in its earliest days had an unimpeded view over yet-to-be-built-on common land to an unpolluted Yarra River that snaked its way through clumps of eucalypts and other native vegetation – more the ever-flowing Birrarung of the Wurundjeri people than today’s muddy old Yarra.

All this is hard to picture as you look at this image, but if you use your imagination and you read accounts of Melbourne in those very early days and look at contemporary artwork, it’s not impossible to believe in the beauty and the almost rural nature of Melbourne in the 1840s.

It might be harder to believe that just 74 years before this photograph was taken, this little falling-down house on bustling Bourke St was one of a small number of permanent structures built along what was then one of the city’s unmade and difficult-to-negotiate



streets. Georgiana MacCrae, who visited this house on her first day in Melbourne in March 1841, wrote of wading through mud and clay in her fine London boots as she made her way from Flinders St to her brother-in-law’s Bourke St residence. By the time the photograph was taken in 1915, the streets teemed with pedestrians, horses and carts, cabs and horse-drawn carriages. The residents of 1841 may well have heard parrots and other native birds in the surrounding eucalypts and the wind soughing through the grasses and trees, but by 1915 these had well and truly been replaced by the more familiar sounds of a busy city – feet on pavements, wheels rolling along tram tracks, horses making their way through the bustling main thoroughfares. Gas street lighting made

way for electricity. Telegraph poles appeared like modern-day trees along streets that were now sealed with tarmac rather than the rough roads (often with tree stumps still in the middle of them) of the 1840s, little better than bullock tracks. And old houses like this one gave way to other, grander buildings ●



*Dr. Cheryl Griffin*  
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## Vertical villages – “what a waste”

*“From 1 July 2021, the state government will increase the Victorian Municipal Landfill Levy”.*

For vertical villages, the new financial year brings an initial increase of 61 per cent in our waste service fees, followed by a 19 per cent increase in July 2022. This means that as from July, we will be paying \$105.90 per tonne of waste destined for landfill, increasing to \$125.90 per tonne in July 2022. Reassuringly, materials sent for recycling will not attract the levy – unless they are deemed “contaminated”, meaning they too will go to landfill.

The stated purpose of this new landfill levy is to provide additional and ongoing funding to support the efforts of government, industry and the community to reduce waste. The rationale is:

“Landfill levies create an incentive for waste generators to investigate ways to reduce the amount of waste they generate and dispose of to landfill”.

So, the challenge becomes, how can we vertical villagers improve our waste management, and decrease amounts destined for landfill?

Already many of our buildings have an array of facilities such as charity bins, e-waste bins and recycling bins. But there are growing complaints from waste collectors that these bins are “contaminated”.

And what is this contamination? This is when items are placed in the wrong bin. It

includes items that belong in a different recycling stream (such as glass in the cardboard bin), and materials that are not currently recyclable, such as textiles.

Our first step, then, is to look at what our respective buildings currently send to landfill, including identifying the major contaminants in our various recycling bins.

For instance, charity bins are intended for clothing that is in good condition and suitable for further use. Excluded are textiles, such as old sheets. However, increasingly our buildings are receiving pushback from the charities regarding the amount of unusable items placed in these bins. This means that we need to give thought as to how better direct items, such as old towels, possibly setting up an arrangement with local animal shelters.

E-waste bins are for household items with a plug, cord or battery, such as toasters, computers and TVs. Excluded here are items such as commercial batteries, meaning car batteries are definitely not accepted. A common complaint here is that non-electrical household items are placed in these bins, including mops and umbrellas! However, what might also impact on this category is the emerging “right to repair” movement. Due to concerns that consumer product repairs are becoming progressively more difficult, thereby increasing this type of waste, the Productivity Commission has recently released a draft report (June 11, 2021), assessing the case for a right to repair in Australia, which may go some way to reducing our growing e-waste. [pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/repair/draft](http://pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/repair/draft).

In terms of our general recycling bins, these are for items such as hard plastic containers, aerosols and aluminium / steel cans. The biggest issue here is contamination via plastic bags which people use to collect their recyclables. Our challenge then is to make clearer the message that items must be placed “loose” into the bin, not in plastic bags. Indeed, soft plastics can have their own bins. Added to this, there is another change coming to our recycling bins. Citywide has committed to introducing a glass collection service in the coming months, which means vertical villages will need to educate residents that glass will no longer be accepted in the general recycling bins – or we risk them being deemed contaminated!

Our vertical villages also typically offer hard waste collection points. These areas are for items such as white goods, household furniture and used mattresses. With the number of move-in and move-outs that occur in vertical villages, our hard waste areas frequently reach capacity early every month. While we are encouraged to sort these items into furniture that could be offered to new residents (e.g. shelving, tables, etc), the great challenge here is space. In fact, many buildings already actively encourage residents to reuse hard waste items, but we lack the capacity to store these items longer term. Added to this, our buildings also typically lack spaces where minor repairs to these discarded items can be undertaken, nor is there easy access to needed tools. Together this means it is easier to discard these items than to encourage their second life.

This now leaves everything else going to

landfill – including polystyrene, crockery, nappies and food scraps. However, organic waste (e.g. food scraps) is now being targeted as a category that can be diverted from landfill, with the City of Melbourne introducing a new food and organics collection service.

Unfortunately for vertical villages, the initial focus is upon residents living in houses and single-storey apartment blocks. The reason given for this is that the data gathered will help determine the demand and requirements for future rollout across the municipality.

But with the differences between household living and high-rise living being great, there are questions as to how transferable these learnings will be.

Fortunately, there are some initiatives specifically targeting our vertical villages, with one involving an apartment-based organic waste audit. This aims to ascertain the specific make-up of our organic waste. The idea here is that this information can then be used to design the most appropriate in-building treatment for our most common types of organic waste – be this cooked rice, lemon rinds or old pizza.

This column will report upon the progress of this initiative as the project advances ●



Dr Janette Corcoran

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

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### WE LIVE HERE

## Thank you, Shane

*We were saddened to hear of the passing of Shane Scanlan, erstwhile editor of this masthead, and we readily recall how first we became involved with him.*

The November 2015 issue of this newspaper’s sister publication *Docklands News* contained an article about the owners’ corporation (OC) at Watergate apartments in Docklands mounting a Supreme Court appeal against a VCAT decision that meant OCs did not have the power to make rules prohibiting short stays.

A few days after the release of that issue, Shane saw our group having coffees and stopped to chat. Shane told us that in light of the Supreme Court action, which had required a special resolution to proceed, he recognised how committed we were to our goals. Before our lattes had cooled, it was decided that our group would be writing a regular column.

Two weeks later, We Live Here was launched, and it was under the aegis of this community group that we have been contributing monthly columns ever since.

In the following years, Shane actively demonstrated his own commitment both to the community and to fair and balanced coverage by continuing to publish alternative viewpoints. We are grateful to Shane for headlining apartment living issues including short stays. And we are delighted that since Shane’s retirement two years ago, editor Sean Car has continued to provide residents with a voice through the We Live Here column published in three inner city newspapers.

We will always remember and respect Shane as a leading member of the community, consummate editor, and friend. Vale Shane.

### Lessons learned

The Watergate case, which was actually launched by the City of Melbourne, is something that is often misunderstood. The council wanted to stop apartments from being used as quasi-hotel accommodation, and issued building orders against 45 owners, who, mostly through commercial operators, were renting out their apartments for less than 30 days. The council’s orders were contested at the Building Appeals Board by the operators. The case eventually made its way to the Appeals Court with Watergate OC adjoined as an interested third party. It was only when the City of Melbourne

case was overturned in the courts that the Watergate committee voted to test out its 30-day rule in VCAT – a rule that had been inherited from the developer.

In spite of this, and until the intervention of COVID, short stays proliferated. Airbnb and other commercial operators took over the city supported by the state government and City of Melbourne in the name of the “sharing economy” to the point where Melbourne became the most penetrated city in the world.

As we have reported, the COVID pandemic shut down the short-stay industry almost overnight in March 2020, simply because tourism to

Melbourne and Victoria dried up.

When stage three lockdown was imposed in July 2020 Airbnb was listed by the Victorian Government Health Department as banned, with very few exemptions allowed.

With the gradual coming out of lockdown late last year, attempts were made by some diehard operators to restart their businesses. However, by then, buildings had adopted COVID-safe building practices that were fundamentally incompatible with the modus operandi of short-stay operators. It was obvious that at a minimum, a registration system was essential.

Frustratingly, nothing has eventuated despite being promised by the incoming council that a new residents’ forum would be established to give everyone a voice, including We Live Here.

### Entire Melbourne apartment block in lockdown

So, violent parties have once again been reported, some with knives. Airbnb has cosied up to the police, while We Live Here has been trying for months to get a meeting with the new Minister for Consumer Affairs.

In the meantime, Melbourne is again emerging from lockdown for the fourth time and now in very recent news a complex of about 100 townhouse apartments in Southbank is home to at least six confirmed cases of COVID-19. Everyone is being tested and quarantined for 14 days.

The Health Department’s management of a relatively small complex of townhouses has been a huge undertaking.

Imagine trying to manage a 40-storey apartment building with large common areas, multiple entrances, stairwells and lifts, housing COVID-positive patients and unknown short-stay visitors.

Surely now it must be made mandatory to have a register of all occupants in residential apartment buildings. How can this critical need be met when you have short-term visitors occupying apartments belonging to an absentee host?

It is frighteningly obvious that short stays should not be permitted into Class 3 residential buildings.

### Adopt the 14+14 rule now!

The whole world knows that travellers can actually be infected with COVID while quarantined in a hotel. It has happened everywhere that hotel quarantine is practised. The federal government knows, the state government knows, the mainstream media knows, we all know.

And yet here in Australia, we keep trying the same quarantine protocols, expecting a different result. Isn’t that the cliched definition of stupidity?

And people living in apartments are the most likely demographic to suffer from the consequences of this stupidity.

We put people in a hotel, with a percentage chance of catching COVID in the hotel, then after 14 days, the quarantine staff say, “See you later, off you go to the football and the shops!”

In other jurisdictions, travellers returning from overseas must spend 14 days in hotel quarantine and then another 14 days in self-isolation at home, with another negative COVID test before you can step outside the door.

This 14+14 solution imposes a little more inconvenience on the hundreds of travellers affected and allows millions of people to keep going about their lives without a lockdown.

### 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](http://welivehere.net). We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

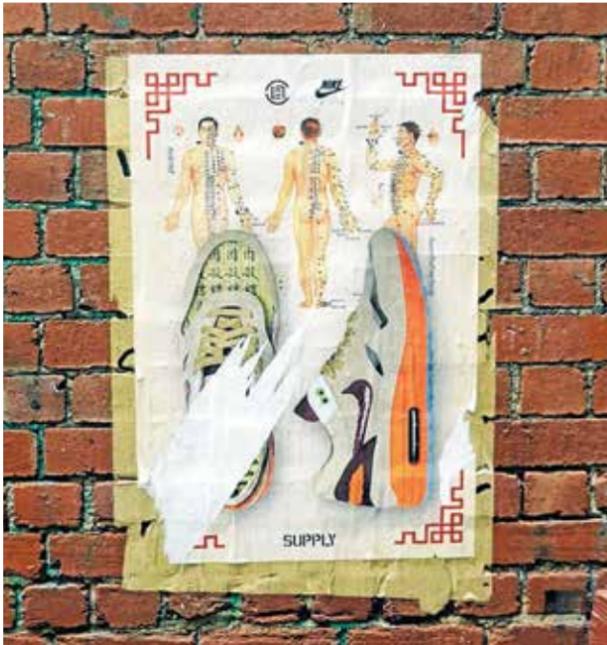
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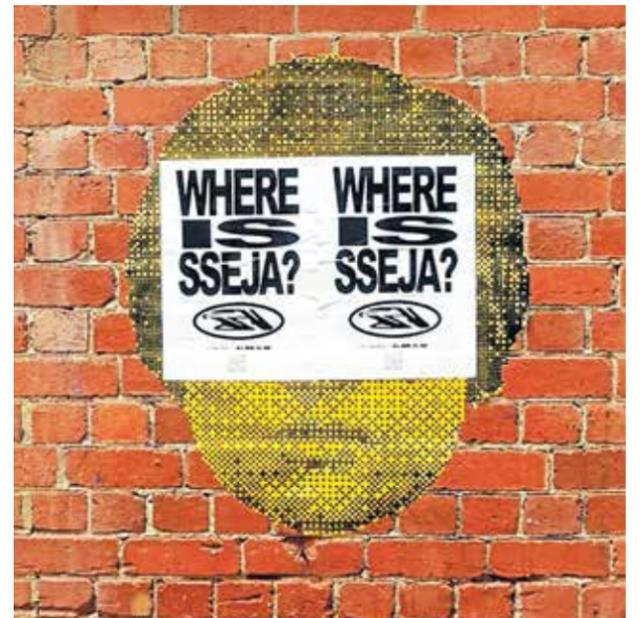
▼ Nike in Guilford Lane – pasted directly over an artwork.



▼ Bill posters, posted over several important and old works in Little Latrobe St. Milk records, and Sleater-Kinney, obviously think that their cultural demolition is justified.



▼ An advertisement directly placed over artist Sunfigo's important artwork in Flanigan Lane.



# Visual junk ruining Melbourne's laneway culture

*It has always been a problem that young or emerging artists put their art near a far more famous artist's work so that other people will see their work incidentally.*

This happened a lot with the Banksys that Melbourne had or has, it was kind of tolerable when it was done with paint or stencil. For a long time now, artists have been doing it with paste ups. Sticking work next to a well-defined mural or an old important artwork.

There are a few problems I have with doing this. The first is that by placing work next to someone else's mural you can change the composition, the meaning, and the context of the artwork. Another problem I have is that paste ups destroy the surface of a good wall and make it next to useless to create on for the future muralists who wish to paint on it.

There is certainly a place for paste ups around town but not next to murals or on famous mural walls. Street art is meant to be illicit although I'm not sure paste ups are included in the same vein as permanent street art. Either way, surely street artists can find their own new walls rather than putting up work in legal spaces to the detriment of the walls and art.

Paste ups work best when they are subtle and hidden and require discovery, or when they are bold and obnoxious. Yet artists like "JOVER" are just sticking their art directly over other people's murals and art. One of many examples of this is Ha-Ha's Eddie Marbo portraits or Heesco's Gina Rinehardt as Jabba the Hutt. Both artworks in Blender Lane have been horribly violated by JOVER without a care. JOVER is just one example of an artist that does this, but there are many more. It's a gross indictment of how entitled some of these newer urban artists feel in there right for space they haven't earned.

Don't get me wrong – I love paste ups and I love putting up paste ups, because it is easy, and

you don't get in as much trouble. I see it as an extension of my art practice and it's something I have done for many years. Yet I would never put a paste up over someone else's or next to someone else's work for my own personal gain.

Most of the time paste ups are boring. And artists that create them do so with very little connection to printmaking history or the street art past, with its grass root intentions and political undertones. I feel most artists that create paste up's do so because they're scared of being caught doing something more permanent. You may think that this is an issue for street art and that I am just discussing street art politics. And you would be right.

What I would like to discuss are the advertisers that are now pasting up adverts directly over artwork that is important to Melbourne and its urban culture. It's a horrible act of cultural abuse from companies that are trying to steal the cool of Melbourne's "streetness" to monetarise the street art areas for their own nefarious gains. Nike has become one such abuser, as Nike is pasting ads all over Guilford Lane,

over important cultural art.

I'm all for "art-vertising" if it's subtle and isn't abusive and adds to the urban culture by creating jobs for artists or is clever and creative. Not visual noise or visual junk, like Nike's advertising and many more. Many of the advertising that is going up has the potential to destroy the urban art scene and affect Melbourne's culture forever. We need to let these advertisers, these culture vultures, know that they can't stick their cheap cultural appropriations across Melbourne's beautiful and world-famous walls



*Adrian Doyle*  
ADRIAN DOYLE IS THE BLENDER STUDIOS  
LEARN MORE ON [THEBLENDERSTUDIOS.COM](http://THEBLENDERSTUDIOS.COM)

PRECINCTS

# A busy year ahead for the Chinatown Precinct

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

It's hard to imagine a precinct in the City of Melbourne hit quite as hard from the unrelenting force of the current global pandemic like the CBD's Chinatown Precinct.

Business slowed almost to a standstill throughout 2020, a snap lockdown in February this year stymied one of the biggest events on the lunisolar calendar, Chinese New Year, and most recently, plans for Chinatown to act as a focal point for the inaugural Rising Festival were thwarted by another two-week lockdown.

Although that would be enough to quash the spirits of most, the Chinatown Precinct, headed by president, Danny Doon, and vice-president, Eng Lim, used this period to develop an unwaveringly infectious optimism for their precinct and its traders.

"We have always wanted to stay positive and promote all the good things in the precinct, rather than focusing on lockdowns or other events out of our control," Ms Lim said.

"That is why we are looking ahead to the rest of the year and the exciting events the Chinatown Precinct will be putting on for locals and visitors."

The first of those events will see the delayed celebration of the Duan Wu, or Dragon Boat Festival, which falls on the fifth day of the fifth month on the Chinese calendar.

Initially earmarked for mid-June, the Dragon Boat Festival will be held at Chinatown Square, Cohen Pl, between 12pm and 3pm on Sunday, June 27 and will feature Zongzi (sticky rice dumpling) making demonstrations, a lion dancing performance and an explanation of the history and story of the Dragon Boat Festival.

"The Dragon Boat festival is a national holiday in China and a huge occasion for the precinct," Ms Lim said.

"Moving forward to August, we are looking to celebrate Chinese Valentine's Day which occurs on the seventh day of the seventh month on the Chinese calendar, which coincidentally happens to fall on the 14<sup>th</sup>."

"Our next major event after that will be the Mid-Autumn Festival on Saturday, September 18. It is one of the most important holidays of the year."

Along with a number of major events to round out the year, the precinct continue to hold their weekly Chinatown Melbourne Market each Friday and Saturday, from 4pm to 10pm along Heffernan Lane.

From dumplings to noodles, BBQ skewers to desserts, visitors are indulged with the best variety of street food, merchandise, and memorabilia that Melbourne's Chinatown has to offer.

Parallel to a multitude of planned activations from the precinct, Mr Doon said the injection of business from the council's 20 per cent "Melbourne Money" rebate scheme had come



▲ *Danny Doon and Eng Lim.*

as a welcomed relief for traders.

The first week of the initiative saw Victorians claim \$1 million of the \$8.4 million provided by the City of Melbourne and Victorian Government in cash back in a move to return visitors to city's restaurants, cafes and bars.

"It has been quiet, but we are starting to see a good amount of business on the weekend," Mr Doon said. "Friday, Saturday, and Sunday we have three sittings allowing for 50 people. So, it has meant we have seen 150 people coming into the restaurant per day."

"My message to anyone coming is not to wait until next week to get your money back. It is first in, first served."

It has never been easier, or cheaper, to visit Chinatown Melbourne with the 20 per cent rebate added to a special offer from Golden Square Car Park for \$10 flat rate parking.

Monday to Thursday – enter after 4pm exit before midnight, Friday to Saturday – enter after 4pm exit before 6am next day and Sunday – enter after 4pm exit before midnight ●

**For more information:**  
[chinatownmelbourne.com.au](http://chinatownmelbourne.com.au)  
[money.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://money.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

# Making Melbourne child-friendlier

When north-sider Deanne and her south-sider partner made peace by moving into their CBD loft-conversion, raising a child in an apartment among the alleyways hadn't yet crossed their mind.

Ten years later, you'll often find Deanne kicking a ball in a local laneway with her seven-year-old son, Florian. Families like hers play an important role in making the CBD a more inclusive community for all ages and abilities. And there's great value in retaining and attracting more of them.

Strong communities are underpinned by stable representation across all generations. But although there's never been a lack of incentives for young workers and students to live in Melbourne, many still choose to leave when it comes to having children.

Parents like Deanne rave about car-free accessibility to the city's schools and kid-friendly places, from the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) to the State Library's Children's Quarter and local community gardens. Yet word still needs to spread that a city pad in Ramsay Lane has some distinct advantages over a suburban backyard in Ramsay St. Despite a steady increase in the number of children growing up in Australian inner-city apartments, CBD Melbourne's zero to 14-year-old population in 2016 was a mere 3 per cent of its total, compared to around 18 per cent for Victoria and around 14 per cent for Paris in 2017.

Allowing this gap to persist leaves us open to vulnerabilities. Our neighbourhood links and social capital take time to nurture but can fracture with the constant departure of young workers and their children.

COVID exposed our heavy dependence on suburban workers. Even as some return, it's

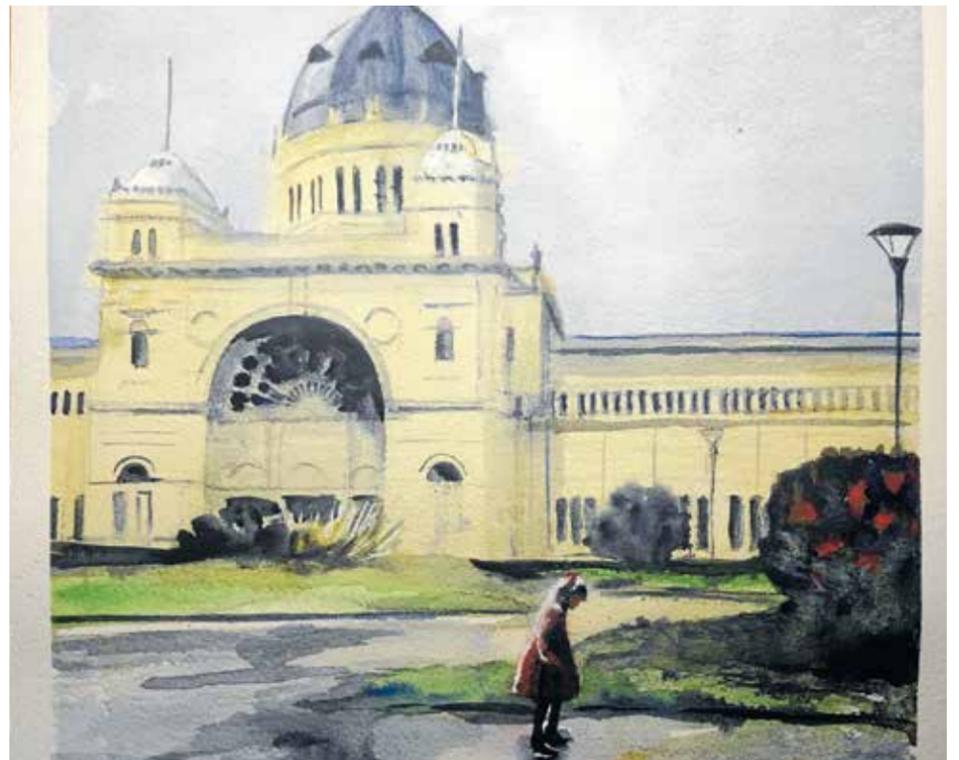
understandable that many will choose to stay where they are to create their own 20-minute neighbourhoods for their families. Convincing some of them to move closer to workplaces here should be our goal.

Commerce plays a vital role in any city. Those who support quicker economic gains might say that goal should prevail over families, who may require more infrastructure and may pay less taxes. But providing more neighbourhood work-life options for professionals with children could be a sustainable foundation for a more local, resilient and well-balanced future economy.

The city's current rent drop has provided a rare opportunity for young people to live in town. Cities like Vancouver have previously retained their share of this demographic by increasing stocks of affordable two- to three-bedroom apartments. We could continue to do the same. Recent improvements to state design standards will mandate more common and green space in apartments, ensuring that quality, and not just availability, prevails.

Decades-long research has demonstrated the widespread benefits of child-friendlier cities. As we slow traffic to enable children to walk and ride to and from school, and throughout the city, they develop greater independence. Walkability and safety then increase for everyone. Children also moderate our behaviour as adults, giving us reason to slow down and connect with others. And life improves accordingly.

Our youths provide valuable social connections. For Deanne, the presence of a few community-minded parents convinced her to stay and raise Florian in a vertical village. These days, it's hard for her not to feel connected with a child who seems to know every neighbour,



shopkeeper and construction worker in their locale.

Kids can also catalyse creative design when we let them play and imagine beyond the boundaries of playgrounds. Streets and street furniture can become more colourful, soft, and tactile. For a child, any well-designed space can become a safe playground, making better public spaces for all.

Continuing the city's planning and design upgrades requires the ongoing feedback of children and young adults. One-off children's forums have been appreciated in the past. But having more frequent events to involve children in city design provides valuable feedback and holds us accountable as adults for their wellbeing. Doing so could even help bring out, and keep alive, the child in all of us.

This city is too good to be just about work. And more suburbanites should hear about and experience it. Perhaps the city's travel voucher system could be extended to ensure more families try playing and living here. Our message to visitors of all ages, including children, should be, "Stay; just a little bit longer. Not just for a weekend. Hopefully, for some, a lifetime" ●



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## City Life

“No desire for a quiet seat”

Number 75 Tram  
Flinders St

# Here's to the invisible ones!

“

*It started with ones and twos, which eventually became a trickle. Within a few days, it had become a human deluge.*

”

They were people, many young, some attempting to support their families, many just trying to survive, who had been suddenly stood down at the beginning of lockdown 4.0. Many of them worked in the hospitality sector and through absolutely no fault of their own, they were stood down without pay. As their income ground to a sudden halt, their costs didn't. Rent, utility bills, and in some cases, medical costs, continued to flow.

People in this group were calling us and coming to our Bourke St centre, so our already stretched resources were stretched even further.

This invisible group barely rated a mention in the millions of words that were written and spoken in the media about lockdown 4.0.

However, their plight was becoming increasingly desperate – both physically and mentally. We knew that we had to respond urgently.

Waiting for the outcome of government funding applications was not going to cut it. So, we put the word out through social media about the desperate plight of this invisible group.

The great thing about Melbourne is that when one invisible group suffers, many other invisible individuals and groups quietly put their hand up to help. This may come in the form of that hand being placed in their pocket with financial help being offered. Or it could come in the form of an outstretched hand providing much-needed voluntary assistance.

Coles came to the party with 2000 frozen meals being offered. The catering staff at Parliament House provided additional meals as well. Budget Car Rental provided freezer vans to assist with the safe delivery of the meals. Literally thousands of meals were delivered in a few days to casual workers that had been stood down. More importantly, the invisible casual

workers had been reminded that an invisible army had stood with them during lockdown 4.0 and reminded them that they were not forgotten. As we head into a cold Melbourne winter with all of the uncertainty of whether there will be further COVID-19 outbreaks, let us never forget the invisible who often fall through the gaps and suffer in silence.

Let us also remember the invisible individuals and groups in Melbourne that quietly step up, without fanfare, to care for the forgotten ●



Major Brendan Nottle

COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE SALVATION ARMY MELBOURNE - PROJECT 614

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## CRITIC



▲ Kate Nodrum with a painting by Jan Murray.

# Will Spring go ahead?

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Galleries are getting ready for Spring 1883, usually a joy-filled, anarchic coming together of Melbourne's art community at the much-loved Windsor Hotel.

Last year's event was cancelled in March but Kate Nodrum is confident this one will go ahead.

She's sorting through paintings at her gallery and imagining them in place in one of the hotel's sumptuous rooms.

The Gleeson should look good in the bathroom, she said, which is tiled in faux marble, because "it's over-the-top and will work well".

Some paintings will be laid on the bed, the Gleeson will be propped on the basin and the Jan Murray will go into a corner where it will have a "bit of a creepy presence".

She was pleased to be invited. She loves the venue. "There's light and fresh air. At an art fair you just get a white box."

Kate runs Charles Nodrum Gallery with her dad and she's looking forward, like many, to get out of her suburban neighbourhood and into the centre of town.

Spring 1883 is the seventh art fair to be organised by CBD gallerists Vikki McInnes, Kate Barber and Geoff Newton at the Windsor and it attracts many of the country's top galleries.

Thirty galleries have been invited for this year's event scheduled for August 4 to 7, some from Sydney and New Zealand.

But Spring, like the rest of the art world, is being forced to adjust to uncertainty. There is currently no bubble between Victoria and New Zealand and even interstate galleries can be given no assurances about possible outbreaks here.

Bookings need to be made in advance and some are worried.

CBD galleries have got more used to the on-again, off-again manner of restrictions by staging sober meet-the-artist events rather than the traditional convivial openings that we all love.

Both Sarah Scout Presents and Tolarno Galleries have had Saturday afternoon sessions with bookings required. The focus has been more on the art than the socialising.

Organisers of Spring 1883 could not confirm that this year's event would go ahead in August, when *CBD News* spoke to them in June.

They are believed to have had an emergency meeting to consider whether to postpone the fair until late Spring but they did not want to pre-empt a press release.

Large scale events, while a feature of Melbourne's creative scene, just don't seem to suit our troubled times, witness the cancellation of the much-vaunted Rising Festival.

A group show of work by 90 different photographers was due to open the day after lockdown was announced. It was staged online instead and "didn't sell that badly," according to one commentator.

But a lot of art doesn't look the same on line, she said. "It doesn't have that wow factor." ●

## ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE



# Delivering on the services Stolen Generations people say they need most

WORDS BY Emma Hartley

The state government dedicated \$300,000 to cover the funeral costs of Stolen Generations people thanks to advice from the Stolen Generations Reparations Steering Committee.

Ian Hamm is a Yorta Yorta man who is chairperson of the Stolen Generations Reparations Steering Committee, as well as chairperson of the Koorie Heritage Trust and has sat on many other boards.

"Stolen Generations people usually have worse life outcomes than the broader Aboriginal community which means that when they die, their families often don't have enough money for a decent burial," Mr Hamm said.

This initiative has only been the start of the Steering Committee's work which has been preparing a report for the state government proposing initiatives for Stolen Generations people.

Consultations with stolen generations people across Victoria has shown the Steering Committee that priority issues not only include financial compensation but also program support and the intergenerational effects of the Stolen Generations.

"This kind of trauma inflicted on a community can actually reverberate seven generations until it ripples out," Mr Hamm said. "But we're still basically in the first, second and third generations of when people were taken."

"We're not so much at the ripple-end effect

of it. We're at the tsunami end."

Mr Hamm has been on the Koorie Heritage Trust board since 2013 and was with the Trust at its former location on Kings St.

Now the Trust is in the Yarra building in Federation Square – a good move in Mr Hamm's eyes because it positions them in the front and centre of Melbourne.

"If Federation Square is supposed to be the social and cultural hub of Melbourne, then it couldn't have any legitimacy unless it had a strong Aboriginal presence there," Mr Hamm said.

Mr Hamm is also chairperson of Connecting Home which has helped stolen generations people actually connect with the services they need.

"Because agencies weren't talking to each other, they couldn't even get access to services let alone their core issues dealt with," Mr Hamm said.

Connecting Home has started to expand that support into the disability sector as a next step.

"A lot of the stolen generations cohort are now ageing and also qualifying for the NDIS because they've got disability issues," he said. "So, we're working in that space as well." ●

**For more information:**  
[korieheritagetrust.com.au](http://korieheritagetrust.com.au)

# Pet's Corner

## Moving from surf to new turf



*CBD local Zack has brought a new face to Flagstaff Gardens – little pugapoodle Winnie.*



WORDS BY *Emma Hartley*

Winnie has recently moved from Port Melbourne where the shoreline provided the daily walking spot.

“We lived near the beach and she loved it,” Zack said. “She can swim, but only in the shallows. She does enjoy the park, but she enjoys the beach more.”

She has a spritely character for an 11-year-old dog in her salt-and-pepper years.

Most pugapoodles – the name given to a pug crossed with a poodle – will live from around 12 to 14 years.

Zack admitted she looked pretty good despite her age. “She gets mistaken for a puppy all the time,” he said.

Zack told *CBD News* he was pretty sure Winnie’s name was inspired by the famous children’s stories written by A.A. Milne but was only seven years old when Winnie came into the family.

“Possibly Winnie the Pooh,” Zack said. “It was my mum who named her.”

It might have been new terrain for Winnie, but Flagstaff Gardens could already be a welcome walking location. Winnie bounced with energy and was excited to meet new humans.

But despite appearances, “She’s quite a lazy dog,” Zack said. “[She’s] not one for running.” ●

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HERITAGE

## Nicholas Building on the market

*You may have heard the recent news of the Nicholas Building on Flinders Lane going up for international sale for the first time in 48 years.*

The Nicholas Building is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, the state’s highest level of protection, meaning both inside and out are protected from physical change, subject to permits. This doesn’t completely bar redevelopment such as small additions on top or inside the building though, should the Heritage Council be persuaded by arguments from developer-paid heritage consultants.

You’ll be reassured to know the danger of any significant demolitions or physical changes to the building is low, but the cultural heritage of the Nicholas Building, something not as tangible and not as well protected by heritage laws, could well be under threat.

Currently home a diverse range of businesses, clubs, art spaces, studios and one of a kind retail spaces inside its film noir style corridors, and with a rich history of creativity by the likes of its most iconic former tenant Vali Myers, the Nicholas Building truly represents the heart and soul of Melbourne’s artistic social heritage, and acts as an oasis of creativity and discovery in a city where our famed and well-advertised “quirky, creative hidden secrets” have been at risk of disappearing thanks to the success they have given our city. Unfortunately, Melbourne’s rigid planning scheme barely accounts for such intangible values such as use or social heritage, or the holistic loss of one creative venue after the other very well at all.

In the past half-decade, Melbourne CBD’s has lost the vast majority of its artist-run galleries and studios, either closing entirely or moving to other municipalities, as well as a number

of alternative nightlife spaces, a surprising amount of its street art walls and one-of-a-kind shops, and a number of significant live music venues such as the Palace Theatre, often purely to increase the profits of wealthy investors and developers. Doubling of rents overnight and other gentrification factors have also played in heavily.

The Nicholas Building stands tall as one of the CBD’s last havens of what made Melbourne a truly liveable and visitable CBD with a point of difference, that unique creative spirit right in the heart of the city, a place for alternatives among the nine to five work, chain stores, mass of apartments and upmarket tourism offers you could find in any city in the world.

We believe with such an important asset to the City of Melbourne, it is in the long-term interests of the council to purchase the building itself, as they did with the Munro site next to Queen Victoria Market in recent years to prevent potential development into a supermarket and inappropriate high-rise complex. Perhaps the use of covenants such as that which runs the Abbotsford Convent should also be discussed. The cost of losing such a cultural icon to investor profits and gentrification is too immense. With protection of intangible social heritage, incentive to keep rents low, creative programs expanded, and an owner that truly cares about its cultural role at the northern end of the Arts Precinct spine, the Nicholas Building can play a key part in Melbourne’s future recovery and status as the creative capital ●



*Tristan Davies*

PRESIDENT  
MELBOURNE HERITAGE ACTION  
CONTACT:TRISTANDAVIES@GMAIL.COM



## 疫情后的交通审查

墨尔本市政对本市疫情后的趋势进行独立审查，墨尔本的主要交通愿景可能会调整。

David Schout

根据市长Sally Capp的说法，COVID疫情迫使市区交通活动发生变化，这个审查将使用“有关证据和数据来推动决策”。

疫情流行一直是交通趋势转变的原因，例如外卖送货手数量的“猛增”。市议会表示，重要的是现在塑造城市的政策能反映这一点。

然而，没有迹象表明，市政的《2030年交通战略》将因此次审查而发生重大改变。该战略广泛优先考虑行人和骑自行车者，同时减少进入中央商务区的汽车数量。

在6月15日的墨尔本未来委员会会议上市长表示：“我们知道，在那段COVID疫情时期，人们进出市区及其周边区域的方式发生了变化。”

“我们已经看到通常的出行行为发生了改变，尤其是考虑到人们对公共交通的使用

缓慢了，我认为有必要了解当前和未来的趋势，并就有关证据和数据，考虑接下来的策略。”

一位议员表示，这次审查可能是一个机会，减缓市政在全市范围内积极铺设自行车道，为汽车腾出空间，但这遭到了反对。

市政议员Roshena Campbell（当市政2019年批准10年交通战略时并不在其中）说，对于居住在离市中心15公里以上的人来说，“骑自行车并不是进入市区的方式”。

Campbell议员说：“我承认这届市政在交通战略方面做了大量的工作，但在我看来，其中一些工作可能会与支持我们城市恢复所必需的相不一致，在这种情况下，需要做出某些决定。”

她引用了最近澳国民银行消费者洞察(NAB Consumer Insight)的一份报告，其中发现十分之七的人不再去CBD，或者减少了去的次数，四分之一的人表示这是因为CBD停车太贵，或者他们不想使用公共交通。

她说：“如果由于开车进城太贵而放弃，或者你被迫行驶在不太好开车的道路，并且由于新建自行车道而减少到一条车道，这样可能对你产生吓阻作用。”



“如果这些是收集反馈的证据，我认为我们作为一个市政议会需要对此加以认真对待，因为我们城市的经济复苏必须成为本届市政议会的优先事项。”

但绿党议员Rohan Leppert反驳了这一观点，并表示独立审查只是为了更新证据以反映疫情后的环境，而不是完全重新评估长期目标。

## 小型“高级”办公大楼获批

墨尔本市政已经批准了一座31层的办公楼，其面积不到先前批准的La Trobe街383号大楼的一半。

David Schout

这个在中央商务区北面的新建大楼地块，是澳大利亚联邦警察办公所在地，一旦建成，可容纳多达4000名员工。

办公楼底层将设有公共拱廊和巷道为行人通往Little Lonsdale街和Queen街，并提供一系列特色的零售商店。

在La Trobe街的正面还设有公共台阶，作为“聚集场所”。

市政规划主管兼副市长Nicholas Reece表示，位于Hoddle Grid边缘的相对适中的Mirvac开发项目“在许多方面都优于先前提交给市政的项目”。

Reece议员说：“这是一个意义重大的发展项目，我们对此表示欢迎，因为我们可以重振市区的活力。”

“这是一个高质量、表达清晰的提案，对场地的环境有适当的回应。”

2016年，由法国建筑师Jean Nouvel

设计的一座70层高的酒店和公寓大楼被批准用于该地块项目，但并未由当时的开发商Sterling Global建造。

Mirvac随后于2018年以1.22亿澳元购买了现有的五层皇家铸币中心大楼(Royal Mint Centre)。

副规划主管Rohan Leppert 议员表示，最新的提案是“高质量的”。

Leppert议员说：“这对我们未来城市商业和零售投下了一个多么辉煌的信任票，也是设计我们未来城市商业和零售用途的一个绝妙方式。”

这是一个非常令人惊叹的设计，尤其是与底层有关的一切，包括底层渗透性的零售与那些新的直通式的交互连接，都以一种极具智慧的方式来完成。”

由Cox建筑设计公司设计的一个具有“灵活的立面”，租户可以“策划”自己的露台区，范围从2米到9米。



## 市政鼓励加快疫苗接种

Brendan Rees

作为墨尔本市政新的宣传活动一部分，凡接种COVID疫苗的人将获得一个“无比诱人的优惠”。

在6月15日的墨尔本未来委员会会议上，市政议员投票决定提供一系列福利和激励措施，以鼓励不仅墨尔本人，而且包括所有维州人在符合条件的情况下尽快接种疫苗。

市长Sally Capp表示，该措施旨在消除进一步的封锁，并“给这座城市带来活力”。她说：“我们希望维多利亚成为最多接种疫苗的州，这样我们就可以超越封锁和限制，为当地企业、居民和游客建立信心，我们就可以开放并保持开放。”

奖励可能包括零售、酒店或娱乐套餐中的“优惠销售”。

与此同时，澳大利亚治疗用品管理局最近批准向已经完全接种疫苗的人提供补助和奖励。

“我们不希望通过第五次封锁来促进接种疫苗。我们想要更多的维州人接种疫苗”。

“一个接种疫苗的维多利亚对我们城市的繁荣至关重要，这是遏制疫情的关键，这样我们就可以充分享受我们城市提供的美好享受。”

到目前为止，在维多利亚全州、全科医生和联邦项目中已接种了超过170万剂疫苗。

今年6月，联邦卫生部长Greg Hunt表示，超过500万澳大利亚人至少接种了一剂疫苗，其中包括61%的70岁以上老人。

有44%的50岁以上的人至少接种了一剂疫苗。

随着维多利亚州在线预订系统于6月17日启动，所有40岁以上的澳大利亚人都有资格接种疫苗。

Hunt先生说：“我们鼓励尽可能多的澳大利亚人，但特别要对年长的澳大利亚人说，我们非常希望你们能尽早接种疫苗。”

副市长Nicholas Reece在市政议会上指出，疫苗接种激励措施在海外取得了成功，尤其是在美国。

他说，美国俄亥俄(Ohio)州一名“幸运者”获得了100万美元的奖金，其他州也有提供免费的大学奖学金。



## 一男子在市区的性犯罪行为

上个月，一名男子在中央商务区(CBD)对一名妇女进行了暴露性的性行为，墨尔本性犯罪和虐待儿童调查小组的侦探呼吁公众提供线索。

调查人员得知，5月27日星期四上午7点30分左右，一名23岁的妇女在Elizabeth街的一栋公寓楼里使用健身房。

当这位妇女在锻炼的时候，她注意到一名男子站在Franklin街附近的公共停车场。

这名男子在通过电梯离开停车场之前

看着这名女子进行了一段时间的暴露性的性行为。

然后他步行穿过大堂离开了大楼。

侦探们今天公布了闭路电视录像和一名男子的图像，他们认为这名男子的图像有助于调查。

该男子的外貌被认为是白种人，年龄在25至35岁之间，未刮胡子，身穿灰色夹克、灰色短裤和黑色无檐小便帽。

任何认出该男子或了解事件相关信息的人，请致电1800333000联系制止犯罪热线，或者在网上提交保密的举报报告，网址为：crimestoppersvic.com.au

# What's on: July 2021



### ART WALK - UNTIL JULY 16

Visit Melbourne's Flinders Quarter and take a self-guided journey through the streets, laneways, heritage buildings and local businesses to unlock a collection of 12 artwork treasures that come to life through augmented reality (AR) and storytelling.

[flindersquarter.com/fqaaw-2021](http://flindersquarter.com/fqaaw-2021)



### SATURDAYS @ DEGRAVES ST

Degraives St traders hit the street!

Businesses operating along the CBD's iconic Degraives 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 church yard). 9663 2495

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:gardenclub@residents3000.com.au)

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