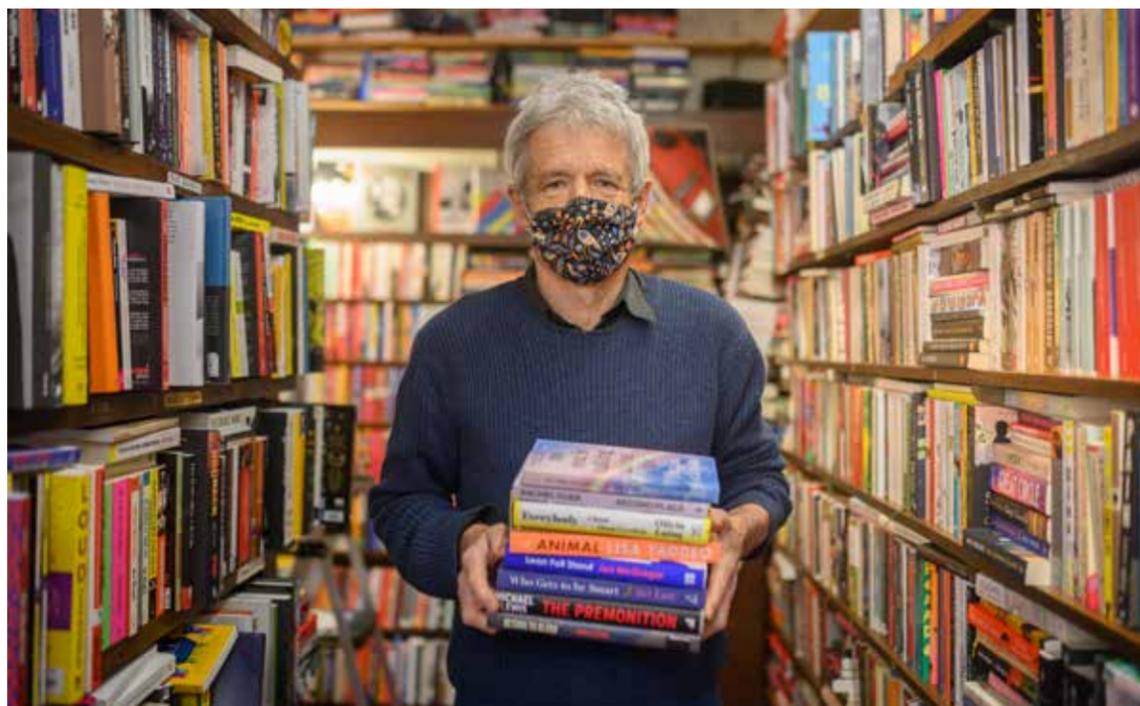


CBD NEWS

cbdnews.com.au

Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P21



A sixth bad chapter
Photo by John Tadigiri

Paperback Bookshop manager Bill Morton fronts one of many struggling local businesses feeling the pinch of a devastating sixth lockdown in Victoria. "We're just trying to get through it as best we can," he said. *Continued on page 9.*

One heroin overdose death a month in Melbourne

A new report from the Coroners Court of Victoria has revealed that on average, at least one person died in the City of Melbourne each month during 2020 from heroin-related causes. Experts say the statistics are further proof a safe injecting room is required within the CBD.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HEALTH

The report revealed that in 2020, 13 people died from heroin overdoses within the municipality — the second-highest number in the state, behind Brimbank (17).

This was despite an overall drop in heroin-related deaths across Victoria, which recorded its lowest number since 2015.

As the state government prepared to release a report by former police commissioner Ken Lay that would recommend the best site for a new safe injecting room — believed to be the former Yooralla building on Flinders St — experts said the new data underlined why the government had to act.

Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) executive officer Sam Biondo told *CBD News* the evidence overwhelmingly supported medically-supervised injecting rooms (MSIRs).

"Unless you want people using [drugs] publicly, impacting the amenity negatively, and dying in the streets, having a good evidence-based facility will reduce all that," Mr Biondo said.

"It's strange — we're led by the medical evidence when it comes to COVID, but we don't want to be led by the medical evidence when it comes to MSIRs."

The Coroners Court report concluded there was "substantial public discussion" about the location of her-

oin-related harm in Victoria.

This was "primarily driven" by the state's first MSIR in North Richmond and the potential for a second in the CBD.

It said the latest statistics would "inform this discussion".

However, the report argued that heroin overdose statistics alone were not useful for measuring the impact of a safe-injecting room, which functioned as more than simply a life-saving facility.

"As Victorian coroners have repeatedly explained, the primary role of an MSIR is not to reduce overdose death (though this is hoped to be a long-term benefit deriving from their operation). An MSIR is a vital public health service because it creates opportunities to engage people who use drugs in wellbeing discussions; to assist them with any medical issues they may be having; to help them connect with housing and Centrelink and other support services they may need; to provide education on safer drug use; and to link them with treatment if they request assistance to manage their drug use."

Notably, the number of heroin-related deaths in the City of Yarra (where North Richmond is located) dropped from 17 in 2019 to nine in 2020.

Mr Biondo noted that while part of this could be attributed to changed market conditions and COVID-19, "some of that had to be attributed to the room itself".

Continued on page 5.

Fifth CBD precinct group emerges

WORDS BY *Sean Car & Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

A new CBD-focused precinct association, representing businesses in the growing "city north" catchment, will soon be established with the support of the City of Melbourne.

The Melbourne City North Business Association (MCNBA), encompassing Elizabeth St, from Lonsdale to Victoria streets, as well as surrounding areas, will seek to give a louder voice to the area's growing community of businesses and entrepreneurs.

Led by inaugural president Christina Zhao, the new precinct group is already understood to have around 100 members and that list is expected to grow as it looks towards ramping up its operations in 2022.

Open to businesses from a range of key destinations such as Emporium, QV Melbourne and Chinatown, the

City North business group will have a strong focus on providing a "younger" and "fresher" face for the city's Asian business community.

Ms Zhao told *CBD News* she hoped the association could work collaboratively with arts, sports and commercial sectors to help bring people back to Melbourne.

"The MCBNA was established to unify business members in the precinct area in order to establish a platform for innovation, communication and information sharing while navigating the complex landscape of the post COVID-19 recovery stage," she said.

"We also further aim to assist the whole district in marketing, research, government liaison and advocate for activities so all members can benefit from strategic planning based on evolving trends and demographics in the years beyond."

The MCBNA joins the CBD's four other precincts established through the City of Melbourne's business

Continued on page 9.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 03

A New lease on life for Hardware Lane



COMMUNITY, PAGE 08

B Indigenous reverend creates history



BUSINESS, PAGE 09

C Melbourne Money to return



KNOWLEDGE, PAGE 10

D Booksellers unite to halt city exodus



Gina Donazzan
0412 430 326
donazzanboutiqueproperty.com.au

Donazzan Boutique Property
Melbourne's only truly bespoke firm, specialising in boutique property sales & property management.

Turn to the back page for more information

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

EDITOR
Sean Car

PUBLISHER
Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd
ABN: 57 623 558 725

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

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

The deadline for the October edition is September 17.

SOCIAL MEDIA
Follow us on Twitter
@CBD_News_3000

Like us on Facebook
cbdnewsmelbourne

Follow us on Instagram
@cbdnews

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

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



“It’s time for a public review”: Push for election overhaul

City of Melbourne councillors have urged the state government to begin a review into the council’s “unique” electoral system by next year, in time for the 2024 election.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ELECTIONS

Long considered undemocratic by critics, the *City of Melbourne Act 2001* would go under the microscope for the first time in 20 years if the State Government agreed to the review.

Under the current system, residents in the City of Melbourne — which operates under a separate framework to the 78 other Victorian councils — were granted one vote in local government elections, while businesses were entitled to two votes.

A business that rents a desk within the municipality was currently entitled to greater participation than local residents, as well as the chance to run in elections.

Cr Rohan Leppert’s motion at the July 27 council meeting called on the Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane to initiate the review by next year, in order for reforms to be legislated well before the next election in 2024.

He told *Southbank News* a review was well overdue.

“Time and time again our community has asked for a serious, comprehensive and consultative electoral review,” Cr Leppert said.

“In a democracy we should not be afraid of interrogating the electoral system, especially one as unusual as the City of Melbourne’s ... the *City of Melbourne Act [2001]*, including its famously unique electoral system, has not been properly reviewed for over 20 years, whereas the electoral system for the other 78 Victorian Councils was reviewed for the *Local Government Act 2020*.”

Cr Leppert said the current *City of Melbourne Act* facilitated a range of undesirable outcomes, including both the richest and “most male” electoral roll in the country, and the only council in Australia that regularly returned a majority of



non-resident councillors.

He said that while councillors had different ideas on what electoral reforms should be introduced, they were united on step one.

“Councillors all have different ideas about what the system should be, of course; some are content with the status quo while others like me believe it to be wildly undemocratic. But the thing we could all agree on was that the Act should be reviewed. This system doesn’t belong to councillors, it is a public system, so it’s time for a public review.”

The review would also encompass donation reform across the whole local government sector.

In August last year Lord Mayor Sally Capp wrote to Mr Leane seeking a review of the *City of Melbourne Act 2001*, after councillors similarly voted in favour of electoral evaluation.

In response, Mr Leane said it was “a matter I am considering with regard to a future program of legislative reform”.

The latest council push placed greater pressure on the state government to ensure the Act was thoroughly reviewed before the next election in 2024, and had now put time pressure — a 2022 start date — for that to begin.

“[It] should start no later than next year if that review is going to be done comprehensively and with public involvement,” Cr Leppert said at the July 27 meeting.

Unlike in NSW, the Victorian Government opted to not delay last year’s election, which took place in October just after Melbourne had been in COVID-19 lockdown for almost four months.

Councillors thanked election manager Bill Lang, and the Victorian Electoral Commission team, for facilitating last year’s election in “extraordinarily difficult circumstances”.

“That [decision] was both very good and very bad for different reasons, and it’s very difficult to have known what to have done in those circumstances,” Cr Leppert said.

“I note that NSW has taken a slightly different tack by extending their elections by a year, but have found that they have needed to extend them by another three months again. So, holding elections in a pandemic is an incredibly difficult thing, and balancing the needs to retain a fully democratic process with the need to keep everyone safe does mean that there are compromises on both sides. In spite of all that, I do think Bill and his team have facilitated a very good process.”

Voter turnout in the 2020 election was 69 per cent within the City of Melbourne, well up from 56 per cent in 2016.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said that while the 2020 election had taken place under circumstances “the likes of which Melbourne has never seen before”, the democratic process “had stood up very well”.

“I say to the good folks of New South Wales and New South Wales government, that your democracy has nothing to fear from an election during a pandemic, and during lockdown,” Cr Reece said.

“Anecdotally, the turnout at our online forums was high and voter engagement was high. If anything, the restrictions we were under encouraged people to take the time to review election material and cast an informed vote.” ●

AstraZeneca

COVID

vaccine available

FULLY TRAINED
PHARMACISTS

BOOK NOW in store or scan this QR code
Walk-ins welcome#



#Subject to availability.

Priceline Pharmacy Collins St
Shop 48/45 Collins St, Melbourne
Ph: 9650 9034



Much-loved laneway to be given new lease on life

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Melbourne's iconic Hardware Lane could undergo a transformation including pedestrian safety improvements under plans being considered by the City of Melbourne.

A proposed streetscape design has been released for the much-loved destination to ensure it remains a "vibrant, safe, and accessible laneway".

Under the plans, the current road surface would be upgraded by replacing the current red bricks with bluestone paving.

New lighting would be installed, along with 14 trees planted. Pedestrians and diners would be separated from a private car park driveway with bluestone safety barriers.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the proposal would provide "a safer, more enjoyable experience" for all visitors.

"Hardware Lane's red bricks were installed more than 35 years ago and have deteriorated over time, becoming slippery and uneven," she said.

"We want to ensure Hardware Lane continues to be a top city destination for years to come, which is why we need to undertake this work to protect its future."

While COVID-19 restrictions were in place last year, the council fast-tracked its disruptive drainage works between Bourke and Lonsdale streets in order to reduce the impact on traders when restrictions eased.

It has now developed a proposed design for stage one of the Hardware Lane streetscape upgrade (between Bourke and Little Bourke streets) with public consultation open online until August 22.

Further proposed upgrades include installing wheelchair ramps and tactile ground surfaces to improve accessibility as well as upgrading



bollards used for intermittent road closures, and installing new street furniture such as tree guards and grates.

CBD residents' group EastEnders president Stan Capp said while he welcomed the plan, a concern had been raised about the proposed height of the lighting as it may exceed the tree line.

"I would be keen to make sure there's no conflict between the lights and the trees so there was no deterioration in the lighting within the laneway," he said.

"It's an important part of Melbourne. I think it's good that we're looking to upgrade our lanes without losing their heritage integrity."

Athena Velonis, who has been running her business Orchid Day Spa & Beauty Therapy for 35 years in Hardware Lane, said she believed the plan had not been well thought-out.

"Could you imagine women with heels on bluestone pavers? They're not thinking about it," she told *CBD News*.

"They should be actually sitting us down and saying 'what do you think we should be doing?'"

"I'm going to be screaming my head off if they're making noise. They can't be jackhammering during the day."

Ms Velonis said she believed Hardware Lane should be transformed into a tourist precinct similar to The Rocks in Sydney, which is famous for its street food and homemade fashions.

"Hardware Lane used to be booming ... not like that way now. Of course, since COVID hit, it's disastrous." ●

Councillor's federal politics bid could pave way for city first

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

City of Melbourne Cr Roshena Campbell has begun a bid to enter Federal Parliament, in a move that could see her replaced by Town Hall's first ever indigenous councillor.

Cr Campbell is one of several candidates seeking Liberal Party preselection in the outer-eastern seat of Casey for the upcoming federal election.

Should she be successful, Wiradjuri man Professor Mark McMillan would be elected to the City of Melbourne via countback.

Professor McMillan was third on Lord Mayor Sally Capp's ticket in last year's election, behind Cr Campbell (second) and Town Hall's current longest-serving councillor Kevin Louey (first).

And while Team Capp did not receive the required 30 per cent of votes to ensure his place on council, being next on the ticket would see him take the position vacated by Ms Campbell.

Professor McMillan has worked in the area of human rights, in particular for indigenous Australians, and has held positions as Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor at RMIT University and Associate Professor of Law at the University of Melbourne.

Should Cr Campbell earn preselection, his elevation would be significant.

In 2016, Brooke Wandin was initially elected as the City of Melbourne's first indigenous councillor, but stood down after it was discovered she did not live at the Kensington address she had nominated when registering for election.

Professor McMillan at this stage did not wish to speak about a potential countback.

For Cr Campbell, preselection success would see her quit as councillor less than 12 months into the role.

The seat of Casey was due to be vacated by

outgoing Speaker Tony Smith, and preselection was set to take place in September (although COVID-19 restrictions could see it delayed).

Casey has been a Liberal seat for the past 37 years, the last 20 of which have been held by Mr Smith.

Should Cr Campbell's bid for preselection be successful, the 36-year-old would then have a strong chance of securing a lower house seat in Canberra.

However, the Coalition holds Casey by a margin of just 4.6 per cent, and it is expected to be a close contest on election day — due between now and May 2022.

Cr Campbell told *CBD News* she was currently "unable to comment unfortunately under the Liberal Party preselection rules".

A former CBD local and current Fitzroy resident, Cr Campbell is a barrister with expertise in commercial law and corporate governance.

The mother of three has represented some of Australia's largest companies as well as state and local government bodies.

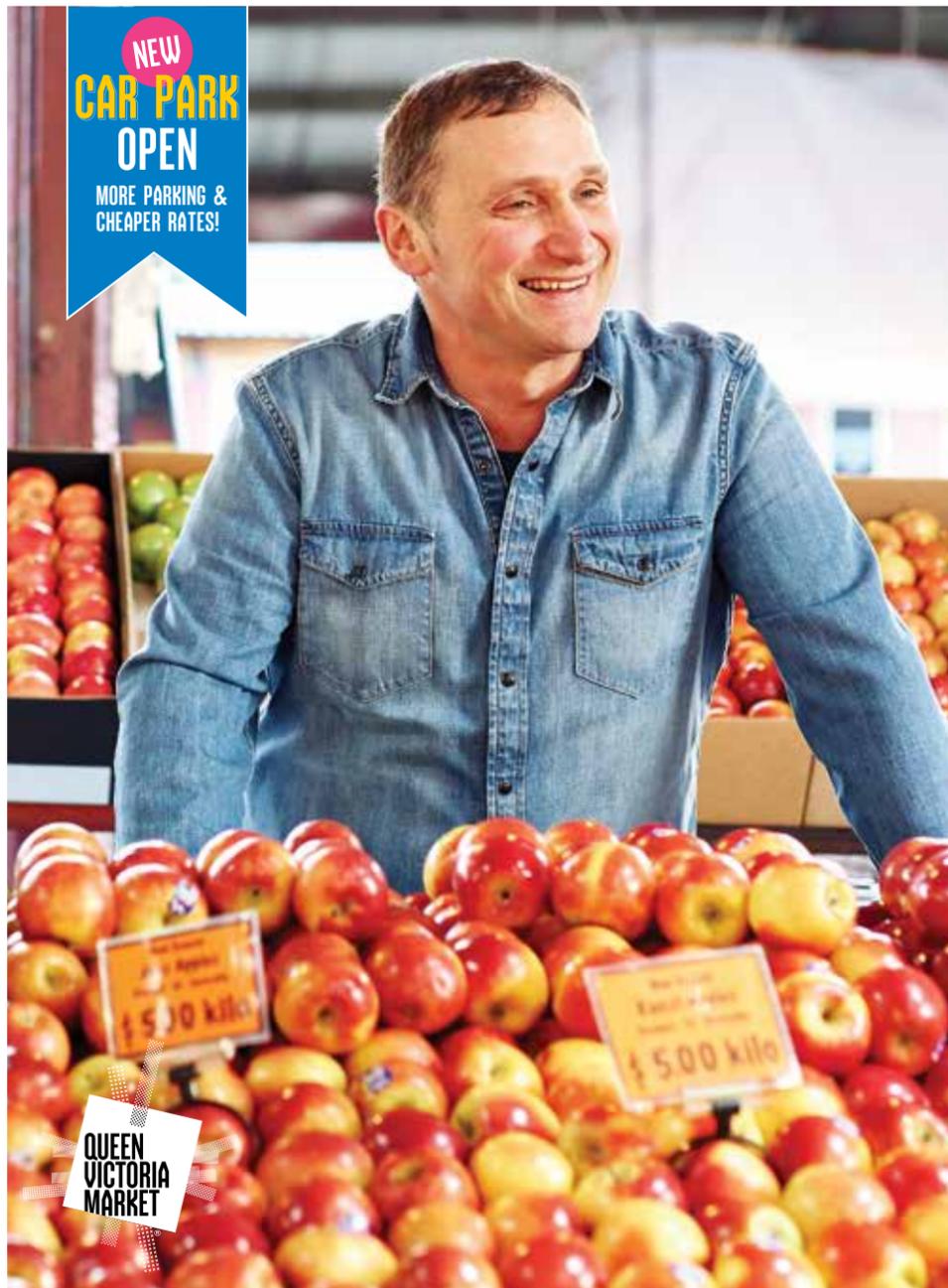
She has acted in some of Victoria's most significant litigations and a number of Royal Commissions, including for the Black Saturday bushfires.

Since being elected in November 2020, the first-time councillor has been a strong advocate for small business support during COVID-19 hardship through her role as city activation portfolio lead.

She has been an outspoken critic of plans for a medically-supervised safe-injecting room on Flinders St, describing the state government proposal as "nothing short of insanity".

At a May 25 council meeting she called on the City of Melbourne to reject a safe-injecting facility on the basis it would "significantly hinder" the city's COVID-19 economic recovery.

Cr Campbell has also been critical of the council's cycle lane rollout that was pushed forward after the onset of COVID-19 ●



NEW
CAR PARK
OPEN
MORE PARKING &
CHEAPER RATES!

QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

make it a market day

Home to the best fresh produce, great shopping, delicious food and coffee, and friendly traders. Make it a market day at Queen Vic Market.

—

OPEN TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY

QVM.COM.AU

CORNER ELIZABETH & VICTORIA STREETS, MELBOURNE

292 republic tower

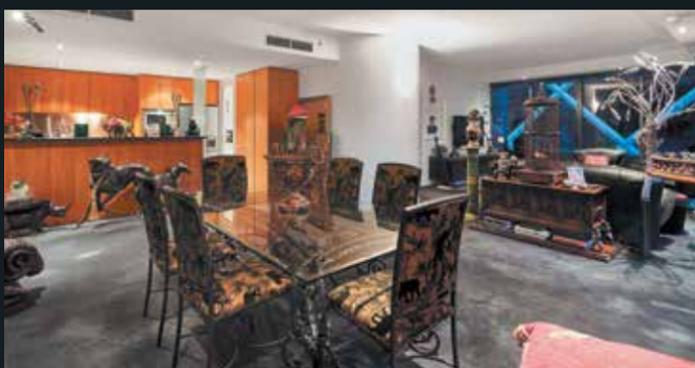


The Metropolis Penthouse

Personally designed by Nonda Katsalidis this vast statement totalling 340sqm approximately is a rarity to the Melbourne apartment market.

For Private & Immediate Sale \$3,700,000

122 republic tower



Prized Southern Vista

An excellent opportunity to secure this very tightly held and much cherished Southern Vista style Republic Tower apartment measuring some 163sqm approximately in all.

For Private & Immediate Sale \$1,595,000

Inspection by appointment James Flynn 0417 337 819
Level 4 @ 340 Collins Street Melbourne www.mcre.com.au

MELBOURNE CITY
REAL ESTATE

Plug pulled on fridge at QVM but CEO says it “won’t turn the market into a supermarket”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

A display fridge shut down at Queen Victoria Market because it “mildly exceeds” heritage guidelines has become a point of contention – with opponents being labelled as “short-sighted”.

Queen Victoria Market management recently pulled the plug on a display fridge at a fruit and vegetable stall after quickly realising the stallholder did not have a permit, nor did the fridge meet heritage guidelines.

The trader who runs Queen’s Harvest has now made a permit application through Heritage Victoria so he can have full use of the display fridge at I shed. It is understood to be around 2.8 metres wide, exceeding the two-metre requirement.

Queen Victoria Market CEO Stan Liacos said his organisation supported the application and hit back at opponents whom he described as a “handful of zealots” whose “motives were short-sighted”.

“We think the trader’s proposal is good for the market and adheres to the sound heritage principals that makes our market special,” he told *CBD News*.

“The fridge mildly exceeds current guidelines but these guidelines were prepared in 2010 and a lot has changed around health and customer expectations.”

“Putting in a display fridge won’t turn the market into a supermarket. We continue to be an open air traditional working market with many traders now utilising fridges and cool rooms as part of their stalls.”

Mr Liacos said the trader in question “is a long-time respected trader who loves and cares about our market and he absolutely deserves our continued support”.

“This trader admittedly put this one item in without the permit, hence why he is retrospectively applying [for a permit],” he said.

“Fellow market traders appear highly supportive of the fridge and more generally about the expansion of this trader’s offer and reinvestment in his stall. It is regrettable that a handful of zealots are opposing the application.”

His comments come as the Friends of Queen Victoria Market lobby group questioned the market’s heritage guidelines after posting a photo of the display fridge on its Facebook page.

Friends of Queen Victoria Market president Mary-Lou Howie said its members were “extremely concerned about the diminution of the heritage values of the market” and expressed disappointment the QVM heritage guidelines had not been updated for a decade.

“The City of Melbourne is proceeding with market renewal plans which will fundamentally alter the appearance as well as the scope of the market, thereby undermining the market’s heritage values,” she said.

“The council pays lip service to preserving the market’s heritage yet fails to provide current and essential documentation that should guide



▲ The display fridge at Queen Victoria Market before it was closed. Photo: Facebook

and protect the site.”

Rocco Tripodi, the director of Queen’s Harvest, said he was unable to comment directly on his application as it was before Heritage Victoria, however, he said the Friends of QVM “do not represent the market, nor the traders – we have a Traders Representative Committee for that”.

“Notably, there has been no mention of the other three recent submissions to Heritage Victoria on their social media,” he said.

“The fact that they choose to delete certain posts which do not align with their views speaks volumes.”

Meanwhile, Mr Liacos assured the market was “absolutely a great preservation of Melbourne’s heritage – no one is going to change that.”

He said the application “sets an important precedent” because if the trader was not successful “it may lead to some other traders being deemed non-compliant which would be a shame”.

“If the heritage compliance on specific operators are too restrictive then they will not survive economically in which case we will not have a market,” Mr Liacos said.

The City of Melbourne did not wish to comment on the matter as the permit application was before Heritage Victoria, which was also contacted but did not respond before deadline.

QVM seeks food and beverage operators

QVM is seeking expressions of interest from seven food and beverage operators for its planned, revitalised state-of-the-art Food Hall expected to open from July next year.

All-day cafes, modern Asian kitchens, taquerias, burger and sandwich bars, wood-fired pizzas, ramen and noodles, sweets and treats as well as juices and healthy choices are just some of the cuisine styles and food specialities QVM is interested in.

Working closely with Future Food, the market’s expression of interest application asks operators to demonstrate their ability across six key criteria areas:

- Background and experience
- Food and beverage concept
- Product offering and service style
- Company details and sustainability policy
- Operations and logistics
- Financial costings

Expressions of interest are now open and will close on Thursday, September 30. Shortlisted applicants will be notified in late October and will be invited to formally present their offer in December.

Successful operators will be notified in January 2022.

For more information and to access the expression of interest document and criteria, contact Allan Forsdick at Future Food: aforsdick@futurefood.com.au



New park to pop up at market

A pop-up park the size of the State Library forecourt will be created next to the Queen Victoria Market.

The new Market Square pop-up park will transform a portion of the asphalt carpark on Queen St into a temporary park designed to encourage more visitors and shoppers to the Queen Victoria Market and provide more green space for local residents.

Funded through the joint City of Melbourne and Victorian Government Melbourne City Recovery Fund, the new \$2 million space will be brought to life with live music, community events and recreational activities (pending COVID-19 restrictions).

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that she hoped park visitors would also provide valuable support to the hundreds of Queen Victoria Market small businesses impacted by the pandemic.

“Delivering a new pop-up park next to the Market will be a major drawcard to attract more locals, workers and visitors to Queen Vic Market,” she said.

“We want our market traders to begin thriving and supporting these businesses now is critical to keeping Melburnians in jobs.”

Queen Victoria Market CEO Stan Liacos said he was delighted at what the park would mean for the market and the public.

“Our customers have told us that one of the things our great market is lacking is places to sit and soak up the market atmosphere with family and friends,” Mr Liacos said.

“The new green space will deliver much-needed community space as well as encourage customers to dwell for longer and support our market traders.”

Works will be completed in October and the council said that the park would be open for at least two years.

The new temporary pop-up park is the first stage of the plan to transform the current asphalt car park into 1.75 hectares of public open space, as part of the council’s Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal program ●

One heroin overdose death a month in Melbourne

Continued from page 1.

He said if reports were correct regarding the government’s preference for a Flinders St site, it was “probably the right decision to make”, citing successful examples of MSIRs in business districts of European cities such as Berlin, Zurich and Frankfurt.

“Internationally, you have these facilities placed in business districts in some cities,” he said.

“They’re not necessarily placed in industrial zones where people can’t get to them. They’re placed where people are. And counterintuitively for many, the mere fact that you have harm reduction facilities actually keeps people alive rather than allowing them to kill themselves. It’s about trying to reduce the harm.”

He noted that hyperbolic reporting and discussion around the facility was unhelpful.

“There’s still the fear factor, and stigma associated with drug users. And that’s a really important part of this conversation and debate. Just as we were scared of people with mental illness for many years and stigmatised people to death, we’re doing the same to people with substance abuse issues these days.”

In May, City of Melbourne councillors voted seven to four in support of the state government’s plans to house the state’s second MSIR within the CBD.

An emotion-charged Town Hall debate was prompted by the government’s move to scrap its “preferred” MSIR site at 53 Victoria St, before shifting focus to the Flinders St location.

The council was now waiting on Mr Lay’s report before it formally responded.

Premier Daniel Andrews reiterated the importance of safe injecting facilities at a daily COVID-19 press briefing on August 19.

Asked why the North Richmond facility remained open while playgrounds throughout the city were closed, the Premier was emphatic in his response.

“I don’t think there’s any comparison with injecting drug users. Would you prefer they died in alleyways?” He asked the journalist responsible for the question.

“That’s what they used to do, before we had a safe injecting facility. They did, literally. They died in gutters. My position on this is very well known – it’s a health measure.”

The Premier said the government’s position was clear.

“The day I announced it, a person OD’d [overdosed] about 30 yards from where I was announcing it, and paramedics had to rush to save that person’s life. It’s a real issue, we’ve got to try and do everything we can to avoid it.”

During the press conference Mr Andrews said the government currently had no further announcements to make on the location of the state’s second MSIR ●



David Schout

JOURNALIST

DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

ELLEN SANDELL

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I’m Ellen, your local State MP.
I’m here to help. Don’t hesitate to get in touch.

(03) 9328 4637
office@ellensandell.com

146 Peel Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051

[f](https://www.facebook.com/ellensandell) [i](https://www.instagram.com/ellensandell) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/@ellensandell)
ellensandell.com

Funded from Parliamentary Budget. Authorised by E. Sandell, 146 Peel St, North Melbourne.



COVID-19 VACCINE

If you are eligible, now is the time to book in for your COVID-19 vaccine. Having a safe and effective vaccine available in Australia helps protect you, your family and your community from coronavirus. To learn more, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine

إذا كنتم مؤهلين للحصول على لقاح كوفيد-19، الآن هو الوقت المناسب لحجز موعد لكم لأخذ اللقاح. يساعد توفر لقاح آمن وفعال في أستراليا على حمايتكم وحماية عائلتكم ومجتمعكم من فيروس كورونا. لمعرفة المزيد، يرجى زيارة الموقع الإلكتروني coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine

如果符合新冠疫苗接种资格，请尽快预约。在澳大利亚接种安全有效的疫苗，有助于保护个人、家庭和社区免受新冠病毒的侵害。更多信息请访问：coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine

如果符合COVID-19疫苗施打资格，请尽快预约。在澳洲施打安全有效的疫苗，有助於保護個人、家庭和社區免受新冠病毒的侵害。更多資訊請訪問：coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine

Haddii aad u qalanto, hadda ayaa ah waqtiga loo samaysto ballan talaalka COVID-19. Inaad qaadato talaalka laga hello Australia ee wax ku oolka ah wuxuu ka caawimaa adiga, qoyskaaga, iyo bulshadaada coronavirus-ka. Si aad wax badan uga ogaato, booqo coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine

Nếu hội đủ tiêu chuẩn, giờ đây là lúc quý vị lấy hẹn để được chủng ngừa COVID-19. Việc có sẵn thuốc chủng ngừa an toàn và hiệu quả ở Úc giúp bảo vệ quý vị, gia đình và cộng đồng của quý vị không bị bệnh coronavirus. Muốn biết thêm thông tin xin vào trang mạng coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Fire scare for 171-year-old heritage home

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

Melbourne's oldest home has been spared serious damage after a fire broke out at the rear of the 171-year-old building.

About 20 firefighters were called to the building on King St – once home to Russell's Old Corner Shop – at 9.50pm on July 30 following reports of a house fire.

Crews arrived within two minutes before discovering a shed was ablaze at the rear of the two-storey brick home, a Fire Rescue Victoria spokesman said.

An assembly of appliances including four pumpers, a rescue unit, and three specialist and support vehicles brought the fire under control in just under half-an-hour.

Victoria Police confirmed they were investigating the incident but at this stage the fire was not being treated as suspicious.

Bill, a witness, who asked not to use his surname, said he saw police tape cordoning off the scene as well as crews in hazmat suits cleaning up outside the building.

Built in 1850 on the corner of King and La Trobe streets, the heritage-listed building dates back to Melbourne's pre-Gold Rush era, and is valued at around \$4 million.

Owner Lola Russell, who celebrated her 99th birthday this month, lived in the old cottage from the time she was an infant.

But the former actress known as the "queen of King St" had been forced to put her beloved home up for sale as she was now in full-time care.

Her nephew Owen Dixon expressed his relief that the historic building had not been impacted by the fire which he understood was sparked by someone who had broken in and was "camping in the backyard".

"Fortunately, the building is not damaged at all ... other than where they physically broke a door which is being fixed," he told *CBD News*.

"It's literally just damage to a cupboard and things outside," he said, including a toilet in a weatherboard enclosure but "nothing historical".

Mr Dixon said the cement-rendered brick building had been listed for sale since April and hoped the City of Melbourne and the state government would "be involved in the purchase process".

"It's going to require a lot of love and money – it's beyond my aunty who literally lives on a pension," he said.

"We just can't leave it in the state of limbo any longer ... it just needs a loving new owner who has got the resources to take it to its new phase in life."

"The building has constantly been made secure and safe but simply there's been no money left over for restoration work."

In recent months, there had been a number of break-ins at the property including the theft of an antique stove.

Squatters have also come and gone from the cottage that Lola and her late husband George Dixon once used for tea and luncheons for guests and as a small corner store until 2017.

A Victoria Police spokeswoman said local



police were aware of the break-ins and squatters using the building and "have increased patrols in the area".

Allard Shelton in Melbourne has been appointed as the sales agent with expressions of interest being sought.

"It's a beautiful historical building needing an owner who can bring it back to its glory," Mr Dixon said.

He said the family hoped to find a buyer who had the "passion to restore the building and just for it to find its new lease of life".

Debra Van Ommen, a friend of Lola and George, said she was "absolutely devastated" to hear the news of the fire.

"I've been so upset I haven't been able to bring myself to go there and look," she said.

Ms Ommen said she was disappointed that the City of Melbourne had had the chance to buy the building and restore it but did nothing.

"Melbourne City Council have wasted money on other things and a shame on them for not purchasing the property when they were given the opportunity," she said, adding an idea pitched two years ago to "turn it into a beautiful old tea room" would have been a fitting proposal and drawcard for visitors as it would be only a block away from the new Ritz-Carlton Hotel and new apartments.

"It's a piece of Melbourne's history; it's the oldest shop and dwelling in the whole Melbourne CBD."

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said it had previously funded engineering reports and emergency building works to keep the building and surrounding area safe.

"We continue to be available to support the owner as they explore options for the sale of the property," the spokesperson said.

Allard Shelton director Patrick Barnes said the sale of the historic building had so far attracted "very solid interest" and were "expecting a good result".

"We'll find a new owner for it ... there are a lot of people who enjoy the renovation process, particularly working with historic buildings," he told *CBD News* as the marketing campaign neared completion.

"I think in fairness, everyone – the city council, the heritage bodies, the citizens of Melbourne – would love to see it refurbished and fulfil a useful purpose."

National Trust chief executive Simon Ambrose said it was important the building was protected and any major alterations or new development on the site would be subject to approval.

The house has had only two owners and is included in the Victorian Heritage Register ●

Historic mural celebrating the 1956 Olympics to be restored

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
HERITAGE

A 64-year-old mural commemorating the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne will be restored to its former glory.

The heritage-listed abstract mosaic artwork on the corner of Elizabeth and Flinders streets was created in 1955 by the late artist Richard Beck, a leading modernist graphic designer in Melbourne, who designed the only Melbourne Olympics poster.

However, his most recognised work is the design of the label for Coonawarra wines which is still in use.

The Olympics artwork is considered a bold design with "pots clinking together" and the City of Melbourne announced it would invest \$55,000 from its heritage restoration fund for a specialist conservator to restore the mural located at the former Hosie's Hotel.

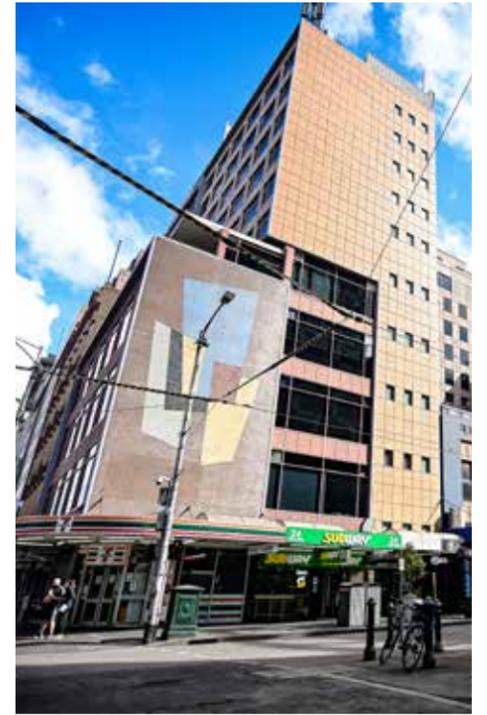
City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the mural was of historical significance to Victoria and the restoration project was a chance "to protect this modernist architectural legacy".

Conservation work to the four-storey mural is expected to take up to four weeks and will involve tiling and glazing.

The City of Melbourne's heritage lead Cr Rohan Leppert said heritage restoration works were valuable but could also be expensive "which is why we are providing incentives for owners through the Melbourne heritage restoration fund".

"Thousands of people pound the pavement underneath this artwork every day and may be surprised that the mural dates back to the 1956 Olympics. This work is all about recognising the places that have importance to us as a community," Cr Leppert said.

"We have previously funded the restoration of a historical nautical weathervane at the



Mission to Seafarers in Docklands and the reinstatement of decorative keystones on Alcaston House on Collins St."

Last year the City of Melbourne recommended heritage protection for 55 post-war buildings built between 1945 and 1975 identified in the Hoddle Grid Heritage Review, including Hosie's Hotel.

More than \$130,000 in grant funding remains available for restoration works in the City of Melbourne.

Hosie's Hotel and the Graham Hotel in Swanston St were two buildings built to provide modern accommodation for the 1956 Olympic Games ●

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE

MADE FOR MELBOURNE



Melbourne Central Tower's 51 levels of premium office space are a shining example of a 21st century workplace, where work-life balance has been redefined.

- Three exclusive suites available for lease
- Each fitted with adjustable standing desks
- Immaculately appointed kitchens
- Sweeping 360-degree views over the Melbourne city skyline

This is a rare opportunity to secure sought-after office space that caters to your employees' every need.



Fitted suites from 220-350sqm*



Premium A-Grade Office Building



5-Star NABERS Energy Rating



Reimagined Lobby and Atrium Space



Over 800 Car parks with Train Station directly underneath



Melbourne Central Shopping Centre with Childcare, Retail & Cinema



Scan me to find out more



RayWhite

What are you waiting for? Call me today.

Recent Results:

203/108 Flinders Street, Melbourne
612/565 Flinders Street, Melbourne
603/155 Franklin Street, Melbourne
411/108 Flinders Street, Melbourne (Under Offer)

For all leasing enquiries, please contact:



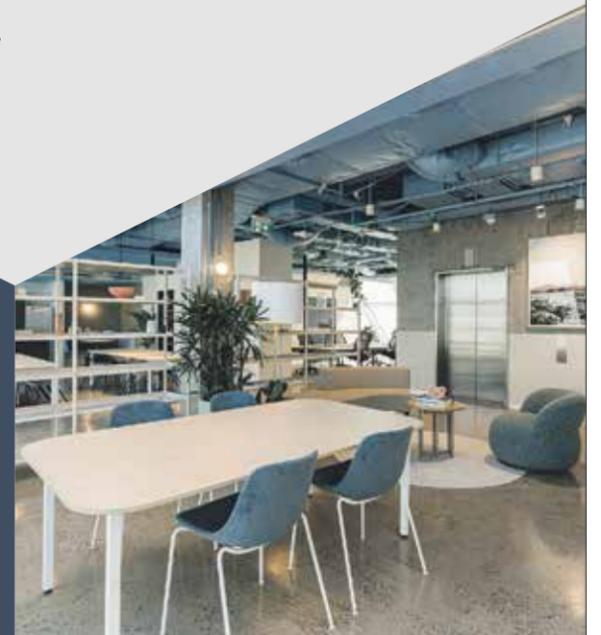
Alexandra Harper
0407 052 070
James Palmer
0438 155 359



Simon Hale
0417 147 785
James Pappas
0419 319 367



*Approx



0402 670 441 | trent.bonnici@raywhite.com | www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au



“Senseless” graffiti vandals target city

COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Graffiti vandals have been defacing buildings and empty shop-front windows in the CBD in what a residents' association has described as “shocking” and “senseless”.

According to Jenny Eltham of the EastEnders group, incidents of graffiti had become an increasing issue – with vandals targeting Elizabeth St, Little Bourke St, Bourke Street Mall and the Royal Children's Hospital.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said city cleanliness was a priority with teams regularly patrolling the city to identify litter and graffiti “so it can be dealt with quickly”.

“We need everyone to play their part by using the available bins, and reporting any areas that need attention,” the spokesperson said.

The council confirmed it had cleaned more than 70,000 square metres of graffiti within the municipality in the past year – more than three MCG playing fields.

The City of Melbourne said it reported graffiti that required action to private businesses.

Graffiti and littering can be reported via the council's website ●

Reverend creates history as first indigenous canon

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

Reverend Glenn Loughrey of St Paul's Cathedral has made history after being appointed as the first indigenous canon in the cathedral's history.

The much-loved parish priest, artist, and Wiradjuri man said he was “both excited and humbled” by the honour which also saw him named as artist in residence this month.

Based in the heart of Melbourne's CBD, Rev Canon Loughrey combines his passions for the arts and justice for First Nations people with his ministry as a priest.

It is the first time in the Cathedral's 141-year history that Rev Canon Loughrey has become the first Aboriginal canon – which is a member of the cathedral's chapter of priests and responsible for the cathedral's administration.

“I am both excited and humbled to be appointed as the Cathedral Canon – artist-in-residence and to be the first to represent First Nations People in the Mother Church of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne in this way,” he said.

“Creativity is central to both my traditions (Anglican and Wiradjuri) and I look forward to watching what comes into being within the Cathedral and the diocese as a result of this appointment.”

Rev Canon Loughrey came to Melbourne in 2015 to lead the parish of St Oswald's in Glen Iris after serving Anglican churches in Queensland and New South Wales.

His artwork fuses Indigenous art styles with



▲ Reverend Canon Glenn Loughrey of St Paul's Cathedral (right) with the Dean of Melbourne, the Very Reverend Dr Andreas Loewe.

western forms of storytelling, which has seen him as a finalist in the Moran Portrait Prize (2018) and the Mandorla, Blake and Paddington Art prizes (2020).

His works have been exhibited at St Paul's Cathedral, St John's Cathedral Brisbane and in churches and galleries in Victoria and New South Wales, including the Koorie Heritage Trust at Federation Square.

Rev Canon Loughrey's current exhibition, *Love Letters to Country*, is showing at Hearth Art Healesville until August 31.

During the past two years, he has also worked with the chapter on the creation of a large-scale First Nations glass artwork to pay tribute to the traditional owners of the lands on which St

“

I am both excited and humbled to be appointed as the Cathedral Canon.

”

Paul's Cathedral stands.

By etching his name in the history books, Rev Canon Loughrey is the second First Nations artist-in-residence, following Maori artist and priest Regan O'Callaghan.

The Dean of Melbourne, the Very Reverend Dr Andreas Loewe said he was delighted that chapter had made the historic appointment of Rev Canon Loughrey.

“Canon Glenn's appointment honours the strong contribution he has already made—through the arts and cultural education—to the Cathedral's journey with First Nations people,” he said.

“We recognise that his full-time ministry as a priest will very much continue to be at St Oswald's Church. I very much look forward to his commissioning as a Cathedral canon and artist in residence, and the installation of two of his art works at St Paul's later this month.” ●

Vacant shopfronts revived in the CBD

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUSINESS

A host of empty shopfronts in the CBD's eastern end are set to be transformed into space for artists, artisans and entrepreneurs.

In a move to revitalise areas hit hard by COVID-19, empty shopfronts will be converted into creative spaces, bespoke displays and pop-up shops.

The \$2.6 million joint Victorian Government and City of Melbourne program will initially target three areas with the highest vacancy rates across the city—the CBD's eastern end, Docklands and Carlton (Lygon St).

These areas were deemed most in need of activation via data collected through monthly vacant shopfront audits and anecdotal evidence.

Specifically within the CBD, the program will be enacted on three



streets: Bourke, Little Bourke and Little Collins (all between Spring St and Swanston St).

Examples range from short-term activations – including lighting and artwork in the shopfront, and window displays of products from local businesses – to longer-term 12-month tenancies for small or micro businesses to get into the market on “favourable rental terms”.

The council's business chair Kevin

Louey said while repeated lockdowns were disheartening, it was important the council was proactive when the city reopened.

“It's a spiraling effect we're going through at the moment,” he said at an August 3 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, just two days before Melbourne entered its sixth lockdown period.

“I think as the days and if not weeks and months go past ... the

unpredictability of what will happen in the future, I think we need to be able to give some confidence to these precincts that at least we will provide some activity, try and generate pedestrian traffic and get things happening to make it more inviting.”

A panel of suppliers has been appointed to work with commercial property owners, leasing agents and businesses with vacant or underused spaces.

These suppliers will then connect owners and agents with creatives and entrepreneurs to provide flexible, short-term licence agreements.

If done well, the council believes the program will be a win-win for both parties.

In May 2021, around one in five shops across the City of Melbourne were vacant or temporarily closed due to COVID-19.

The City of Melbourne said it was “likely that the vacancy rate will rise as a result of subsequent lockdowns”

Cr Louey said some of the vacancy figures were “scary”.

“I think it's evident that as we walk around the city today, that it's disheartening to see the amount of devastation and the vacancies in the retail sector, particularly I've spent a great deal of my life in Chinatown and I knew most of – actually all of – the big operators that have had to close in the last 12 months and it's very sad that those successful operators that have been there 30 to 40 years have now gone and the premises are vacant.”

Cr Louey noted, however, that some new city businesses had opened their doors in recent months, in a development that spoke to an ongoing “confidence within the city”.

The council said it was open to expanding the shopfront activation program into new areas, and that management was due to report back on progress in February 2022 ●

Tea Rooms unveil new-look home at historic building

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

One of Melbourne's oldest tea rooms and cake shop hopes to give its new home in the CBD a makeover under plans to be considered by City of Melbourne.

Owners of the Hopetoun Tea Rooms at 421 Bourke St want to spruce up the historic building to serve as a business for the “coming decades”.

The revamp plans come as the tea rooms recently moved from the Block Arcade after their 128-year lease came to an end.

An application by Ratio Consultants on behalf of the owners seeks a permit to undertake partial demolition and alterations of the heritage-listed building as well as install a new side entry door, new signage, and new dome window awnings at the front of Bourke St/McKillop St shopfront.

Also proposed is a retractable window

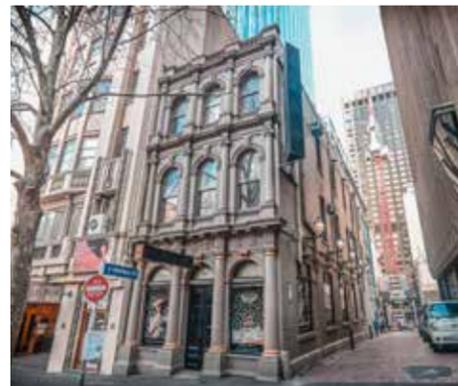
awning for a laneway and a new outdoor dining alfresco space.

The existing building was previously occupied by a jewellery store, studio and gallery with the owners now seeking approval to paint the exterior a pale green colour “to complement the heritage elements of the building”.

Other features in the plan include a green marble floor on the first and ground floors, brass fixtures and fittings, white porcelain marble on the second-floor bathroom walls, and a gold glass mirror inside the arches of the ground floor counter.

Artist's impressions of the plans show the final look which the submission stated will be a “respectful and of responsive design that will have little impact upon the heritage significance of the building itself”.

“The business has survived the last pandemic, World Wars and is now working hard to survive this current pandemic so that this Melbourne icon can stay to serve the next generation and contribute to the ‘foodie’ culture and laneway character of the city,” the submission said.



“The proposal will support the activation of its street frontages, encourage laneway connections and look to support the future strengthening of shared areas and pedestrianisation in line with the relevant objectives of built forms policy and controls.”

According to Hopetoun Tea Rooms' website, the tea rooms' iconic cake display window will

be retained.

City of Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the tea rooms “have been an iconic part of Melbourne since 1892” and “we're excited this city institution has found a new home on Bourke Street in another heritage building”.

“This application will be carefully considered by council, with the application assessed on its merits,” he said.

“Melbourne businesses have been among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and council is always looking for ways we can encourage businesses to remain and expand their presence in the city.”

The tea rooms were first opened in 1892 as the Ladies Association of Victoria by Lady Hopetoun, wife of the Victorian governor and Australia's first governor-general.

It was then renamed as the Hopetoun Tea Rooms in 1907 and is known as the oldest afternoon tea service in Melbourne after the Windsor Hotel and the oldest cake shop since the 1910s ●



Pedestrians benefit from Elizabeth St revamp

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

More than four years after its proposed start date, streetscape upgrades at the southern end of Elizabeth St have finally been completed.

Pedestrians will benefit most from the works, with an extra 400 square metres of footpath space – roughly the size of a basketball court – plus new trees and street furniture installed.

A new drain network was also installed to alleviate the chance of flooding, the last of which occurred in 2011 when a severe rainstorm caused flash flooding and disruptions to the transport network.

Works were originally due to begin in June 2017, however a series of delays meant it did not begin until 2021.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the project would ensure those on foot would now experience a “safer, cleaner and more inviting space”, and acknowledged the impact of continued delays.

“This project has delivered significant improvements for one of the busiest parts of our city – making it easier for people to move, shop, eat and meet,” she said.

“This has been a long and at times frustrating project and I want to thank residents, shoppers, workers, visitors and most importantly local businesses for their patience while these works were delivered.”

The stretch of Elizabeth St south, between Flinders St and Flinders Lane, is one of the busiest pedestrian areas in Melbourne.

Before COVID-19, up to 10,000 people would cross at the Flinders St and Elizabeth St intersection every hour during the morning peak.

It has been referred to as the “gateway” to the city, as it serves commuters exiting Flinders Street Station, the busiest station on Melbourne’s metropolitan network.

However, it has long been earmarked for renewal.

Former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle called it the “ugly duckling” of the city, and “pretty grotty” in 2016.

Beyond aesthetics, it was also seen as an inefficient and even unsafe area at times for pedestrians ●

Fifth CBD precinct group emerges

Continued from page 1.

precinct program – City Precinct Inc., Collins Street Precinct, Greek Precinct Association and Chinatown Precinct Association.

The council’s business and global opportunities portfolio lead Cr Kevin Louey said the new association represented an “energetic” and “emerging” area of Melbourne.

“A precinct association plays an important role in bringing together stakeholders to share information, generate ideas and initiatives, and promote the precinct and its members,” Cr Louey said. “The City of Melbourne currently provides financial support to 10 precinct associations, including the newly-established Melbourne City North Association.”

“The Melbourne City North precinct area represents an energetic and emerging area of Melbourne, with a large student community and the soon to be constructed Metro Tunnel station. This area has not previously been specifically represented by a precinct association.”

“The City of Melbourne will continue to work closely with these established precinct associations, to leverage energy, ideas and programs to support local traders.”

The council has provided funding to eligible trader groups through its business precinct program since 1999.

More than \$830,000 has been allocated to 10 recognised precinct associations through the program this financial year. The council said these associations collectively represented nearly 1300 Melbourne businesses.

CBD News will provide more information on the emerging precinct and its members in the October edition.

For all enquiries email: info@melbournecitynorthbusiness.com.au

Businesses hurt amid “devastating” lockdown

While news of the City North precinct group comes as welcome news to the CBD’s business community, Lord Mayor Sally Capp says the state’s sixth lockdown “is having a devastating impact on city businesses” as more shop owners weighed-up whether to “close up for good”.

“Even the most resilient of small business owners are struggling to stay positive and prepare themselves for bounce back six,” she said.

It comes as *CBD News* spoke to several businesses who said they were on their knees without JobKeeper for employees, while others spoke of temporarily closing their doors as trading had not been viable under COVID restrictions and foot traffic had been reduced to a trickle. ●

Bill Morton, manager of the popular The Paperback Bookshop in Bourke St, said like many small businesses they too had endured “tough conditions”.

“You can see the tangible results of the lockdown in terms of businesses who haven’t made it,” he said of neighbouring shops.

“We’re just trying to get through it as best we can. Each time it [lockdown] happens and each time it’s extended it gets a bit more difficult. A big part of our base is not local – it’s office workers who are not coming into the CBD.”

“Each lockdown we’re down by between 75 and 80 per cent. It’s not sustainable unfortunately,” Mr Morton said, but added they were grateful to have kept staff, while continuing to serve customers through click-and-collect and phone orders.

Lawrence Laphouras, who runs Andrew’s Bread Shop at the Queen Victoria Market, said he was forced to work on his own “because I can’t really afford to pay any wages”.

“We can only rely on locals,” he said but even then, foot traffic during weekdays was “completely dead”. He said while the market’s management “have done all they can” including rent relief “everyone is running out of money – what can you do?”

John Gleeson, owner of Your Personal Dry Cleaner in Collins St, said he saw six customers in one day – well down on the 50 to 80 customers he and his wife used to serve per day before COVID hit Australian shores.

“I’m sort of out of savings now,” he said. “We’re only open for four hours in the middle of the day and usually one of us comes in because it’s really just a few pick-ups.”

Mr Gleeson said fortunately he had received a government cash grant of \$2800 – which he conceded didn’t go far but “it means I’m not building up a whole pile of debt”.

Angelo Labrador, owner of bakery-café Brick Lane Melbourne in Guilford Lane, said his store had remained open for takeaway and deliveries.

“We’ve been able to continue trading so the stretch hasn’t been too hard but it’s always tough not having people in the store” he said, but added he was grateful to have kept staff on and get government support “where we can”.

“It’s hard for people in the city. We’re still here, still open so we encourage takeaway.”

In the Chinatown precinct, the Chinese Valentine’s Day celebration (that was to be held on August 14) became the latest event to fall victim to the impact of the lockdown.

“They’re hoping when things ease and with the support of the City of Melbourne and the state government there’s something to look forward to but it has really hit them hard,” Eng Lim, vice-president of the Chinatown Precinct Association said of their business owners ●

For more head to cbdnews.com.au

Dining scheme set to return after injecting \$40m into the city

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUSINESS

The City of Melbourne’s popular Melbourne Money scheme – which pumped \$40 million into the city’s economy – is set to return for “another round” once the sixth lockdown ends.

Councillors voted unanimously in support of bringing back the scheme at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on August 17 after cafes, bars, and restaurants reported “experiencing a noticeable increase” in customers when the program ran from June 11 to July 13.

The scheme was launched in a bid to lure visitors back to Melbourne and reactivate the city as it emerged from rolling lockdowns, with diners able to claim a 20 per cent rebate on their meals when they spent between \$50 and \$500 within the municipality.

A total of 270,216 claims were made as part of the program with the average claim being \$149, according to a council report presented at the FMC meeting.

The average rebate was \$30 with 66 per cent of claims made by visitors from outside the municipality. Overall, the scheme contributed \$40 million in economic stimulus.

The CBD topped the list for claims at popular dining destinations followed by Carlton, Southbank and Docklands.

The results also showed that three in every four Melbourne Money participants had come to the city specifically to go out for meals or drinks while 85 per cent of all claimants indicated that Melbourne Money was “a key factor in their decision” to visit the city.

Activity also “increased much more quickly” during the program compared to February after the state plunged into its second lockdown.

Speaking at the council meeting, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said Melbourne Money had provided a “vital lifeline” for restaurants and eateries at “the time of greatest need”.

“I think Melbourne Money has been one of the best inventions or innovations to come out of this crisis,” he said. “It really has been a lifeline for so many businesses.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp also hailed the scheme a success, saying it delivered the “most value possible to hospitality businesses”.

The council will work with the state government to deliver round two of Melbourne Money “as soon as possible” after the state’s sixth lockdown ended.

When the scheme was launched in June the state government provided \$7.4 million, while the City of Melbourne contributed \$1.2 million ●

Want to advertise to our hyper-local audience?

Hyper-local print works for advertisers in our digital world because local people are interested in local news.

Contact us to tailor your next campaign to our engaged CBD readership.

P: 0401 031 236
E: jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au

CBD NEWS



“Gains have been lost”: Office occupancy plummets again

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PROPERTY

Repeat lockdowns have decimated Melbourne's CBD workplaces, with just 12 per cent of office space occupied compared with pre-COVID levels.

In further worrying news for retail, hospitality and other businesses reliant on the presence of office workers inside the Hoddle Grid, demand for commercial space was now at its lowest point since the recession of the 1990s, according to the Property Council of Australia.

Earlier this year, workers had begun returning to offices within the CBD, and by April numbers were at 45 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.

An uptick was particularly evident when masks were no longer mandated inside office environments.

However, Melbourne's fourth, fifth and sixth lockdowns (in May/June, July, and August respectively) had severely dented that recovery.

The Property Council's Victorian executive director Danni Hunter said the repeated blows were devastating.

“All of the gains of earlier this year have now been lost as workers have again deserted the CBD with no sign of a bounce back as we endure our third lockdown in as many months,” Ms Hunter said.

The Property Council figures, which measured office occupancy as a percentage of

pre-COVID levels for all Australian CBDs, were recorded in late July.

Melbourne's 12 per cent of occupied office space was well behind other state capitals such as Hobart (95 per cent), Perth (78 per cent) and Brisbane (67 per cent).

However, it was ahead of Sydney, which dramatically dropped from 67 per cent in June to seven per cent in July amid the city's protracted lockdown due to the Delta variant.

Vacancy rates in Melbourne's CBD were now at a 20-year high, and Ms Hunter said Melbourne would only improve amid higher vaccination uptake.

“Until vaccination rates increase, we face the prospect of more lockdowns. Clearly our CBD is in crisis and needs urgent attention. We have seen a number of survival plans but we now need a plan for revival,” she said.

“The plan needs to address how we attract people safely back into the CBD, support our iconic retail and hospitality sectors and attract new, long-term investment so Melbourne continues to be a place to live, work and invest.”

The longer-term economic outlook within the Hoddle Grid remained positive, however.

Last month *CBD News* reported a Deloitte Access Economics report that had projected the CBD economy would “roar back to life” and return to pre-COVID levels in the second half of 2024.

Despite being one of Australia's worst-hit areas as a result of the coronavirus, the report — commissioned by the City of Melbourne

“Until vaccination rates increase, we face the prospect of more lockdowns. Clearly our CBD is in crisis and needs urgent attention. We have seen a number of survival plans but we now need a plan for revival”



— revealed that the central Melbourne economy “will have put the pandemic behind it by 2024”

However, the research was finalised in May and did not factor in the three consecutive lockdowns that would follow.

It is not known whether these lockdowns would push back those recovery projections.

Prior to COVID-19, Melbourne's CBD was one of the nation's fastest-growing economies.

Ms Hunter laid out her blueprint for recovery within the central city.

“We need to focus on solutions that attract Victorians back to the city through transport incentives, proper long-term planning, meaningful investment, a world-class program of sporting, arts and other cultural events and a strategic return of the education sector,” she said.

“A concerted effort is what we need, across government, the City of Melbourne and the business sector to not just support the CBD but enable it to grow and flourish once again.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp has similarly stressed the need for Melbourne to reach its 70 per cent vaccination target as “our only way towards certainty”.

“We want to get [there] as soon as possible,” Cr Capp said.

“It means that we're protecting ourselves and our most vulnerable. It means we can do the things that we miss, see the people we love, and we can safely reignite our city economy.” ●

From trash to treasure ... light-up installation transforms CBD laneway

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
ARTS & CULTURE

A colourful art installation featuring preloved dollhouses once destined for landfill has breathed new life into a narrow CBD laneway.

Set in Corrs Lane, the pop-up light installation — called *In Every Dream Home a Heart Ache* by Melbourne artist Natty Solo — has left visitors in awe.

It is one of 40 artworks commissioned by the City of Melbourne and the state government as part of the Flash Forward project to revitalise some of city's lesser-known laneways.

“It's really nostalgic. When you see it, you dial up all the warm and fuzzy feelings which is pretty handy right now,” Ms Solo told *CBD News* this month during Melbourne's sixth lockdown.



Ms Solo set about creating her installation over four months by “kerb-crawling” through her neighbourhood and picking through hard rubbish and reusing any children's playhouses she could get her hands on.

“Just checking what people throw out says a lot about us,” she said.

“I paid for a few key pieces ... but for the scale of the work, it's really not cost me a lot.”

She also found items advertised for free on Facebook Marketplace which

was “terrific rather than things going to waste”.

Described as part winter wonderland and part environmental horror show, Ms Solo said her installation was “like a pop-up outdoor sculpture held together with cable ties and milk crates”.

“Art galleries have a certain vibe about them and I really enjoyed being able to short-circuit that. People stumbling on artwork, walking down the street ... it's just a totally different thing really.”

By repurposing dollhouses, Ms Solo's artwork explores concepts of suburban life, throw-away societies and the environmental impact of aspirational toys.

The idea of a house, she said, was also a key theme of her work because they had “become really front and centre because we're now grid-locked into our homes”.

“Australia seems pretty enamoured with the housing market which is sort of a runaway train that seems to have no end.”

Ms Solo, who is a professional sculptor, said creating the installation was a “really great experience” and “because it's preloved dollhouses we allow the children to touch and play with the work.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the installation had drawn many Melbourne families into Chinatown to “see the stunning and thought-provoking display”.

Cr Capp said the Flash Forward program was aimed at delivering artistic projects that “reimagine our city laneways” while creating jobs for Victorians who had been impacted by COVID-19.

“Melbourne's laneway culture is internationally renowned and this investment will make our city more

vibrant, more welcoming and more attractive, which will help local businesses once thrive when restrictions are eased,” she said.

Employment Minister Jaala Pulford said, “These projects are bringing new life to our laneways and generating jobs for workers in some of the industries hardest hit by the pandemic.”

Smythe Lane, Evans Lane, Drewery Lane, Corrs Lane and Royal Arcade are among the CBD locations receiving a spruce-up, giving new life to the laneways.

In Every Dream Home a Heart Ache closes September 5 ●

For more information:
flash-fwd.com

Booksellers unite in new chapter to halt city exodus

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
KNOWLEDGE

Like many booksellers, Dino Traverso of Dymocks bookshop in the CBD has found it tough to attract new customers amid repeated lockdowns.

“It's very challenging for any business and we're no different,” he said of his Collins St shop during Melbourne's sixth lockdown.

“If we can do click-and-collect and phone orders it helps us tick over a little bit at least.”

But through a new scheme called Melbourne City Reads he hopes readers of all kinds will be back through his doors in droves once the lockdown ends.

His shop along with Hill of Content bookshop on Bourke St, Mary Martin Southbank and Queen Victoria Market, North Melbourne Books, The Paperback Bookshop, Readings Carlton, and Readings State Library will showcase a different book each month with a 25 per cent discount on the cover price.

This first title to be offered will be *Small Joys of Real Life*, the first novel by Allee Richards, who had also planned to speak at a free event in September as part of this year's Melbourne

Writers Festival. However, with all live events recently cancelled due to the Melbourne's lockdown extension, they will now transition to the MWF digital program.

Other authors to be featured in the initiative, which will run from August to November and supported by the City of Melbourne, include Miles Allinson, Emily Bitto, and Maxine Beneba Clarke.

“We're very happy to be involved and we're happy to support Melbourne authors,” Mr Traverso said. “Anything that engages customers to come and see their favourite bookshops in the city is a great idea.”

“Hopefully soon we'll reopen again and people can come and see us and support our local authors and support their local businesses.”

“We just want our customers to know we will definitely be in it for the long run.”

Diana Johnston, manager and part-owner of Hill of Content Bookshop, welcomed the initiative, saying “the response we've had so far has been tremendous and we have certainly sold many copies of *Small Joys of Real Life*”.

“Our customers have sent messages of support for this promotion and are keen to purchase Allee's book, often with other purchases, to help ensure their local bookshop is still there



once this virus is under control and life returns to some sort of normality,” she said.

“Online sales are not sustainable for us as we simply cannot compete with full time online business and large international companies.”

“We have only been able to trade via click-and-collect with some online orders but our business relies so much on people browsing,

and on our ability to interact with the customer to satisfy their reading needs.”

Bookseller Mark Rubbo of Readings said he hoped the program would encourage passionate readers to buy books while celebrating a literary culture he believed to be “one of the richest in the world”.

He said lockdowns and an exit of city offices had a “terrible impact” on booksellers.

“Our shop in the State Library is 60 per cent down on its pre-COVID levels, [and] our Carlton shop 12 to 20 per cent down,” he said.

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp encouraged everyone to “celebrate their inner bookworm” through the new program.

“Melbourne's bookshops are just as much a part of our culture as our laneways and restaurants,” she said.

“They offer endless entertainment and knowledge while shining a light on Melbourne writers and stories set in our marvellous city” ●

For more information:
mwf.com.au

The flash brothels of Little Lon

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
HISTORY

A major historical study has been made of the flash brothels that proliferated in the 19th century in an area of the CBD known colloquially as Little Lon.

The study by Barbara Minchinton mounts a huge argument in favour of the positive influence of small business on the CBD.

Her book *The Women of Little Lon* demonstrates how women ran and owned these businesses, creating a colourful culture.

Little Lon is the name given to the city block bounded by Lonsdale, Spring, Exhibition and Little Lonsdale streets.

The study found that sex workers in the 19th century were lively women, doing deals, making money and generally directing their own lives.

They ran brothels, rented rooms known as cribs and created a laneway culture that would be the envy of the City of Melbourne today.

Yet, sadly, not one building connected to the sex workers remains.

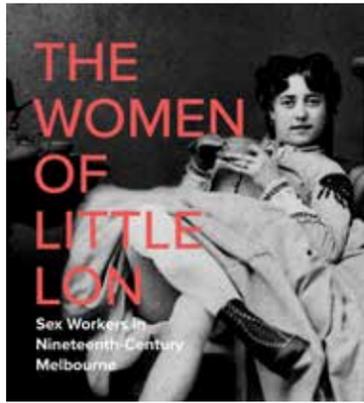
If you use the map compiled by Minchinton for her research and take a walk through Little Lon it is difficult to marry the stories in the book with what exists now on the ground.

Madame Brussels Lane has been recreated and an archeological dig provides some interpretations, but this book really brings home what has been lost from the CBD in the name of progress.

One of the original hotels is still trading but the rest of the buildings that made up the city's red light district have been swallowed up by office towers, mostly government ones.

The culture of Little Lon that Minchinton re-invents is as vivid as the working-class neighbourhood depicted in the TV series *Call the Midwife*. Women are doing their trade, having their babies and generally enjoying the community they have created.

Madame Brussels wasn't the only formidable character or madam in the community. Other significant women researched by Minchinton include the cigar-smoking Annie Britton, the luxury-craving Sarah Fraser who decorated 24 rooms exquisitely in Exhibition St, and the songster Sarah



Saqui, daughter of a Jewish professor of music.

But most of the sex workers at the 46 brothels identified in Little Lon in 1874 were Irish and they loved to dress up, dance and go to the theatre, much to the annoyance of some of the more respectable folk living nearby.

Prostitution, then as now, is a class issue. Most women were driven by economics to take up the trade. One domestic servant was given three nights a week off from her job to catch up with friends and she earned far more on the streets during that time than she did in servitude. Her weekly wages were barely enough to buy a pair of shoes.

Minchinton has done plenty of archival research, aided by recent digital databases that cross reference ancestries. She uses this to supplement more official documents such as police and newspaper records which tend to accentuate the misdemeanours of "disorderly" houses and the charges laid.

The book is full of amusing anecdotes, names more than 100 sex workers and looks at the attitudes of the hedonistic Chief Commissioner of Police, Captain Frederick Standish.

With Standish as chief commissioner, the police "practiced tolerance and management of prostitution, rather than condemnation and suppression".

Sex work was not illegal, and it prospered until the *Police Offences Act 1907* made it illegal for keepers of brothels to make a profit and that was the end of the flash brothels of Little Lon.

The Women of Little Lon, Barbara Minchinton, La Trobe University Press with Black Inc, 2021 ●

Council offers vaccine incentives

WORDS BY Steven Nguyen
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne is offering \$100,000 worth of prizes to incentivise more Melburnians to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

The latest initiative to help keep Melbourne open comes amid the federal government's 80 per cent vaccination rate target, which it has said will be required in order to ease restrictions, end lockdowns and open up overseas travel.

The council's own vaccination push kicked off on radio on August 16 and was followed by the launch of a social media campaign offering the chance to win a prize a day with a total prize pool valued at \$100,000.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said now was perhaps the most dangerous time to be unvaccinated and urged Melburnians to come out in record numbers to get the jab.

The campaign is designed to motivate more people to get vaccinated with 10 \$5000 "Melbourne Experience" packages up for grabs through a two-week radio promotion.

Part two of the campaign asks people to share their vaccine hero stories and what they're looking forward to when Melbourne opens again, with the chance to win a prize valued at \$1000 every day for six weeks.

The \$5000 Melbourne experience prize packages include a \$1250 Emporium voucher, \$1000 Melbourne Central voucher, \$250 Endota Spa voucher, \$1000 accommodation voucher, \$500 dining voucher, and four *Frozen the Musical* tickets valued at \$1000.

The \$1000 shopping vouchers are for Melbourne Central, Emporium and the Queen Victoria Market.

The campaign will run for eight weeks from August 16. For more information visit melbourne.vic.gov.au ●

Council seeks Greenline feedback

WORDS BY David Schout
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has asked for public feedback on the proposed \$300 million Greenline project along the Yarra River's Northbank.

Touted as one of the city's biggest projects in recent decades, Greenline proposes a four-kilometre pedestrian and cyclist pathway from Birrarung Marr all the way to the Bolte Bridge.

And, until October 3, the council wants the public's view on how it might look.

"It's vital that we deliver projects in partnership with the community and stakeholders. That's why we are seeking feedback and ideas ahead of finalising detailed plans," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"Take a look at our initial plans and get involved in shaping one of Melbourne's most significant projects."

Greenline was a key election pledge from Cr Capp, who made Greenline a key part of her 2018 by-election and 2020 general election strategies, winning on both occasions.

She has said it would represent Melbourne's "biggest transformation" since the opening of Federation Square in 2002.

"Greenline will create one of the largest networks of green spaces in Melbourne – delivering a premier destination for workers, tourists and residents to enjoy," she said on August 21.

"New pedestrian boardwalks, parks, native plantings and a celebration of our Aboriginal heritage and culture will help to create a world-class river precinct which will attract more visitors and investment to our city."

Draft Greenline plans released earlier this year were particularly critical of the Northbank's current condition. Despite possessing a "rich history and distinctive features", it was described as of "poor quality", "lacking activity", "prone to safety and security issues", and was an "overall underwhelming experience".

It also noted that connectivity from the CBD to the Northbank was "poor", and said it did not compare favourably with Southbank which was "sunny, attractive, and generally well-maintained pedestrianised public spaces and active building frontages".



Floating wetlands trial

The council has also called on suitable companies to help deliver a "floating wetlands" project along the river.

Identified in the City of Melbourne's 2019 Yarra River Birrarung Strategy, the project proposed floating structures with vegetation at the water's edge.

Citing examples in Chicago, San Antonio, Paris and New York, it would seek to restore biodiverse habitats along the river despite an urbanised edge that normally limited these opportunities.

Environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said the trial would help protect the river's native environment.

"The Yarra River – Birrarung is Melbourne's most iconic waterway and the foundation around which the entire city was built," Cr Leppert said.

"It's vital that we explore new ways to protect the river environment so it can be enjoyed for generations to come. Through the floating wetlands trial, we will test how we can protect and support ecology and biodiversity along the riverbank. We're calling for companies to get involved and help us design a better way to protect our river banks."

To have your say on the Greenline project, head to Participate Melbourne ●

For more information:

participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au



Vibrant mural brings life to iconic lane

WORDS BY Brendan Rees
ARTS & CULTURE

A Melbourne street artist has transformed a blank wall in the heart of the CBD into a stunning mural thanks to a new program reactivating the city.

David "MEGGS" Hooke spent three days using acrylic paints to create his masterpiece in Flinders Lane, which he described as a "connectivity of natural elements".

"We were able to get the mural done in the nick of time," MEGGS said before Melbourne was plunged into lockdown in August.

His mural – to be officially launched after Melbourne's sixth lockdown ends – forms part of *Xplore Melbourne*, a free augmented reality outdoor art exhibition for everyone to enjoy.

Visitors can scan a QR code which will "unlock art, music and different treasures" with special offers, giveaways and prizes embedded

throughout the interactive journey spanning 10 CBD locations.

It works by simply holding a mobile device towards an artwork which reveals an interactive experience, bringing Melbourne's art to life.

For MEGGS, the opportunity to create his 7.5- by 2.5-metre artwork was "exciting", particularly being able to experiment with the augmented reality component which he said was "new territory" but it had "come together really well".

"For me I absorb a lot of colour and textures that I take from landscapes that I've explored," he said.

"It has a directional flow to it, it's sort of about capturing a time of movement and flow – in this particular piece when it animates it reveals a golden wattle."

MEGGS's passion for street art began in 2003 and he has since gone on to produce work for the Spencer St Arcade and the 2021 Australian Open.

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor



Sally Capp said *Xplore Melbourne* was important in supporting local businesses, helping keep Melburnians in jobs, and ensuring a "swifter and stronger" economic recovery.

Prizes for the program include retailer discounts, free tickets to the National Gallery of Victoria, multi-night stays at a CBD hotel, and more ●

For more information:

xploremelb.com.au

ADVERTISEMENT
Your City of Melbourne community update

LORD MAYOR'S COMMENDATIONS

MADE WITH LOVE: HONOURS FOR JEWELLER CAMILLA GOUGH

If you've ever wandered through the gothic halls of Melbourne's iconic Manchester Unity Building, you may have seen Camilla Gough at work - a master jeweller who turns stories into tiny, exquisite works of art.

For more than 25 years, Camilla has created uniquely personal, 100 per cent handcrafted jewellery for customers seeking a memento of love or loss, or simply a beautiful piece to treasure.



Jeweller Camilla Gough has been awarded a Lord Mayor's Commendation.

With formal training in fine art and sculpture, Camilla moved into ethical jewellery-making almost by chance, painstakingly teaching herself the skills of the trade.

'I'm so lucky to do what I do. I approach each piece like an artist and - while I make a huge variety of work - I have a very strong style. It's not wacky, but it's unusual,' Camilla said.

'I only make something once, so it's got to suit, fit and be comfortable for that person to wear all the time. Most of my pieces are rings, and anything worn on the hand must be wearable as well as elegant.'

Camilla works with gold, diamonds and precious gems, with a particular focus on rare and coloured diamonds.

Her commissions evoke landscapes, flowers, architecture, ocean shorelines and even rockpools, designed in response to customer stories. It's meticulous work and full of detail.

'I love hearing people's stories, which are sometimes deeply personal. After these conversations, I write and draw to develop a design,' Camilla said.

'I love the Australian environment passionately (I'm a big hiker), so I work a lot with landscapes - like the view from the house where someone grew up. Or an echo of another country where someone comes from.

'To come and get a piece of jewellery commissioned takes a sense of courage. Sitting opposite a craftsman having to express yourself isn't for everyone. But there's a magical vibe around it.'

Before 2020, Camilla was mostly making wedding jewellery, but COVID-19 saw this work disappear overnight. Fortunately - after a nerve-racking time - Camilla's business bounced back strongly.

Many of her customers remained employed during the pandemic and - after saving money on overseas trips - sought out special gifts for loved ones.

'Women and men were coming to me wanting to give their partner a piece of jewellery to thank them for everything they were doing, like home-schooling and working from home. Just out of love,' Camilla said.

'It took a while, but eventually my market really opened up. It feels almost immoral to say it while so many businesses are struggling, but I've now

got more work than I've ever had. It's extraordinary.

'As an artist you're always fearful that you won't have enough work but, for the first time in a while, I feel genuinely buoyant.'

Never caring to imitate the commercial market, Camilla's work has always stood out, which helped her carve out a niche for herself even as other high-end jewellery stores cropped up across Melbourne.

As technology began to transform the retail sector, Camilla embraced social media to remain visible. Hard work, determination, fluidity and routine have been key to her success.

Looking to the future, Camilla hopes that Melbourne's creative sector will recover and evolve with support from all levels of government.

'I have so many friends who are artists, and my husband is a musician, and it breaks my heart to see them suffering. The cultural impact the arts has on Melbourne is profound, so it has to be valued,' Camilla said.

'We need to rethink how to run festivals safely and find ways to support artists to stay in Melbourne, like creating studios in vacant office buildings.

'Otherwise, artists won't be able to afford to keep creating here and Melbourne will lose that unique visual landscape of people that makes it such an interesting place to be.'

The City of Melbourne has recognised Camilla in this year's Lord Mayor's Commendations, a program that celebrates the vast contributions small businesses make to our city.

'I love working in this city, so I am very proud to receive a commendation,' Camilla said.

'My studio is above Swanston Street - I'm seven floors up with tall windows overlooking Melbourne Town Hall.

'The sunlight in the studio is beautiful in the morning, it's very romantic and the perfect setting to create jewellery to celebrate love. Customers are always "wowed" by the space. I'm very lucky.'

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/commendations

IN-BRIEF

WINDOW SHOPPING

More than 75 empty shopfronts will be transformed into makers' spaces, art installations and pop-up shops to boost foot traffic and bring the buzz back to the city. Shopfronts in Lygon Street, Docklands and CBD east will be revitalised in the \$2.6 million program, part of the City of Melbourne and Victorian Government \$100m Melbourne City Recovery Fund.

MONEY WELL SPENT

Melburnians have claimed millions in cash back through the Melbourne Money dining discount program, with funds from the \$8.4 million scheme exhausted in less than five weeks. More than 270,000 meals were rebated, amounting to \$40 million flowing to more than 3000 city restaurants, cafes and bars.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Do you run a local business? For one-on-one advice, contact our Business Concierge team on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business) or enquire online, and subscribe to our Business in Melbourne newsletter for regular updates, opportunities and activities for city businesses. Sign up at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

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

ABOUT THE LORD MAYOR'S COMMENDATIONS

The business owners showcased on these pages are recipients of this year's Lord Mayor's Commendations. Each has operated in the City of Melbourne for 10 or more years.

The commendations, established in 2005, recognise how important small businesses are to the city's prosperity and liveability.

Photographic exhibitions celebrating this year's winners are on display in September at the Block Arcade and City Library on Flinders Lane.

To read our full profiles on these businesses and more, visit magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au

DOCKLANDS HEALTH

Head to Docklands Health to get expert care from a passionate team of allied health professionals.

Led by Dr Michael Edgley, Docklands Health has gone from strength to strength over a decade, helping patients access treatment that is as fast, holistic and cost-effective as possible.

'At first it was just two of us in a tiny room. Ten years on, we have about 13 practitioners across all sorts of disciplines, including chiropractic care, physiotherapy, psychology, nutrition, podiatry and pilates,' Mike said.

'Over 10 years, I've seen families grow up and workers progress up the corporate ladder. We know couples who've got married and had children who now attend Docklands Primary School, which didn't even exist a few years ago. I really appreciate this aspect of the job.

'If the pandemic had occurred eight years ago, Docklands really would've struggled, but the community



groups - like those formed through Library at the Dock, Probus and Rotary - are now quite well established. This helps people feel more connected.'

PAPA GINO'S

When Gino and Silvana Brosca met working in a northern Italian bar in the 1950s, it sparked a family legacy culminating in Carlton institution Papa Gino's - which they opened together in 1973.

'Food and serving people runs deep for the Broscas,' the couple's son and Papa Gino's owner Alex Brosca said.

'All the kids and grandkids do a stint working part-time at Papa Gino's.

'Some stay, and some go on to other things. Everyone comes back for a feed.'

When asked what sets them apart, Alex says it's the sense of family.

'When we started, we were one of only a handful of pizza restaurants in the city, and we became a popular eating spot for neighbourhood locals.

'We're still serving the locals, despite the demographics changing somewhat.



'A lot of the faithfuls we still welcome by name, and we enjoy meeting new students as they make Carlton their home each year.

'COVID has had an impact but we've sailed through downturns before and can do the same this time.'

DOMAIN DRY CLEANERS

John Athanasiou jokes about working in a small shop space, but vast, jewelled worlds crowd into this dry cleaning business in South Yarra.

Precious costumes from Frozen, a gown from Kylie Minogue - all find their way to Domain Dry Cleaners.

Many of Australia's leading performing arts companies such as Opera Australia and Melbourne Theatre Company trust John's expertise in cleaning their elaborate costumes.

'We did the Australian Ballet for 40 years. We're doing Harry Potter and the Cursed Child and Frozen... and we've done many international bands too,' John said.

A second-generation family-run business, Domain Dry Cleaners has been a South Yarra landmark for more than 40 years. John's father George opened its doors in the 1970s.

While it's hard work, John has a warm and amusing approach when looking back over his accomplishments.



'I break out in a sweat with some costumes. Aladdin was full-on - covered in beads, velvets, silks, that was challenging,' he said.

'Kylie Minogue's dress - they wanted it the same day. It was fully pleated and I just had to shut the shop and dedicate my day to that.'

VERTIGO HIGH ACCESS SPECIALISTS

North Melbourne may be home base for the team at Vertigo High Access Specialists, but its expert climbers soar high and roam far.

For 30 years, this rope access trades business has inspected, cleaned and installed safety systems at some of Victoria's tallest and best-known structures.

'We recently assisted with the replacement of all the speakers and lights at the Melbourne Cricket Ground,' Vertigo Director and CEO John Dollisson said.

'We've done most of the big signs around Melbourne. Probably our biggest claim to fame is designing access systems on the roof of buildings so people can get down the sides to clean and replace windows.'

Vertigo's gallery of images is not for the faint-hearted. Expert team members appear as tiny figures dotting the vast roof of a sports stadium or against a wind turbine. Their ropes stretch across treacherous seas, to help maintain offshore rigs.



'We've had four core guys who've been with us almost the whole time. The key thing is to find good people and hold on to them.'

Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur. All photos taken in line with health and safety guidelines.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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

Connect with us

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



BUSINESS

New life for an old favourite

Can a sequel ever be as good as the original?

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

In most cases, no. The task of evoking comparable nostalgia and infatuation is one that, for many of those that have tried, proves too much.

For Melbourne restaurateur, David Mackintosh, that task was laid out bare when he decided to reincarnate one of inner-Melbourne's landmark cafes, Brunswick East's Pope Joan.

In 2019, together with Pope Joan founder and chef Matt Wilkinson, he began the challenge of uprooting the memories so deeply imbedded in Melbourne's inner north and developing a new identity at a new CBD home in Collins Place.

For Mr Mackintosh, who has held varying tenancies at Collins Place for more than seven years, the evolution of Pope Joan's city iteration has been underpinned by the fundamentals that made the original a success.

"The idea of Pope Joan is for the menu to be accessible, on a price point of view and a style of food. Matt championed a British approach to cooking and always had a strong connection to the producers of the food," Mr Mackintosh said.

"Part of the reason to carry on as the new Pope Joan is to keep those principles in place but continue to add to them. Pope Joan has always had an iconic set of dishes: the Rueben, the Cornish, the rice pudding."

"It is those little icon dishes which have defined Pope in Brunswick and in our city incarnation, there has been more demand for more sophisticated, more complete meals, as well as the much-loved sandwich section."

The principle of fresh, seasonal, Victorian produce weaves its way through the entire Pope Joan menu.

Whether it be the Rueben, using Warialda Beef pastrami, their Cornish, with Milawa roast chicken, or the Pacdon Park bacon used in its egg and bacon roll, each dish is a homage to local famers and artisans, and the people who run them.

A champion of local producers in her own right, Danish-born chef Bente Grybaek, has

recently been appointed as Pope Joan's head, and brings with her a suite of new additions to its embryonic menu.

"Bente has introduced her incredible cultural interpretations of sandwiches called a Smorrebrod, which are Danish open sandwiches and people have been enjoying them," Mr Mackintosh said.

"Part of the reason she wanted the job was that she was similarly committed to telling the story of producers, working with seasonality, and providing a fantastic product."

"We get the opportunity to tell a story and to showcase our producers' commitment to their craft. It's an incredible privilege to put a brand on your menu to say, it's not just chicken, it is Milawa Chicken, it's not just beef, it's Warialda Beef, it's not just bacon, it's Pacdon Park Bacon. It's a pleasure to be able to highlight those things."

In its two and a half years of operation, Pope Joan City has played witness to the full gambit of the hospitality industry's benefits and pitfalls.

After a hugely successful opening prior to the 2019 Australian Open, the remainder of that year saw a burgeoning following, namely at the hands of a strong corporate community.

Business was ticking along nicely, new meals like porcini and truffle ravioli and crispy porchetta, braised cabbage and glazed kipfler potatoes were added to the menu to provide a more complete dining experience.

Then, and inevitable to almost all business-related stories in the CBD during the past 18 months, the pandemic hit.

"By Friday, March 13 we were effectively closed. Since then, we have been open only for the dribs and drabs between lockdowns," Mr Mackintosh said.

"We've had fantastic support from our landlord AMP, they've been outstanding. They recognised very quickly that businesses like Pope Joan are a really important part of their tenancy mix and in order for them to encourage the corporate community to come into work, they need services like ours to provide an important amenity."

"When we have mandated requirements for work from home or mask wearing in offices, those issues severely hamper the daytime



population in the city. If we have been allowed to trade, we have, but it doesn't make a huge amount of sense to stay open for things like take away coffee."

Mr Mackintosh is quick to shift the plight of the hospitality industry, sparing a thought for all businesses throughout the CBD, particularly the city's services industry that is often forgotten about.

This includes the dry cleaners, the cobblers, the physiotherapists: all businesses that rely on a thriving daytime CBD population.

"Our industry knows how to make a bit of noise, but there isn't always huge coverage for these businesses doing it just as tough or even tougher," Mr Mackintosh said.

"In order to make some forward plan, you need a level of certainty, but through no fault of any particular person. The future is extremely uncertain right now because we don't know how long this will play out for or how the post vaccination of the City looks like."

That certainty, Mr Mackintosh said, will come in the form of honest conversations

throughout corporate Australia as to their responsibility with the daytime dynamic of major cities, and in the form of a successful vaccination rollout.

"I'm a major advocate for people getting behind vaccination. Every member of the community has a role to play and if they want to see their favourite restaurant, their favourite café, their favourite dry cleaner, all open and thriving again in the city again, and the fastest path back is to support the vaccination program," Mr Mackintosh.

"As an industry, we are advocating for our young people to be vaccinated as soon as possible so we are providing safe and professionally managed business for people to be welcomed."

"The future prosperity of the city is up to us to make it." ●

For more information:
popejoancity.com

CBD LOCAL

Looking at the city through COVID eyes

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

As the city clocked up 200 days of lockdown in August, many CBD locals have been forced to adapt their livelihoods and professions to survive the pandemic.

Peter Michael, who sadly announced the closure of his camera business in January, is pleased to have landlord duties to fulfill.

And former bar fly and publisher Michelle Matthews is now in the thick of things working in a quarantine hotel.

The professions of these two highfliers will probably never look the same after the pandemic but they're willing to talk openly about the changes to their lives.

Peter was in town to offer support to his tenant who runs a container bar creatively squeezed into the car park behind Michaels Camera Store.

"It's free rent," Peter told him, as they met for a coffee and a chat in the lane.

▼ Peter Michael sells off stock at Michaels Camera Store in Elizabeth St.



Bar owners are playing a waiting game and local residents such as Michelle who moved into the CBD for the nightlife have also had to find other pursuits.

During last year's 112-day lockdown, the Instagram poster kept abreast of development in the city and tracked the refurbishment of five new hotels as projects came to fruition.

"There's the Hilton, Next, Little Queen, QT and Crossley, all launched and opened," she said.

Michelle used to publish a bar and restaurant guide so when the Society restaurant opened in July she was quick off the mark, meeting a friend on a Tuesday night and paying \$55 for their top cocktail.

But this was a rare night out on the town. Michelle hasn't felt like drinking much since working in a quarantine hotel and is more likely to be found queuing up for a COVID test than a martini. She has a test every day.

"I feel privileged to have a job outside," she told *CBD News* about her admin job in

▼ Michelle Matthews at a testing station in the CBD.



Docklands. "I can go and be with people. This is something I can do fully."

She now has a more layered view of the CBD as she does her daily walks, pleased when walkers are not outnumbered two to one by those in high-vis and picking up signs of the pandemic such as the message a loved one has left on a wall outside the Stamford – another quarantine hotel.

Neither Michelle nor Peter are abandoning the city they love. They are just looking at it through new eyes.

Peter's great grandfather built the famous Michael Buildings, on the corner of Elizabeth and Lonsdale streets in 1916, and it used to house a range of businesses so "we're going back to being landlords" he said about the decision to lease out the property.

He admitted that a combination of COVID and staff issues prompted him to take early retirement after working at the camera store since 1966. He opted for exercise over hard slog

▼ Message to a resident at the Stamford.



for nothing.

"It was a very hard decision after such a heritage," he said. "COVID made me pause and reflect. I've got bread on the table and a roof over my head. I'm a very good ultra-walker."

His first walk from Caulfield to Broadmeadows took 12 hours, his longest walk from Caulfield to Portsea then back to Rye, 26 hours.

While the CBD will be losing the magic of the camera store, along with its photographic museum, it made sense at a personal level for Peter to sell off the stock.

He said that Michaels was "a sophisticated multi-arm business" and it was too complicated to just step back from. At least the Michael name in photography will carry on with his son's business in St Kilda.

And Michelle is also philosophical about the changes to her life. When she worked for Ansett her perks were free flights. In her current job the perk was a free vaccination in February ●

Quiet achiever is as passionate as ever

“

While he may have been around Town Hall for more than 20 years, Cr Kevin Louey said that the pandemic had meant “throwing the rule book out” when it came to being on council.

”



Combined with eight years working as former Lord Mayor John So's chief of staff, the fourth term councillor has more experience at the City of Melbourne than just about anyone.

But while the devastation that COVID-19 has caused on Melbourne continues to dampen many people's spirits, Cr Louey is as passionate as ever to put his experience to good use for the city's residents and businesses.

Stemming from his days working for John So, he's earned a reputation as a councillor for his ability to network and get things done behind the scenes. In his words as part of a *Councillor Profile* in 2015, he told *CBD News* it was the “small things, the non-sexy stuff”.

While Cr Louey's never one to grandstand and seldom will he speak at council meetings, he said he was “always available” to get his

“hands dirty” by working collaboratively to achieve good outcomes for locals.

“I'm definitely not here for the sexy stuff! But since the pandemic, there is no manual that you can pick up to being on council, I think you can forget it,” he said. “I have been around for a while and I'm available.”

“I always like to get my hands dirty, because keep in mind that's where I came from working behind the scenes with John So where we'd take notes, log things and take action. When you spent eight years on the outside, you collaborate and you work together. We tend to like doing things on the ground, not in the office.”

“If people want to pick up the phone, if there is a bureaucracy issue with council, sometimes it's minor, but as long as you put it in the right basket someone will look after it.”

“Residents are our very cheap version of precinct managers on the ground and they're not scared and certainly not shy in raising issues with us. We all want to try and help.”

Heading into last year's council elections, there was plenty of intrigue as to whether Cr Louey would go around again for a fourth term, and if so, which team he'd throw his support behind.

Having negotiated the first spot on former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle's tickets at previous council elections, his experience and influence proved telling again when he ran first on Lord Mayor Sally Capp's winning team in 2020.

He praised the current group of councillors and said it was Sally Capp's ability to bring people together and get things done for the city that were his prime motivations in opting to run with Team Capp.

“She's [Sally Capp's] a great leader. She works very well with the government of the day and has been great as the spokesperson. It's about deliverables and she's able to deliver,” he said.

“It is a great, workable council. It's non-controversial. The pandemic has helped to open people's eyes to look at the much bigger things rather than the small issues. Sally is certainly more than qualified. She's proven in terms of being able to work with residents or business.”

With a strong background in business and the Chinese market, Cr Louey's expertise is being put to good use again as chair of the council's business and global opportunities portfolio, and deputy lead on small business. He is also the City of Melbourne's appointment to the advisory committees Enterprise Melbourne Pty Ltd and Business Partner City Network.

His deep understanding of the cultural and business etiquette required to operate successfully in China has been central to the council's strong relationship with the Chinese community over many years.

While the pandemic may have seen Australia's relationship with China impacted adversely, Cr

Louey said with the City of Melbourne's own office based in Tianjin, Melbourne was well-placed to pick up where it left off once borders were reopened.

But while international students, tourists and workers continue to be sorely missed in Melbourne, he said the council was continuing to “look local” in its pursuit of rebuilding the city post-COVID.

In praising the council's management led by its CEO Justin Hanney, Cr Louey said it was his firm belief that Melbourne had all of the dynamics to bounce back from the pandemic bigger and better than ever.

“In local government we're very grassroots. We feel every bit of pain that our residents and businesses feel. The ‘three R's’ are almost I'd say out, and we need to look as a capital city government and be more creative. I don't have the answers by the way!” he said.

“As a council, we're lucky that we've got a CEO with great relationships with the state government and he works with the state very well. They've got high regards for him – [Mr Hanney is] a man who is on a mission and he will complete his mission.”

“We've got all the major drivers [to bounce back]. We've got the bones to grow from. It's a lifestyle here in Melbourne.”

“The council is committed to the regrowth, we've positioned our budget to support our businesses but we need to get the traffic back. We have a council committed to supporting our businesses and residents through this pandemic.” ●



Sean Car

EDITOR

SEAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

METRO TUNNEL

Metro Tunnel creative program marks the legacy of Mirka Mora

The photographer may be unknown, but their picture of artist Mirka Mora, walking down Collins St in 1954, is one of the most recognisable Melbourne snapshots of the era.



Dressed stylishly in a white shirt, a long skirt and flat shoes, the image of the young Mirka – then just 26 years old – could fit perfectly into the fashion magazines of 2021. Her dress sense is the classic example of how everything old is new again.

The iconic photo is the latest addition to the Metro Tunnel project's creative program, installed in huge proportions at the end of Scott Alley. There, it's providing a glimpse of a less complicated time for Melburnians who live within five kilometres of the city laneway.

Melbourne's much-loved laneways are home to some of the city's favourite cafes and bars, which is fitting given the influence the Paris-born Mirka and her husband Georges had on Melbourne's mid-century culinary landscape.

Their Mirka Café in Exhibition St opened in 1954, followed by Café Balzac in Wellington Parade East Melbourne and Tolarno in Fitzroy St St Kilda.

While the Moras had an undeniable influence on Melbourne's café culture, Mirka is best known for her art, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, and mosaics. Collins St was the site of both the family home and Mirka's studio, appropriately at the Paris end of town in Grosvenor Chambers.

Mirka's legacy is seen in many parts of her adopted hometown, from the mural at Flinders Street Station to the mosaic at St Kilda Pier.

Mirka Mora's life, in which she experienced the mass arrest of French Jews in Paris and was released just days before she was due to be sent

▼ The photographs of Mirka's image in Scott Alley were taken by James Henry.



to Auschwitz, is being marked in a retrospective at the Jewish Museum of Australia at 26 Alma Rd, St Kilda until December 19 (closed at time of publication) ●

To find out if the museum is currently open and for details of the exhibition go to jewishmuseum.com.au/mirka



HISTORY

St Francis – a church among the gum trees

There isn't a sheep (or two), nor is there a kangaroo in this image, but there are gum trees and plenty of other shrubs and trees!

These remind us that there was a time when central Melbourne had not been completely stripped of its “forest of trees”, as one newspaper described the city’s streetscapes in the 1830s. I’ve even seen a drawing made in 1853 that includes an emu grazing on the grass in front of the church.

This is St Francis Church, on the corner of Lonsdale and Elizabeth streets, and it represents a continuity that is rare in today’s CBD, for there has been a Roman Catholic church on this site since 1839.

In its earliest days it was a simple timber chapel in the care of Irish priest Father Patrick Geoghegan. The foundation stone for the church you see here was laid in October 1841 and the church, designed by Samuel Jackson, was completed four years later. During this period, in 1842, Mary MacKillop (now Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop) was baptised in the church and later made her first Holy Communion and received the Sacrament of Confirmation there. In 1848, St Francis became a cathedral, Melbourne’s first Catholic Cathedral, under the care of Bishop James Goold. It remained Melbourne’s Cathedral until the late 1860s when St Patrick’s took over the role.

This image, taken towards the end of the 19th century, is part of the Royal Historical Society’s images collection, and was donated to the Society in 1918. Here you see that a significant number of new plantings of trees and shrubs have grown up around the church, all planted since the 1850s. A high corrugated iron fence runs along the Elizabeth St boundary. A man drives his horse and buggy southwards and if he keeps on going to the end of the street, he

will meet Flinders St. Leaning back against the fence at the corner is a man. Is he simply idling there, perhaps hoping to make it into the photograph? He doesn’t seem to be in a hurry to move on. An iron railing fence, with a bluestone base, runs along the Lonsdale St frontage.

On the corner of the two streets is a gas lamp post, reminding us that this was a time before electricity had made its way to the city in any sort of visible way. The road looks rough, and the deep gutters are lined with bluestone pavers. Arched crossovers have been installed for the convenience of pedestrians. But not all that much has changed since Melbourne’s first decade, a time when there were not many houses in Lonsdale St and a horse bazaar was located opposite the church. The roads are better, for in those first years Elizabeth St was described as “a broken gully”, subject to flooding and a nightmare to travel on when it rained. These are the memories of Thomas Clancy, an Irishman from Cork who arrived in Melbourne in 1841 aged six, attended the Catholic school opposite St Francis and worked as a newsboy for John Fawkner’s *Port Phillip Patriot*. He knew the streets of early Melbourne well, but later moved away from Melbourne, worked as a drover, and is reputed to be model for “Banjo” Paterson’s “Clancy of the Overflow”.

As I look at this image, I’m struck by the two gum trees that sit on either side of the church. They reach up to the sky like spires, but the one on the left is dying back. Decades before, in the drawings and lithographs I’ve seen made in the 1850s, they are healthy trees and the only plantings on the site. By the time this photograph was taken, they are surrounded by trees and shrubs. Later photos taken in the 1890s show



the tree on the left has been cut back and by the turn of the century both trees have gone, soon to be followed by the other plants. By the 1920s, the grounds are bare. It is not for some years that rather formal, evenly spaced trees that look like pencil pines feature along the fence lines. Order and symmetry have replaced the “forest” that was there before.

The trees were not forgotten, however. Wood from the tree on the left was used to make an episcopal chair (for the bishop’s use) that was in the St Francis sanctuary when the trees featured in an article in the *Advocate* newspaper in 1920 and we are told that the other tree formed the original belfry of the church. So, although there was change, those two trees provide a link back to the church’s earliest days.

In September 1928, the *Advocate* wrote of the church, “Built long ago in the silence of the primeval forest it has survived to be surrounded by a forest of bricks and mortar, while around it thunders the ceaseless din of a great city’s traffic.” Almost 100 years on, the statement still applies ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

WE LIVE HERE

Resident victory

A stalwart resident at an inner-city apartment complex has reported a monumental victory over developer chicanery and council ineptitude.

“A win at last!” she wrote, “I have won my battle to have the council defend my rights to enjoy my property according to the original Planning Permit.”

Since 2017, this story has shaped up as a David and Goliath battle that David might actually win. “I had no idea that it would take up four years of my strength and time.”

This battle was fought at the intersection of three different jurisdictions. Our rookie resident had to learn about owners’ corporation (OC) law, about the *Local Government Act*, about planning law and what voids a contract.

“To cut a very long and complicated story short, after the planning permit was issued for my property, [somebody] altered the plans, removing all reference to where the trucks for residents were supposed to load.”

This discrepancy solidified undetected at the council’s planning department – and it looks like at least one council head has rolled as a consequence.

Our citizen champion knows how it all started: “When a big industry super fund was offered an off-market opportunity to buy the enormous area of the two-storey shopping plaza and its huge truck loading bay, they saw that there was a lift for trucks servicing the residents.”

“The developer told the super fund not to worry, they would have the exclusive right to all that area for 300 years. The developer had drawn up a lease to himself. The problem was

that this was in breach of the planning permit that required both residents and the retail plaza to use that area for trucks to load and unload.”

In the face of irrefutable facts and under relentless pressure from our resolute resident, the council eventually told the super fund that it must share the loading dock with residents. The incensed super fund made a futile attempt to arrogate the common property by seeking to have the planning permit altered to conform with the altered and unapproved plans.

“All I want is for the furniture trucks to load on-site instead of blocking the footpath on the street outside my front door,” our star resident said.

The council’s planning department now has the right to enter the property to ensure the shopping plaza owners no longer lock out the residents from the loading bay common property. It’s good to know residents *can* beat major players who don’t follow the rules!

OC managers blocking information requests

Perhaps everyone is suffering cabin fever with rolling lockdowns – how else can you explain a spate of incidents where OC managers have failed to comply with fundamental obligations under the *OC Act*?

You would think a request for an OC certificate would be honoured relatively quickly. After all, providing certificates is a staple of every

garden-variety OC manager contract. Not so, it seems, if you have a disagreement with the OC manager on an unrelated matter. We know of one OC manager who must feel that certificates do not have to be provided to owners who ask awkward questions.

How about requesting an inspection of financial records? That should be easy for any OC manager who takes the requisite Act along to all meetings.

Evincing either incompetence or something more malignant, one OC manager has insisted that the committee must pass a resolution to have the right to inspect documents. No, that’s not how the law works. Every lot owner has the right to request inspection of OC documents.

Another cute ploy is to claim “confidentiality” as a reason for denying access. Again, no, that’s not a legally valid reason for denying access to inspect an invoice from a supplier for example.

OC managers beware. The practice of hiding documents from lot owners creates very bad “optics”.

We quote the *Owners’ Corporation Act*, Part 9, Division 1, Section 146 (1), which states that the OC manager, on request by a lot owner ...

“Must make the records of the owners’ corporation required to be kept under this Division available to that person for inspection at any reasonable time, free of charge.”

Quite straightforward, right? Apparently not, according to our reluctant and irony-challenged OC manager who replied to an emailed request, “I don’t plan on replying to your email.”

Continuing their non-reply, the document-denier went on to tell the lot owner to try their luck with getting the information from the previous committee!

But if a manager is desperately intent on

looking foolish, why would they rest there? Our stonewalling strata manager went on the offensive, alleging financial malfeasance by the previous OC managers with the cognisance of the previous committee, unabashedly naming names. In writing. In an email to a lot owner. Handing up Exhibit A, Your Honour.

Having been unsatisfied with merely looking like a goose, this OC manager just might have waddled into the oven.

Notwithstanding the above, advice from Consumer Affairs is that aggrieved owners can take their complaints to the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (1300 372 888), or Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal (VCAT, 1300 018 228).

You can also complain to Strata Community Association Victoria (9416 4688) if your OC manager is a member of that group.

Readers, please do let us know about your tribulations with OC managers.

Campaign donations

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



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton
EMAIL
CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET
LEARN MORE AT
WELIVEHERE.NET



STREET ART

Melbourne's creative "do-over"

So, all these shops in the city have closed. And now there are whole sections of the CBD up for lease. As COVID does its best to slowly suck the creative soul out of Melbourne, I have been thinking what it could mean for Melbourne.

In the late '90s and early 2000s Melbourne was a very different city, it was a suburban city. People lived in the suburbs and worked in the city. This meant that the city was filled with workers on the weekdays and on the weekend, it was completely different, it was taken over

by bohemians, artists, musicians, shoppers, and party goers. This left areas of the city unused and hidden. It meant that space in the city was plentiful and cheap, which meant galleries, underground bars, music venues, comic shops, craft boutiques, coffee shops and studios were able to exist in the hidden laneways and buildings that were not being utilised. This was very important to Melbourne as it meant that it had a very strong and interesting and centralised creative community. This built Melbourne's reputation as a creative city, allowing it to be a unique interesting and charming city.

During the past 25 years the way we engage with the city has changed. People have moved in, and apartments have popped up everywhere. The city became full of students and travellers as Melbourne's reputation as a creative and interesting city helped instigate an unprecedented increase in both Melbourne's population and particularly the population of the CBD. This period also seen an uptake of foreign investment in the Melbourne property market.

The obvious problem with this increase in population is the demand for property. And from the late '90s creatives and small business began to struggle as rent started to increase. From 2000 to now there has been commercial revolution in the city, with construction in every part of the CBD as hundreds of giant monolithic



skyscrapers were built to fit the increase in population. This meant that all the creative spaces, the cool little lanes, the strange shops and the studios were forced to move out so that the city could grow.

This gentrification of Melbourne had a massive effect on the creative scene as the centralised art community was broken up and basically all creative industries had to move out of the city.

The CBD is clearly once again changing, as COVID is slowly bringing the city to its knees, vast areas have once again become vacant. I know the owners and the property market are still hoping that they will fetch the handsome rents from a few years ago. Melbourne has changed and this will not be the case. The city is over built and there are empty shops, apartments, warehouses, and now with people

working from home the dynamics of the city has changed forever. It will never again be like it was pre-COVID, the travellers have stopped, the students have gone and the city is empty.

I believe it will take 20 years for the city to recover and that is if the creatives are allowed back into the city. It seems like the best way for the city to recover is to ask landlords of empty space to allow artists or small business to move in. This will make Melbourne cool again and then the people will come back. The more Melbourne gentrified the more it became like every other city. Now in a strange way and with generosity and careful management we get a do-over. If you have any space that could be used for a creative, then please contact me and I will connect you with someone that needs a cheap space. We have all kinds of people that require all kinds of spaces. A used space is better than an empty space.

Melbourne is awesome, and so are you.
Have a great day ●



Adrian Doyle
ADRIAN DOYLE IS THE BLENDER STUDIOS
LEARN MORE ON THEBLENDERSTUDIOS.COM

TRADER PROFILE



Proving the way to a Melburnians heart is through the stomach

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Not many people can run a small business through a pandemic and continue to beam with positivity, but franchisee Tarn Evans continues to prove Ferguson and Plarre Bakehouse truly is "baking people happy".

Celebrating its 120th year, Ferguson and Plarre Bakehouse is a powerhouse built on a seamless blend of knowledge and expertise.

While the Plarre and Ferguson families didn't develop their trading relationship into a partnership until June 6, 1980, they continue to celebrate each other's prior successes.

Despite the Plarre family acquiring the business itself in 2012, Tarn Evans is "proud" to be a part of a business with such a rich history.

"I absolutely love the Plarres and have much respect for the Fergusons. And that is why, in some ways, I came back," he said.

For Mr Evans, Ferguson and Plarre Bakehouse has always had a special place in his heart. Working with the company as a barista trainer, a business development manager and the head of company stores, Mr Evans has worked on-and-off with the company since early 2000.

"I knew the business really well. I knew the potential. I always said the Queen Victoria Market was really the only store I would ever want to own," Mr Evans said.

Four years ago, Mr Evans finally got his chance. But a week before signing the contract he was offered a position as a bank branch manager. Deeming it as a more "responsible, family position" at the time, he took the job.

It wasn't until 2020 when he received a call from Ferguson and Plarre Bakehouse about the

store being on offer again, that he was confident the timing was finally right.

"I made an offer to them – about less than a third of the original price – and bought it quite cheaply. [It] was a no-brainer and very low-risk," he said.

Taking the plunge directly after Victoria's longest lockdown, Mr Evans remains determined to not let COVID-19 erase the 90-year history the store has at the market.

"Ferguson and Plarre Bakehouse have been through depressions and World War Two. And it prepares us for going through what we are going through now. Luckily, we are a required business and able to stay open," he said.

But with many weddings and celebrations being cancelled, the company celebration cakes have taken a hit. Determined to not let it affect him, Mr Evans reflected on the good that had come from the difficult times.

"One of our operators took a wedding cake to a retirement village and they had a mock wedding. They all dressed up and there are some amazing photos from it. Even though it's challenging, it's a chance to make people happy," he said.

It's a chance he is grateful to have during this time.

"I can talk under water and chat to anyone. I have a really good relationship with a lot of the traders, and down the track in five to 10 years, it'll be a really strong relationship. It really is important."

With a joyfully, determined attitude and a strong commitment to the company, it is clear to see why Mr Evans' Ferguson and Plarre Bakehouse continues to thrive at the market ●

For more information:
fergusonplarre.com.au/queen-victoria-market

PRECINCTS



Ready for reopening

While things may have felt quiet on the streets during previous months, at City Precinct, we have been busily working behind the scenes to continue to develop projects that will help support our local community and see the city thrive once again.

Following on from the success of *Laneways and Gift Ideas: A Christmas Walking Tour*, which featured as part of the City of Melbourne's Christmas Collective last year, we are thrilled to be launching a whole series of new walking tours this spring.

Themed tours will take participants through the laneways and arcades of the CBD, showcasing the small and independent businesses that bring our city to life. Participants will discover new hidden gems and have the chance to meet and connect with our city's small retailers. Our friendly and knowledgeable hosts will share some of Melbourne's fantastic history and the stories that have helped shape the city we know and love today.

Tours will explore some of our favourite street art and hidden galleries, laneways and arcades, fashion and style destinations.

All attendees will be gifted a special collection of treats (to the value of \$60-plus) from local businesses including Bared Footwear, Mr Wares, Il Papiro, Melbourne Athenaeum Library, Hearn's Hobbies and Bottega with one random and very lucky guest being gifted the golden box, valued at more than \$500! These tours are our gift to you. Tickets are free, but spaces are limited. We are excited to celebrate our member businesses and share what we love so much about our city.

Tours are planned to kick start in October, but we encourage you to subscribe to our newsletter to be the first to know.

Visit aroundtown.melbourne to learn more.

This project is funded by City Precinct as part of the City of Melbourne's business precinct COVID recovery program ●

For more information:
aroundtown.melbourne



Changing direction: Koorie artist turns road signs into jewellery

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

Blak Jewellery: Finding Past, Linking Present will run from September 4 to November 14 at the Koorie Heritage Trust Yarra building, if COVID restrictions allow.

First Nations artist Lisa Waup said the six-week Blak Design program leading up to the exhibition had been “life changing”.

“I was a student at RMIT back in the ‘90s and I always used to look longingly at the smithing department that used to be down in the basement,” Ms Waup said.

“It’s always been a dream of mine, so I jumped at the opportunity to work with masters in the field.”

“I feel incredibly fortunate, and the support has been mind-blowing.”

As the first of its kind in Australia, the Blak Design program was created to provide a platform for nurturing sustainable, indigenous-led design businesses.

Ms Waup, along with 10 other artists, took part in six-weeks of hands-on jewellery design and making workshops under the guidance of jewellers Blanche Tilden and Laura Deakin, as well as small business skills tutorials.

With a passion for gold and silver smithing, Ms Waup honed her skills over the course of the program to produce her final work, *Our Way*, using custom-made aluminium traffic signs.

“I was interested in using everyday objects to create a new meaning, and in this case *Our Way* explores the power and peril of traffic direction and warning signs and their ability to control and disorientate First Nations people on their own land,” Ms Waup said.

“Historically these signs are marks of

violence, control and racism, and for me it was inspiring me to disrupt, undo and fracture their original ambition.”

As a woman of Italian, Gunditjmara and Torres Strait Islander descent, Ms Waup was inspired to alter the symbology of the signs after she found one lying on the side of the road.

Creating three pieces of jewellery, her intention was to take a “symbol of oppression and spin it to a positive direction of liberation”.

“I wanted to take a stagnant western sign and create an immersive experience for the viewer which moved backwards into family, culture and country and forward into the future,” Ms Waup said.

Our Way consists of three works – a bracelet, a neck piece and a pair of earrings – which are all cut out of one square of a direction sign.

Ms Waup said that by using every part of the square, the jewellery was sustainable and zero-waste.

“I hand-sawed a square bracelet, and inside that square I’ve cut the neck piece out, and within that neck piece I’ve cut a circle in the middle of it which I’ve divided into two to make the pair of earrings,” Ms Waup said.

“There was a lot of sawing and filing so it doesn’t fit perfectly but they come together as the idea of the text was to pull it apart and change its direction.”

Another artist, Kait James, said the program had been an incredible way to honour her love and connection to her ancestors and her country.

“What I love most about the program is how we’ve all learnt the same incredible skills using different materials, then used them to turn our stories into jewellery and wearable art that is so



different from each other,” Ms James said. “My work has been based around my love of sheoaks or ngarri in Wadawurrung, and the connections to my ancestors. Using different material to look at form and movement but also combining my love of colour to create various different pendants and necklaces.”

Koorie Heritage Trust CEO Tom Mosby said Blak Design was a celebration of First Nations innovation within the Victorian design space.

“Blak Design is the continuation of a series of projects and discourse the KHT has delivered since 2014, exploring Australian contemporary First Nations design,” Mr Mosby said.

“These projects aim to promote First Nations design principles and best practice methodologies and theories to the broader design community while supporting and mentoring First Nations designers.” ●

As part of the Koorie Heritage Trust’s Blak Design initiative, 11 First Nations artists will present their handmade jewellery at a contemporary exhibition celebrating indigenous design.



For more information:
korieheritagetrust.com.au

IF YOU ARE COMING TO MELBOURNE
CALL OUR EMERGENCY HOTLINE FOR SECRET RELIEF!

THE MOST EXCLUSIVE ESCORT AGENCY

Paramour
OF COLLINS STREET

Utmost discretion guaranteed

WELCOME TO PARAMOUR
Classy, elegant ladies with no tattoos on request. Satisfy your needs with some of the most beautiful women in the world. Call a day before your hotel check-in and we will have a gorgeous escort waiting for you to arrive!

- Dinner Companions
- Social Escorts
- Sensual Ladies

WILLING TO PLEASE & VERY DISCREET

(03) 9654 6011 5 MINUTES TO YOUR DOOR IN THE CBD
Opposite The Victoria Hotel

たくさんの美しい女性 日本語を話します

We have survived COVID-19 AND ARE STILL HERE TO HAVE BEAUTIFUL LADIES PRIVATELY TO YOUR DOOR 24/7

PARAMOUR.COM.AU SWA 113E

CRITIC

Comforting little constructions

Abstract painter Andrée van Schaik has sold five out of the seven paintings shown in this year’s Spring 1883 Art Fair.



This is despite the fact that the fair, which is held each year at the Windsor, had to go online because of the lockdown.

Last year’s fair suffered the fate of most events and was postponed.

This year, several galleries responded quickly to the impending threat of another cancellation and showed work however they could.

Neon Parc Gallery’s gutsy little CBD venue, mounted a COVID-safe group show over three days in August.

That exhibition lasted only two days before it, too, was shut down, not giving people much time to actually see the work.

“Three paintings sold in the first two days in the flesh,” Andrée told *CBD News*.

The sales were pleasing but she said it was disappointing that a year’s work was only up for two days.

“You do like the work to be seen after all that effort,” she said.

Spring 1883 organisers have been sending around curated highlights by celebrities such as Rachel Griffiths.

This is frustrating for those who get a kick from actually seeing the work rather than reading about it.

Neon Parc has a Spring Preview catalogue they are sending out that focuses on the images.

Van Schaik’s blunt little abstracts are inspiring with their bold cut-up shapes and their jokey references to the greats.

The painter wisely refrains from commenting on her own work and wouldn’t be drawn

on the question of how she manages to keep the work light-hearted in a year of ups and downs.

She did say that she has been through some bad patches.

“I feel like I can’t see friends to get relief from what I’m doing,” she said.

She didn’t get an opening and didn’t have a chance to photograph her work on the walls.

Already 2021 shows a cut-up interior with a few animal prints, a hand and a window, perhaps a commentary on our own domestic hells.

Liminal 2021 combines body parts with Japanese patterns and *Overture 2021* is a rather fey, soft rendition of Matisse-like patterns.

How comforting these modest little constructions are compared to the heavy-duty posturing surrounding the pandemic ●



Rhonda Dredge
JOURNALIST
RHONDA@CBDNEWS.COM.AU

Somewhere over the rainbow ...

City residents tired of lockdown need to look ahead. Spring is on its way and with it, the thought of winning the COVID battle – one day soon.

In the meantime, there is lots to do. Become productive at home. Why not engage in a decluttering exercise? One person's junk is another one's treasure. Make donations to recycling bins such as the Brotherhood of St Lawrence, Salvation Army or the Sacred Heart Mission. Recycle electronics and spent printer cartridges at Officeworks.

Spring brings warmer weather, great for (allotted two hours) walks in the park (mask on please!). Then there is the annual spring clean. Get into it now, while you can. It is good for the psyche to feel the pride of a lovely clean, tidy home. Some people tell me that it does wonders to simply rearrange the furniture and tend the pot plants.

Go on, don't be shy, visit your friends via Zoom or Facetime. It is not the same as the real thing, but it is better than nothing.

How is your yoga coming along? Regardless of your prowess at this activity, it is a great way to keep fit indoors, in your home. There are wonderful apps to download with excellent 20- to 30-minute sessions. Keeping in good shape helps you weather the lockdown blues.



Residents 3000 – annual general meeting (by Zoom) – Thursday September 2, 6pm

As in past years we welcome the Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who will tell us about the City of Melbourne's plans to help bring back the old city life with flourishing businesses, plenty of tourists, a vibrant arts scene and plenty of enthusiastic students bringing their ideas to inspire good dialogue and thoughtful communication. No doubt it will take time, but with good leadership and community support, the city will recover.

Members of our community welcome the moves to provide a safe housing facility for rough sleepers at 602 Little Bourke St as reported recently in *CBD News*. It is a story of how collaboration and donations from the private

sector in conjunction with the city is making things happen to alleviate the pressing homelessness problem.

Along with the concept that housing is the first step in assisting people overcome their particular life challenges, residents in our group have expressed the importance of doctors, mental health professionals, councillors and other social support services to be available. Such services are planned as part of the 602 Little Bourke St project, but in our view, these need to be provided more broadly throughout the city to ensure no-one is left alone to cope with extreme life problems. Early and consistent response to people in need is the most effective means to solving begging, drugs and homelessness.



Residents have also been pressing for more dedicated police patrols for city streets. People generally will feel much safer and police can initiate early professional response services for people in trouble.

City of Melbourne libraries

At our last monthly meeting, residents were introduced to the wide range of services available through our local libraries.

It is not just about books. There are many online services. "eLibrary" has something for everyone such as eBooks, eAudiobooks, eFilms and eMusic, newspaper and journal subscriptions, not to mention eKids. There are tutorial videos, language courses, search your ancestry and many more things to discover.

Go online and search for City of Melbourne libraries. You will be amazed ●



Dr Sue Saunders
VICE PRESIDENT OF RESIDENTS 3000 MELBOURNE



STATE MP

Where to from here?

COVID-19 has fundamentally changed the way our CBD works. This pandemic has been extraordinarily tough for Melbourne, and especially for our CBD.

With six lockdowns in 18 months, the office workers, international students and tourists who once fuelled the daytime buzz and economy of the CBD have disappeared. We don't know when, or how many, will come back.

Melbourne has traditionally relied on workers in finance, government, and education coming into the CBD every day for work. These workers in turn fuel our hospitality and retail sector. With working from home becoming a long-term option for many, this "normal" may never return.

So, what do we do instead?

I recently held three roundtables with CBD and Docklands residents. Consistently I heard that this lack of people and foot traffic in the city, as well as the rise in visible rough-sleeping and homelessness, and empty or shuttered shops and cafes, has made people feel a real sadness for our city's future. It's also fostered a sense of feeling unsafe walking around the city, and a worry about whether our city will ever recover.

For some hope, however, we can look to the example set by other cities.

When other cities have experienced big shocks and recessions, they have shown that creative industries and proactive government policy can lead to a resurgence in the economy and jobs. Governments in cities like Newcastle, Christchurch and Berlin have all taken active steps to attract the arts and new industries after a crisis. Melbourne could learn from them.

Perhaps we need to reimagine the purpose of Melbourne's CBD. Rather than just relying on people coming into the CBD for work from 9am to 5pm, our city could transform into one that's more about attracting people for unique experiences around the clock, while also becoming more liveable for permanent inner-city residents.

But this transformation will require real vision, and policy change, from governments at all levels: local, state and federal.

It could start with curated events and festivals, but it can't stop there. It needs to be backed up with policies such as rent caps for creative industries. We need a change to the federal government policies that currently encourage landlords to keep shopfronts empty rather than rent



them out for a discount.

It needs a longer-term strategy to bring more tech companies, gaming companies and biomedical industries to Melbourne, building on the strengths we already have while diversifying the CBD away from 9 to 5 government or financial services industries. We already have a world-class biomedical precinct, but we need policies to bring more of these companies here for the longer term. Perhaps we should look at state government subsidised rents for arts organisations or tech companies who base themselves in the CBD or Docklands for a minimum of five years.

On top of all of this, we need to ensure the inner-city is actually liveable for residents, which means looking at better ways to bust congestion and make streets safer for pedestrians, limiting the impact of short-stays and unfettered development on inner-city communities, reducing the impact of construction and noise which keep residents from having a good night's sleep, and creating more micro green and public spaces in our laneways.

All of this will obviously rely on an improved vaccine rollout, but once this happens, we should not constrain our thinking and just try to get Melbourne back to "where it was before".

Let's have a big vision for what Melbourne could be.

What are your ideas for revitalising the CBD and inner suburbs? Email me! office@ellensandell.com ●



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

SALVOS

Magnificent Melburnians

Lockdowns have had a profound impact on so many people right across the city. But as I write, I continue to be deeply moved by the ways in which some people have responded.

Cargo restaurant in Docklands, like so many restaurants and cafes across our city, had their staff roster arranged and their cool rooms filled with stock. With the sudden announcement of another lockdown, there was that overwhelming sense of dread that so many Melburnians have experienced, that stock would be lost and staff would be stood down once again.

Stunningly, the owners of Cargo, John and Jerry, quickly got themselves off the mat, turned their focus from themselves to others and gave me a call. They had decided to get their team together, cook up a storm with the produce that was to go to waste and supply the Salvos with hundreds of magnificent take away meals. From shepherd's pie to wood-fired pizzas, people that often feel like they are invisible, were treated amazingly well. In fact, John, Jerry and their team came to the Salvos cafe and helped serve the meals.

A few days ago, Amanda from the Meating House cafe on Exhibition St, was also hit hard with news of another impending lockdown. But instead of being filled with worry and concern, which would have been completely understandable, Amanda turned her mind to others and dropped off some amazing carrot cake and bagels and a range of other products that went down a treat with the most vulnerable of our city.

Daniel from Panini Bar kept the doors of his cafe open every single day of every single lockdown. The city was a ghost town for long stretches of last year and this year, but Daniel stayed open so that he could continue to serve the city's essential workers great coffee and wonderful paninis.

Steve Plarre, head of Ferguson Plarre Bakehouses, has had his fair share of "back against the wall" moments throughout the lockdowns. It would be completely understandable if Steve became a blubbing mess in the corner of his office, but in fact, Steve has been the complete opposite.

Steve found out that Scotty, one of our regulars at the Salvos, would be celebrating his 50th birthday completely on his own. Despite all that was happening in Steve's world, he turned up at the Salvos with an incredible birthday cake to help Scotty celebrate his special day.

These people are just a few of a plethora of examples of magnificent Melburnians who, in the face of overwhelming uncertainty, take their eyes off themselves and focus on others. This is Melbourne at it's very, very best.

As we slowly but surely turn our minds to recovery, let us do all we can to ensure that it is a recovery for all- no-one left behind. Let's also make sure that it is a recovery that is not built on self-interest, but that it is built on what makes our city great – a focus on others, especially the most vulnerable, and not just ourselves ●



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

Vertical village strategic futures

As from December 1, 2021, owners' corporations (OCs) with 50 or more lots must have an approved and funded maintenance plan – but is this sufficient for vertical village planning? Many vertical villages in the City of Melbourne have long had maintenance plans, which identified major capital items due for repair or replacement and their estimated costs – so this requirement for an approved and funded maintenance plan brings no real change.

But what this requirement has sparked in some OCs is a deeper discussion about planning, with the gist being that while a funded maintenance plan is undoubtedly needed, it is far from sufficient.

This is because OCs control assets (our apartment buildings) valued in the hundreds of millions, with associated decisions affecting the daily lives of hundreds of residents. So, while it is well and good to have a plan to repair or replace capital items over the next decade, there are critical questions about a vertical village's future which remain unattended or, at least, not often formally captured.

These questions go to what sort of vertical village yours should become. Should you aim to differentiate your vertical village as environmentally sustainable? This would mean that suites of activities, such as electric vehicle recharging, would likely become a priority. Or perhaps your focus is upon financial management, meaning that there will be priority given to information systems, detailed monitoring and reporting, and aggressive sector scanning for comparisons.

What is needed is identification of owners' and residents' values, and when translated, this should guide OCs in determining overarching priorities and approaches.

In other sectors, this information is captured and integrated in a strategic plan, which explicitly states where an organisation wants to be and defines the strategies to get there. It requires

articulating a vision and the underpinning goals and developing approaches to achieve these. Strategic planning is a well-established process and there is a mountain of material to guide businesses and, more recently, not-for-profits. Regrettably, there is little assistance tailored to OCs, which are very different entities (with a distinct ethos) than are businesses or even not-for-profit service providers.

This means that, for those OCs wishing to undertake such forward planning, they will likely need to develop their own approaches. This could see each OC inventing and reinventing their own strategic planning process, including designing a method to engage owner-residents in the process – without "opening Pandora's Box"! And it must be noted that while OC volunteer committee members are often highly skilled, strategic planning facilitation and design is not everyone's strong suite.

On the flipside, however, our vertical living sector offers great scope for collaboration. As we are not competing businesses, there is wonderful opportunity for OCs to work together on devising approaches to strategic planning suited to our context – as well as opportunity to share insights on different approaches to common challenges. What this could manifest is, that rather than each OC being a silo strategic planner, the leveraging of our community status.

For the doubters, this willingness to share between OCs was demonstrated during COVID-19, where many committee members reached out to other OCs to ask questions about approaches to public health orders. Frank discussions were had comparing directions taken in different apartment buildings – How are you handling closing gyms? What is your messaging? Extra security? etc.

In fact, it was a direct result of these informal discussions between OCs in Docklands that saw a webinar hosted by the Docklands

Representative Group (DRG) on (the ironically titled) "Coming out of COVID for OCs". This featured strata lawyer Tom Bacon, and representatives from the Department of Justice and Community Safety who answered questions raised by OCs on managing high-rise residences during COVID-19.

What is also significant is that informal discussions between different OCs continue, now expanding to issues like insurance renewals (excess for windows?), engaging new OC managers (tendering tips) and cladding (help!).

However, while these individual conversations are undoubtedly useful, what is becoming apparent is that more is needed. More both in terms of how many more OC committee members wish to engage in these sorts of exchanges, and more in terms of the depth of information and assistance available – because while it is great to share between ourselves, some situations require external expertise (such as approaches to cladding replacements).

So here is the thing. Our volunteer OC committees are responsible for significant assets and sizeable communities. We all face very similar challenges and currently there is little guidance for planning the future of our vertical villages or scope for sharing insights to common challenges. But there are moves afoot – with interest growing for a forum which could bring together collegial interactions mixed with expert guidance.

If such a forum piques your interest, please drop me an email at skypadliving@gmail.com



City Life

"It was colourful at lunch time."

Little Bourke St



Dr Janette Corcoran

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/SKYPADLIVING/

PCA113E

| open 24/7
| genuine kinky escorts | 5 mins to your door | in the heart of Melbourne's CBD

We have survived COVID-19 and are still here 24/7 providing a discreet service to your city apartment all day and all night

Top Class of Collins Street
(03) 9654 6351
contact@topclassofcollinsstreet.com.au

DISCREET SERVICE TO YOUR CITY APARTMENT ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT
TRY US NOW

MUSIC

Curse ov Dialect

Word was filtering through earlier this year that one of Melbourne's premier hip hop collective gives, the ultimate Curse ov Dialect were in Audrey Studios recording new material.

And that they were very happy with how the work was progressing. The words were flowing. They felt it could be the best they have ever sounded.

Rewind the tape back to where there were tapes – the mid-1990s – and Curse ov Dialect had released their first ever cassette tape. Back then, you could grab it at Au-Go-Go records on Little Bourke St, or maybe Missing Link on Flinders Lane – old school record stores of the 20th century.

Curse ov Dialect could be considered a true Melbourne CBD band. Members of Curse would come in from all points of the compass and meet at the Sahara Bar, St Jeromes and the steps of the State Library. Sailyards – the skate park across the road from the Sahara Bar on Swanston St – was another great place to hang out.

The bars, clubs, alleys and streets of the city were the places where Curse ov Dialect lived. Back in the 20th century, that first tape cassette generated a lot of excitement. This was a time when Bart Cummings had Saintry in his stable, preparing the horse for a tilt at the Melbourne Cup. That's how old school and classic Curse ov Dialect are.

Fast forward the file to now, and Curse ov Dialect's ninth album, *Dark Days Bright Nights* is imminent. *Never North* is one track that is a standout track on the album. The entire album is so fantastic that Heavy Machinery Records decided to make it a double vinyl album such was the excellent quality and quantity of the

music that was being presented. Paso Bionic has done a superb job with the artwork.

The music is said to be beautiful lilting melodies punctuated by strong Macedonian beats and true Curse ov Dialect multi-omni lyrical attacks from different MCs like MC Raceless, Volk Makedonski, Atarangi with Paso Bionic providing the samples, music and compelling beats.

Curse ov Dialect's live show is a phenomenal theatrical feast with multi ethnic costumes galore. Their seamless MC-ing and lyrical style is par excellence. Their live show is as entertaining as a penalty shootout at the end of a football tournament. They are saying the double album *Dark Days Bright Nights* is a real achievement. Renowned composer Craig Pilkington says that you should listen to the new Curse ov Dialect album.

Curse ov Dialect are pioneering trailblazing hip hop troubadours from deep in the heart of Melbourne's CBD. That's a fact.

They endure because of their love of music and their belief in what they do ●



Chris Mineral

MINERALSANDS@HOTMAIL.COM

Quiz



- The vanilla bean comes from which type of flower?
- Which Australian prime minister assumed office just two days before the crash of the New York Stock Exchange in 1929?
- Which 2020 Netflix series was adapted from the series of novels written by Julia Quinn?
- A.J. Cook (pictured) plays Jennifer Jareau in which long-running TV series?
- The architect who designed Collins Place also designed which famous work of architecture?
A) Federation Square
B) The Louvre's Glass Pyramid
C) The Shard
- What famous building was once known as the Cappella Magna?
- What did Southern Cross Station used to be known as?
- Where is the largest stained glass ceiling in the world?
- Who was Melbourne's first elected Lord Mayor?
- The Menz Chocolate factory has its two locations in which Australian state?
- An urban myth describes the plans for Flinders St Station being mixed up with a train station in which Indian city?
- True or false: Melbourne Museum owns Phar Lap's skin, but not his skeleton or organs

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Orchid 2. James Scullin 3. Bridgerton 4. Criminal Minds 5. B. The Louvre's Glass Pyramid 6. The Sistine Chapel 7. Spencer Street Station 8. NGV International 9. Henry Conde 10. South Australia 11. Mumbai (Chhatrapati Shivaji) 12. True

5x5 No. 003

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | | A | | H |
| | E | | T | |
| R | | S | | R |
| | G | | I | |
| T | | I | | S |

SOLUTIONS

SWASH, PESTO, RISER, AGAIN, THINS

Sudoku

No. 003

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

EASY

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 6 | | 7 | |
| 1 | 4 | | | | | 5 | 2 | |
| 5 | | | 7 | 4 | | 8 | 3 | |
| | | 7 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| 8 | | 9 | | 6 | | | 4 | |
| | | | 8 | 3 | | 5 | | |
| 9 | 5 | | 6 | 8 | | | | 1 |
| 7 | 8 | | | | | 3 | | 6 |
| 6 | | 1 | | | | | | |

HARD

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 6 | | | | 9 | 5 |
| 6 | | 7 | | | | 1 | | |
| 8 | | | | | | 3 | | |
| | 5 | 7 | | | | | | 3 |
| | | 8 | 5 | | 9 | 6 | | |
| 4 | | | | | 3 | | 1 | |
| | | 4 | | | | | | 9 |
| | | 1 | | | | 4 | | 2 |
| 9 | 6 | | | 5 | | | | |

SOLUTIONS

EASY

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| 1 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| 7 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 |

HARD

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 9 |
| 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| 8 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 |
| 3 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 |
| 9 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 |

Wordfind

Theme: Africa

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | H | A | N | A | S | T | P | Y | G | E |
| S | O | G | O | T | C | C | A | I | R | O |
| M | A | L | I | A | O | A | A | R | I | D |
| E | A | H | L | F | N | P | E | U | A | B |
| L | L | R | A | I | G | E | L | N | I | A |
| E | L | L | R | O | H | A | G | L | B | |
| P | I | E | Y | A | A | O | N | E | D | O |
| H | R | C | W | N | D | R | D | N | V | O |
| A | O | H | I | E | X | N | A | N | T | N |
| N | G | A | L | U | A | R | B | E | Z | R |
| T | E | D | D | M | E | E | R | K | A | T |

- ARID
- BABOON
- CAIRO
- CAPE HORN
- CHAD
- CONGO
- EGYPT
- ELAND
- ELEPHANT
- GHANA
- GNU
- GORILLA

- LION
- LYNX
- MALI
- MANDELA
- MEERKAT
- NILE
- RAND
- SAHARA
- TOGO
- WILD
- ZEBRA

Secret message: Safari adventure

Crossword

No. 003

ACROSS

- Concert (3)
- Clarification (11)
- Another time (5)
- City in New York (9)
- Group of organisms (7)
- US state (7)
- Cut (5)
- Periods before elections (9)
- Left behind (9)
- Water birds (5)
- Very outdated (7)
- Sickness (7)
- Eviction (9)
- pole (5)
- Treatments (11)
- Finish (3)

DOWN

- Spectacles (7)
- Neighbour of Mexico (9)
- Listlessness (5)
- Components (5)
- Celebrated (9)
- Citizens of the US (9)
- Preamble (colloq) (5)
- Winners at Hastings in 1066 (7)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|---|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|----|----|
| 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | 10 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | 12 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | 14 | | 15 | | | | | 16 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | 18 | | 19 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | 21 | | | | | | 22 | | 23 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | 25 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 27 |

- Related to pressurised water systems (9)
- Recruit (9)
- Promise (9)
- City in California (7)
- Cooked with water vapour (7)
- Mythical shooter of lovers (5)
- 'I don't know' (colloq) (5)
- Places (5)

SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| G | N | E | S | N | O | I | L | V | C | I | D | E | I | |
| E | E | E | N | d | I | I | I | I | | | | | | |
| W | E | L | O | L | N | O | I | S | T | N | D | X | E | |
| V | E | T | I | N | H | O | N | H | | | | | | |
| S | V | E | S | T | O | J | I | V | H | O | W | | | |
| I | H | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | N | V | A | S | D | E | N | O | D | N | V | A | | |
| N | N | E | O | A | T | | | | | | | | | |
| S | N | O | I | L | V | C | I | D | E | I | | | | |
| N | O | I | L | V | C | I | D | E | I | | | | | |
| V | N | O | Z | I | R | V | S | E | I | C | E | D | S | |
| W | H | U | L | I | L | S | | | | | | | | |
| H | E | I | S | H | O | R | N | I | V | O | V | | | |
| O | N | N | C | V | N | I | | | | | | | | |
| N | O | I | L | V | C | I | D | E | I | | | | | |

Codeword

No. 003

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 4 | | 16 | 23 | 17 | 5 | 7 | | T | | 7 | 11 | 2 | 17 | 15 |
| 18 | | | 16 | | 22 | | | 16 | | 16 | | 7 | | 5 |
| 18 | 22 | 15 | 17 | 5 | | | | K | 17 | 15 | 23 | 5 | 20 | 7 |
| | | | 17 | | 9 | | | 17 | | | | 22 | | T |
| 7 | 12 | 10 | 16 | | T | | | 23 | 2 | 9 | 22 | 5 | 16 | 10 |
| 5 | | | | | 17 | | | 6 | | 18 | | 7 | | 18 |
| 12 | 16 | 8 | 22 | 18 | 8 | | | 1 | 5 | 10 | 7 | 5 | | 20 |
| T | | 17 | | 23 | | 18 | | | 8 | | | | | 5 |
| 5 | 14 | 5 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 15 | | | 18 | 13 | 13 | 5 | | 15 |
| 14 | | 19 | | | | 5 | | | 22 | | 18 | | | |
| 24 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | | | 8 | 5 | 21 | 5 | | 15 |
| 5 | | 10 | | 5 | | 7 | | | 5 | | 5 | | | 1 |
| 10 | 17 | 7 | 5 | 23 | | | | 16 | 7 | 7 | 17 | 7 | T | 7 |

SOLUTIONS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | D | V | A | I | O | W | X | L | N | B | J | U | H | Z | E | G | S | V | C | R | O | P | |
| 24 | 23 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

9-Letter

No. 003

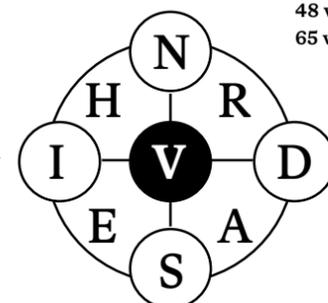
Today's Focus:

32 words: Good

48 words: Very good

65 words: Excellent

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



Reference: Collins Concise English Dictionary

SOLUTIONS

advice, advisers, aver, avert, avid, detritus, diva, divan, dive, diver, dives, drive, driven, drives, rish, ravish, revs, rive, rived, riven, raves, save, saved, saver, shave, shaved, shaven, shaver, shiver, shive, shived, shiven, vain, valiant, vane, vanish, vanished, varied, varies, varnish, varnished, vases, veal, vend, vends, viand, vide, vied, vies, vish, visa, vish, vish.

重启餐饮返现计划

墨尔本第六次封锁一旦结束，将重启新一轮广受欢迎的“墨尔本返现计划”。墨尔本市政为此注入了4000万澳元。

Brendan Rees

在8月17日举行的未来墨尔本委员会(FMC)会议上，市政议员一致投票支持恢复该计划，此前咖啡馆、酒吧和餐馆报告称，该计划从6月11日持续到7月13日期间，顾客“明显增加”。

推出这一计划是为了吸引顾客回到墨尔本市区，摆脱反复封锁后能重新激活这座城市，当食客在市区消费50至500澳元时，他们可以得到20%的餐费折扣。

根据FMC会议上提交的市政报告，上次折扣计划中，总共有270216次申领，其平均消费额为149澳元。

平均退款额为30澳元，其中66%的申领者来自市区以外的顾客。总体而言，该计划为经济刺激作出了4000万澳元的贡献。

其中居榜首的热门餐饮目的地是CBD，其次是Carlton、Southbank和Docklands。

报告还显示，四分之三的“墨尔本返现计划”参与者是专门来市区用餐或喝酒的，在所有的申领者中，有85%的参与者表示，该折扣计划是“他们决定访问市区的一个关键因素”。

与2月份维州进入第二次封锁后相比，该折扣计划期间，餐饮活动“增加得更快”。

副市长Nicholas Reece在市议会会议上表示，墨尔本货币计划是在“最需要的



时候”为本市餐饮行业提供了“至关重要的生命线”。

他说：“我认为墨尔本返现计划是走出这场危机的最佳发明或创新之一”。

墨尔本每月一人死于海洛因过量

维多利亚验尸法庭的一份新报告显示，在2020年期间，平均每个月至少有一人死于与海洛因相关的原因。专家表示，这些统计数据进一步证明，在中央商务区内需要一个安全的注射室。

David Schout

该报告显示，2020年在墨尔本市中心有13人死于海洛因过量，是维州第二高的此类死亡人数，仅次于Brimbank (17人)。

然而整个维州与海洛因相关的死亡人数总体下降了，这是自2015年以来的最低数字。

州政府准备发布一份由前警察局长Ken

Lay撰写的报告，该报告将推荐一个新的安全注射室的最佳地点，可能是Flinders街上的前Yooralla大楼。专家表示，新数据强调了为什么政府必须采取行动。

维州酒精和药物协会(VAADA)执行官Sam Biondo告诉本报，该证据压倒性地支持要有医务监督的注射室(MSIRs)。

Biondo先生表示：“除非希望人们公开使用(毒品)、死于街头、给市容环境造成负面

影响，否则使用一个有证据显示良好的设施将减少这一切。”

“这很奇怪——我们在应对COVID疫情方面依靠医学证据的引导，但涉及有关医务监督的注射室(MSIR)时，却不想依靠医学证据。”

验尸法庭的报告得出结论，维多利亚州“大量的公众讨论”与海洛因危害有关的地理位置问题。



这主要是因为North Richmond设立的第一个MSIR，以及可能在中央商务区设立第二个MSIR。

报告显示最新的统计数据，将“为这次讨论提供信息”。

然而，该报告认为，单独的海洛因过量统计数据并不能用于衡量安全注射室的作用，安全注射室超出了其拯救生命的影响。



备受喜爱的巷道获新生

根据墨尔本市政正在考虑的计划，墨尔本标志性的Hardware巷将进行改造，包括改进安全行人道。

Brendan Rees

为这个备受喜爱的巷道，一项拟议的街景设计已经发布，以确保该巷道依然是一个“充满活力，安全的，可行走流通的巷道”。

根据计划，目前的路面升级将用青石板铺装取代原来的红砖。

巷道将安装新照明灯并同时种植14棵树，行人和用餐者将通过带有青石安全屏障的私人停车场车道隔开。

市长Sally Capp表示，该计划将为所有游客提供“更安全、更愉快的体验”。

她说：“Hardware巷道的红砖已有35多年历史，随着时间的推移已经变质，很

滑而且不平整。”

“我们希望确保Hardware巷道未来继续成为顶级的城市目的地，这就是为什么我们需要做这项工作来保护其未来的原因。”

尽管去年有COVID疫情限制，但市政加快了Bourke和Lonsdale街道之间排水工程，以减少限制放宽后对商家的影响。

现在已经形成了对Hardware巷道第一阶段(Bourke街和Little Bourke街之间)街景升级的拟议设计，对此网上公众咨询开放至8月22日。

拟议的进一步升级包括安装轮椅坡道和盲道地面以改善通行，以及用于间歇性道路封闭的护柱，以及安装新的街道设施，如树木护栏和树穴篦板。

办公楼占用率再次暴跌

反复封城使墨尔本中央商务区(CBD)工作场所大量减少，与COVID疫情之前的办公楼占用水平相比，目前CBD办公楼的占用率只有以前的12%。

David Schout

澳大利亚房地产委员会数据显示，对于零售、酒店和其他依赖于市区Hoddle网络内办公的企业来说，令人担忧的是，目前商业空间的需求处于20世纪90年代经济衰退以来的最低点。

今年早些时候，市区的上班族已经开始返回CBD办公室，到4月份，这一数字已达到疫情前水平的45%。

当不再强制要求在办公环境中戴口罩时，这种回升趋势尤其明显。

然而，墨尔本的第四、第五和第六次封锁（分别在5月/6月、7月和8月）则严重削弱了这种复苏。

房地产委员会维州执行董事Danni Hunter表示，一再的封城打击是毁灭性的。

她说：“今年早些时候的所有收益现在都已荡然无存，因为员工再次逃离了CBD，而且没有反弹恢复迹象，因为我们经历了数月之长的第三次封锁。”

房地产委员会的数据是在7月下旬记录的，该数据衡量了所有澳大利亚中央商务

区的办公场所占用率占COVID疫情前水平的百分比。

墨尔本12%的办公空间占用率远远落后于霍巴特(95%)、珀斯(78%)和布里斯班(67%)等城市。

然而，它仍然高于悉尼，由于Delta病毒导致悉尼长期封城，从6月份的67%急剧下降到7月份的7%。

墨尔本CBD的办公楼空置率目前处于20年来的最高水平，Hunter女士表示，只有随着疫苗接种率的提高，墨尔本的这种情况才会有所改善。

What's on: September 2021



BEHIND THE SCENES

ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE

There's heaps of free online content to explore at Arts Centre Melbourne. Full-length performances, artist interviews, podcasts and more.

artscentremelbourne.com.au



MELBOURNE MUSEUM AT HOME

Until September 30

Are you ready for hands-on fun from the comfort of your home? Explore a range of family-friendly activities inspired by items in the museum's collections and exhibitions!

museumsvictoria.com.au

THIRD TUESDAY OF MONTH @ 10AM

EastEnders meet-ups via Zoom

Representing residents living in the CBD's eastern quadrant, EastEnders have returned to monthly meetings via Zoom during lockdown. For more information contact president Stan Capp:

eastendersinc@gmail.com

LIVE STREAM MELBOURNE ZOO

Animals at Home

While Melbourne Zoo is currently closed to visitors, animal lovers can still connect with their favourites via the Zoo's "Animals at Home" live stream page. Free event, bookings not required.

zoo.org.au/animals-at-home

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

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 (pending COVID restrictions). For meeting times and information contact:

walks@residents3000.com.au



LANEWAY LEARNING

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

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

Business Directory

Accounting

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

Family Law

Working with individuals, families & business.
Tel: 9614 5122 Fax: 9614 2964
www.pearcewebster.com.au

Real Estate

Contact our team
Gina Donazzan 0412 430 326
James Edmundson 0411 456 770
Will Caldwell 0419 010 270
Suzie Inglis 0416 671 572
donazzanboutiqueproperty.com.au

James Flynn
0417 337 819
www.mcre.com.au

Childcare

Address: Level 5, 450 Flinders Street, Melbourne 3000
Phone: 03 9629 9860
Email: director-riverside@sentia.vic.edu.au

Gifts

Clementine's, for your locally made gifts, homewares, accessories and fine food
7 DeGraeves St, Melbourne | 639 2681 | info@clementines.com.au

AWARD-WINNING MELBOURNE DEVELOPER
1800 63 8888
melbournegrand.com.au

Ray White Southbank | Port Phillip
111 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006
P: (03) 8102 0200
www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au

Escorts

Mature Sophisticated Affectionate Discreet Genuine Affordable Escorts
paramour.com.au

Politician

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
(03) 9328 4637 office@ellensandell.com 146 Peel Street North Melbourne VIC 3051

Call Chris on 1300 997 514
Email chris@chrisnell.com.au Visit chrisnell.com.au
Servicing Melbourne City and Metropolitan Melbourne

Sales Leasing Rental Management
Melbourne Resident Melbourne Agent Making Property Personal

Shopping

For the best fresh produce, gourmet food and specialty shopping, you can't beat Queen Vic Market.
Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Saturday & Sunday with plenty of affordable parking.
QVM.COM.AU

Melbourne's Finest Escorts can be at your door in 5min as we're located in the CBD
(03) 9654 6011
www.paramour.com.au

Property

For all leasing enquiries, please contact:

Alexandra Harper 0407 052 070 James Palmer 0438 195 359
Simon Hale 0417 147 785 James Pappas 0419 310 367
GPT The GPT Group *Approx
MELBOURNE CENTRAL TOWER

Selling & Leasing the best homes in the CBD.
Nelson Alexander 846 Bourke St, Docklands 9251 9000

COLLINS PLACE
35 Collins St, Melbourne collinsplace.com.au



Donazzan Boutique Property

"I have had the great privilege of representing numerous clients over my 23 years specialising in Melbourne's Finest Property. From delightful one bedroom beauties to whole floor, luxury residences, all have their rich appeal. With a strong focus on serving my clients, I look forward to sharing with you these beautiful properties and all magnificent Melbourne has to offer." - Gina Donazzan



**SOLD IN 7
DAYS**

\$1,100,000

17/50 Bourke Street



**SOLD IN 4
DAYS**

\$675,000

11/27 Flinders Lane



**SOLD
EQ Penthouse**

Undisclosed

6208/135 A'Beckett Street



**SOLD IN 7
DAYS**

\$525,000

110/336 Russell Street



**SOLD IN 2
WEEKS**

\$485,000

14.2/201 Spring Street



**SOLD IN 10
DAYS**

\$2,400,000

29/180 Little Collins Street

... Melbourne's Finest

Gina Donazzan 0412 430 326
donazzanboutiqueproperty.com.au

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