

# CBD NEWS

cbdnews.com.au

Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P21



**Dark days for our city**  
*Photo by John Tadigiri* Police were called into action this month after the CFMEU headquarters on Elizabeth St (background) was trashed by violent protesters responding to the mandating of COVID-19 vaccines in the construction industry. *More on page 11.*

## Why does the City of Melbourne have the state's lowest vaccination rate?

*Federal figures indicated that, in mid-September, the City of Melbourne had the lowest vaccination levels in Victoria. A deeper dive into the figures, however, suggests there could be an explanation for this.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
HEALTH

By mid-September, the City of Melbourne had the worst rate of COVID-19 vaccination in the state.

As one of just two local government areas with less than 30 per cent of its population double-dosed (alongside the City of Hume), the area was lagging.

Its fully-immunised figure of just 28.4 per cent was also well below the bordering council areas of Stonnington (43.9 per cent), Port Phillip (41.6 per cent) and Yarra (39.7 per cent).

Why had locals been slow getting jabs into their arms? Were they holding up the rest of the state?

Well, it appears the answer might not be so simple.

To start with, both the City of Melbourne and state government suspect the percentage of vaccinated people in the area could, in fact, be higher than reported.

And that's because of the way data has been compiled.

Local populations in vaccination data is based on 2019 figures. Crucially, it fails to consider the exodus of overseas residents in Melbourne, in particular international students.

Since the pandemic hit in early 2020, a sizeable percentage of international students, who made up a large chunk of the local population, are believed to have departed from Melbourne.

Estimates vary, but some believe it could be as much, or even more, than half of all students.

However, the federal figures have not reflected that.

And that means that those who returned home up to 18 months ago are still being counted in population figures.

They are, according to the data, contributing to the "unvaccinated" percentage — except they're not in the country.

Questions of data accuracy aside, the council also believes its low percentage of fully-immunised residents is somewhat unfairly skewed given the area's demographics.

With a median age of 29, the municipality has one of the youngest age profiles in Victoria.

Many residents only became eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination recently.

As such, the lower levels of vaccination — rather than laziness or vaccine hesitancy — might be because many have had to wait for eligibility.

"The social and demographic makeup of our city is like no other," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said in response to queries from *CBD News*.

"Almost three-quarters of our residential population is below the age of 40, most of who would have been ineligible for COVID-19 vaccinations until mid-June — with Pfizer only becoming available to this age group in August."

*Continued on page 5.*

## Hotel works to begin despite no call on 3am licence

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
PLANNING

The transformation of an historic Bourke St site into a large-scale bar and restaurant is set to begin in October, despite an unresolved bid from its owners to operate until 3am.

After threatening in 2020 to "hand back the keys" for the derelict Job Warehouse should its proposed venue be forced to shut at 1am each night, the O'Brien Group will push ahead with works valued at \$4.9 million this month with a liquor licence decision still up in the air.

A Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) hearing in August between the Group and the City of Melbourne was awaiting a final decision.

During the hearing, the council argued a 1am closing time for the 673-patron venue was appropriate to protect the interests of nearby residents.

Some of these residents, on Liverpool St, would reside less than 10 metres from the proposed hotel.

CEO Michael O'Brien had argued in December 2020 that the economic viability of the new venue, to be called Juliet's Terrace, was reliant on a favourable liquor licence.

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

"The reality is, without the support of the Melbourne City Council for a 3am licence, it will not proceed and we'll have no other choice but to hand back the keys."

But the Group has not followed through on its threat, and planned to begin works irrespective of the VCAT decision.

Mr O'Brien did not respond to requests for comment from *CBD News*.

In a Zoom meeting on September 14, the O'Brien Group informed nearby residents and businesses that works — beginning with the demolition of four restaurants on Liverpool St — would begin in October.

*Continued on page 2.*

BUSINESS, PAGE 03  
**A** Traders call on locals to shop local!



BUSINESS, PAGE 06  
**B** Roadmap offers a "glimmer of hope"



TRANSPORT, PAGE 08  
**C** City Loop upgrades sits idle with no contractor



ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 11  
**D** Athenaeum to receive \$200,000 upgrade



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 November edition is October 22.

**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



# Hotel works to begin despite no call on 3am licence

*Continued from page 1.*

It is expected to take 12 to 14 months. The heritage-listed Job Warehouse (also known as “the Crossley Building”) is just one component of the larger site, bound by Bourke, Liverpool and Crossley streets in the CBD’s East End.

There is a united push, from developers, the council and residents, for the 1840s building — one of the CBD’s oldest — to be renewed.

The Bourke St site last served as a haberdashery but has sat dormant since 2012.

Some have termed it the city’s most “high-profile eyesore”.

And while plans for the site were endorsed by the Salvation Army and nearby Pellegrini’s Espresso Bar, resident opposition has been considerable.

In fact, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said in December that objections, “which exceeded 100 to both the initial and amended proposals, represented a “significant community campaign of opposition”.

The O’Brien Group had initially pushed for a 957-patron venue open until 3am, but that was wound back to 673 patrons and a 1am closing time.

Residents have reluctantly agreed to the 1am permit, however believe that any extension would be unreasonable.

The council has backed this view, for two key reasons.

First, that Liverpool St residents live less than 10 metres from the proposed venue, and a 3am licence would represent a significant impact on amenity.

And second, many whose homes are located in Liverpool St are long-term CBD residents, some of whom have lived there for 30 years.

Cr Reece has said these points were factors in decision-making.

Dr Nicola Smith, one of several nearby residents who attended the recent VCAT hearings, told *CBD News* those living nearby were bracing for a significant change to their living conditions.



“Despite its huge scale and long hours — unlike other planning permit conditions for nearby venues such as Longrain and Sunda Dining — permit conditions for this development do not adequately protect the amenity of residents and prevent harm to human health,” she said.

“It will have a big impact on the ability for residents to have reasonably peaceful enjoyment of their own homes, private open space and amenity.”

Dr Smith said the O’Brien Group’s justification for a 3am licence to pay off costly repair work was not fair on residents.

“It’s a disgrace and completely unreasonable that the [former] building owners have allowed a heritage buildings of state significance to fall into such an appalling state of disrepair and then expect the local residents to pay for its restoration through significant loss of amenity.”

The O’Brien Group’s portfolio of venues includes the Bondi Icebergs, O’Brien Icehouse in Docklands and the close-by Imperial Hotel.



*Permit conditions for this development do not adequately protect the amenity of residents and prevent harm to human health.*



Mr O’Brien has previously said the target demographic for Juliette’s Terrace was predominantly those 35-plus with a mix of city residents, workers, theatre audiences, international and interstate visitors, and creatives. ●

# 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

# CBD traders urge Melburnians to shop locally for Christmas

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*  
BUSINESS

After another hard year of lockdowns, CBD traders are urging Melburnians to support small businesses by shopping locally this Christmas.

City retailers have been stocking up with locally made, Australian-made products that will help shoppers to avoid Australia Post delays at Christmas time.

Nic Poltronieri, who owns the 74-year-old Flinders St icon Hearn's Hobbies, said that shopping locally was the best way to support Melbourne businesses that have been struggling for the better part of two years.

"Every dollar spent, every thank you, every sign of support, helps us get through these times and out the other side," he said.

"There are a few residents but it hasn't been as busy in the city, so we've adapted to doing deliveries, click and collect and designing our products locally."

"My employees and I have been doing our best to support each other during this time but it's tough."

Degraves St icon Clementine's, which has been selling Victorian-made homewares and gifts for a decade, is also ready to go for Christmas.

Owner Melanie Ashe was tentatively hopeful for the festive season and urged shoppers to get their shopping done early to avoid delays.

"Obviously the postal system is going to have a lot of issues so we're encouraging people to shop early and be organised so they can have a nice, peaceful Christmas," she said.

Ms Ashe said that it was crucial to keep morale high during the lockdowns and had done so through the support of local traders around her.

"I think we've managed to build a real community among ourselves, we've had to be really resilient and we all talk to each other and share ideas," Ms Ashe said.



▲ L-R: Business owners Romina Beltram, Melanie Ashe and Nic Poltronieri with Lord Mayor Sally Capp (third right).

"You're allowed to feet flat for a little while and then we help each other to get back to where we should be again."

Handmade Italian stationary store Il Papiro, also in Degraves St, was also getting ready for the Christmas season.

Owner Romina Beltram already had her Christmas stock in store for click and collect and hopefully, one day soon, to sell in person once more.

"It's been up and down, but businesses like ours are a real passion business, so there's something more that spurs you along and you dig a bit deeper to make it work," Ms Beltram said.

"That's what we've been doing for the past

12 months – making it work."

Ms Beltram said that many traders were "nervous" for the Christmas period as they didn't know what the restrictions would be, but they were still holding out hope.

"It's a different set of circumstances and we just don't know how the public is going to react, even though city chopping is probably the safest way to shop as it's open air, small shops," Ms Beltram said.

"But we all have our fingers crossed."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the city's traders had endured so much during the past 18 months, so the best Christmas gift Melburnians could give this year was one of support to small business owners.



▲ Clementine's owner Melanie Ashe.



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp with Mr Poltronieri.

"If there was ever a year to buy local, this is it," the Lord Mayor said.

Speaking on September 15, Cr Capp said that the City of Melbourne was putting the "finishing tinsel" on its Christmas Festival plans, which will run from November 27 to Christmas Day.

"I'm very much looking forward to hearing the state government's roadmap out of lockdown this weekend, so the council and our city can start preparing to reopen with a bang," the Lord Mayor said.

"We want to bring the buzz back with baubles on top, and we're looking at how we can help traders to make this a season to remember." ●

**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



## 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](https://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 عائلاتكم ومجتمعكم من فيروس كورونا. لمعرفة المزيد، يرجى زيارة الموقع الإلكتروني [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine](https://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](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine)

如果符合COVID-19疫苗施打资格，请儘快預約。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](https://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](https://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](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine)

[coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine)



CITY OF MELBOURNE

# “Incredible turnout” at Town Hall vaccination hub

*The move to transform Melbourne Town Hall into a vaccination hub for those “who might otherwise miss out” has been an instant success according to a health provider.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
HEALTH

On September 1, the iconic Swanston St building opened its doors to vaccinate some of the city’s most vulnerable residents.

Almost 2000 people were vaccinated in the first fortnight, two-thirds of whom did not have a Medicare card.

Nicole Bartholomeusz, chief executive of Cohealth — the community health service in charge at Town Hall — said the response was heartening.

“The turnout to Town Hall has been incredible,” she said.

“A diverse range of people [has been] lining up from the early hours of the morning committed to getting vaccinated as soon as they can ... Cohealth has a customer service officer who walks the line identifying people who are especially at risk, so they can speak to a peer worker or have an interpreter arranged. People have been very patient, and we’re doing our best to keep waiting times to a minimum.”

The hub is targeting a range of groups throughout the city, including rough sleepers, people with English literacy limitations, refugees, and international students.

More than one-third of those who used the service had a preferred language other than English, with Vietnamese, Spanish and Mandarin the top three languages.

Other members of the public were encouraged to continue using other large-scale vaccination centres, including the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre at South Wharf and the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton.

Ms Bartholomeusz said the Town Hall centre was all about preventing anyone slipping through the cracks.

“The success of the Town Hall vaccination centre proves again that our welcoming and tailored vaccination approaches are reaching those who might otherwise miss out,” she said.

“Creating culturally safe, and welcoming spaces to deliver the vaccine is key. Our experience in working with people from culturally diverse backgrounds, and those who face barriers to accessing vaccination has put us in a good position to bring the vaccine to people in the City of Melbourne.”

International student Jamie Bravo was one local who got vaccinated at the Town Hall hub during September.

The Chilean student, studying commercial cookery, told *CBD News* he was “feeling really happy” after receiving his first dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

Mr Bravo had a clear motivation for getting vaccinated, and hoped restrictions would end soon.

“I’d like to travel back to Chile to see my family, because I haven’t seen them for three years already and it’s really hard,” he said.

“I really miss them and would really like to see them.”



▲ Cohealth community health nurse Brieneka Moloney (left) and customer services officer Suzanne McInerney.



▲ Chilean student Jamie Bravo after receiving his jab at Town Hall.

The vaccination hub was particularly important as vaccination rates within the City of Melbourne were some of the lowest in the state.

The central and recognisable location of the CBD’s Town Hall was particularly important for eliminating barriers for at-risk groups.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the opening weeks had been pleasing.

“We’ve received an incredibly positive response to our new Melbourne Town Hall vaccination centre,” Cr Capp said.

“Every member of our community matters and this vaccination hub will make sure everyone has equal access to the vaccine, with or without a Medicare card. The centre recently increased its capacity and is now vaccinating up to 300 people a day, and we’re continuing to work with Cohealth to boost supply so we can reach as many people as possible.”

The council has flagged that the centre could soon be open to more people, but was initially focused on vaccinating vulnerable residents.

“Most people accessing the clinic are from diverse, multilingual backgrounds, including international students. The majority of people are under the age of 40 and accessing the centre without a Medicare card. This is great news — because it means we’re reaching those who have



## Why does the City of Melbourne have the state’s lowest vaccination rate?

*Continued from page 1.*

This was confirmed by Nicole Bartholomeusz, the chief executive of Cohealth, a community health service.

“The City of Melbourne has a much younger population compared to other municipalities, with many of them only becoming eligible for the vaccination in June. It’s likely this is a contributing factor to the lower vaccination rates,” she said.

The good news is, since eligibility has opened up, vaccination rates are improving.

A Department of Health spokesperson said that immunisation rates in the City of Melbourne had “risen rapidly since people aged 16 and over became eligible for Pfizer”.

Cr Capp said the race was on. “We’re catching up quickly now that young people can get a jab. It’s inspiring to see their rush to get vaccinated.”

She said no one could question the council’s push for everyone to get the jab.

“We want to get as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible — and as a municipality, we’re doing everything we can — more than most — to get people vaccinated.”

Finally, the Department of Health also noted that the City of Melbourne was home to many diverse communities, including those with language barriers or experiencing homelessness.

This too could also have contributed to lower-than-average vaccination rates, however, this issue was now being addressed.

“Melbourne is home to many young and diverse communities — including some of our most vulnerable. We’re doing everything we can to boost vaccine supplies, get doses to where they’re needed and give people the support they need.”

Cohealth has partnered with the City of Melbourne to deliver vaccinations at Melbourne Town Hall (see report and pictures on this page).

Ms Bartholomeusz said the key goal of this facility was to ensure no one slipped between the cracks.

“It’s critical that vulnerable people aren’t left behind,” she said.

“We’re working hard to close the vaccination gap, so that no-one misses out on vaccination due to low English literacy, homelessness or no Medicare card.” ●

“

*The success of the Town Hall vaccination centre proves again that our welcoming and tailored vaccination approaches are reaching those who might otherwise miss out.*

”

difficulty accessing mainstream clinics.”

Passers-by to Town Hall will notice an art installation, featuring a series of black and white photos of Cohealth clients who are currently (or at risk of) experiencing homelessness receiving their first vaccine.

The council has also partnered with charity and social enterprise group Co-Ground to provide coffees and food to those getting vaccinated at Town Hall. ●

# BACK PAIN?

## NOW'S THE TIME FOR KIESER

# 50% OFF\*

AN INITIAL PHYSIO ASSESSMENT

To get started on your Kieser journey, visit [www.kieser.com.au](http://www.kieser.com.au) to book your initial assessment.

\*Only available to new Kieser clients. Offer only available on an initial physiotherapy assessment. 1/2 price initial physiotherapy assessment will be \$55.50 (RRP \$111) in VIC.

**KIESER**  
BE STRONG, STAY STRONG

Please support our advertisers because without them we would have no CBD News

# Government roadmap offers “glimmer of hope” but traders fear they won’t survive extended lockdown

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
BUSINESS

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp says Victoria’s roadmap out of lockdown offers “a glimmer of hope for traders”, with the city having been the “hardest hit in the nation”. Premier Daniel Andrews said the lockdown was expected to end by October 26 when 70 per cent of Victorians were fully vaccinated against COVID – with pubs, clubs and entertainment venues to open to outdoor dining but restricted to 50 fully-vaccinated people.

Cr Capp welcomed the news, which she said “outlined the first few important steps towards reopening”.

But she said the council was “doing everything we can to get Victorians vaccinated as soon as possible so we can bring forward the steps in the roadmap”.

“We are determined to turn the city inside out by bringing indoor hospitality and trading outside onto our beautiful streets so that traders can welcome back more patrons and customers sooner,” the Lord Mayor said. “We look forward to more information regarding the reopening steps beyond December.”

“This will be integral for businesses going forward so they can look forward to operating more normally. We are also seeking clarity for the arts sector, such as theatres, museums and galleries.” Under the roadmap, pubs, restaurants, and cafes would open for seated service only with up to 150 fully vaccinated people inside and 500 outdoors when the state reached 80 per cent double doses around November 5.

All retail would also reopen as would hairdressing salons for fully-vaccinated people.

Tom Sinclair, operations manager of Mejico Tequila Bar and Restaurant and INDU Dining in the CBD, which are both currently open for takeaway, said while he welcomed a roadmap out of lockdown, it was also “frustrating” as



▲ Cr Jason Chang at his Calia Emporium store, and (top right) Melanie Horwood closes her doors.

they would not be able to reopen both their restaurants when Victoria hit 70 per cent double vaccination because they didn’t have outdoor dining.

“We’re just looking forward to getting back open and getting all our staff back – which has been an absolute nightmare for them,” he said, which he had hoped would happen by November.

Asked how he felt about managing customers who needed to be double-vaccinated before entering, Mr Sinclair said, “It’s just something we have to do, it’s not ideal but it’s the world we live in these days”.

City of Melbourne Cr Jason Chang, who runs a Japanese grocery store and restaurant called

Calia Emporium on Lonsdale St, described the months-long lockdown as “absolutely horrible” and was disappointed the roadmap out of lockdown “doesn’t go far enough”.

“Businesses were hoping to see bigger steps in reopening like much of the rest of the world has done,” he said. “But we are left with small steps forward with many businesses not being able to withstand another six weeks of closures.”

“Every business owner I have spoken to is at the maximum mental exhaustion. A lot are just throwing in the towel now.”

Cr Chang said revenue at his shop was down 90 to 95 per cent of normal trade and was only staying open “to literally keep our staff employed”.



Also left heartbroken was hairdresser Melanie Horwood who was forced to close the doors of her beloved hair salon in Little Bourke St after 23 years.

“I just wasn’t making any money, there was no point having the lights on,” the former owner of Picone Hair said after officially closing up on June 30.

“It was actually more feasible for me to terminate my lease and just move out.”

While she was grateful for the support of her landlord who didn’t charge her rent, Ms Horwood said the extended lockdown “basically put the nail in the coffin”.

“I’ve got to look at other avenues where I can pick up customer service work that aren’t affected by COVID,” she said.

“I think for me my time owning a business is probably done and dusted.”

Charlyne Manshanden, executive officer of the Collins Street Precinct Group, said the “more clarity that our members and businesses have to enable them to plan ahead and be prepared, the more successful their re-opening will be”.

Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief executive Paul Guerra criticised the roadmap, saying “Victorian businesses wanted a pathway to prosperity, but instead we got a roadmap with roadblocks”. ●

## Get students back in early 2022: Council

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
EDUCATION

The City of Melbourne has called for a “substantial return” of international students in time for the 2022 academic year, and urged upper levels of government to show leadership on the issue.

The council said state and federal governments had adopted a “generally conservative approach” to planning for international student arrivals, and argued planning for next year should “commence immediately”.

Prior to COVID-19, almost four in 10 CBD residents were international students.

However, Australia’s strict border policy throughout the pandemic has seen that figure decline.

A report presented to councillors at the September 7 Future Melbourne Committee meeting concluded that overseas students’ return would prove crucial not only for tertiary institutions, but also for the many businesses that rely on their presence within the Hoddle Grid.

“The return of international students is critical for the city’s recovery in the short to medium term,” the report stated.

“Melbourne’s economy will benefit from international students returning: not just directly in the higher education sector, which has had massive job losses since Australia closed its borders, but also from the flow-on economic benefits of student spending in areas such as housing, food and services.”

After unanimous support from councillors, the City of Melbourne will work with key figures in the international education sector.

Their task will be to push state and federal governments for a “strong return of international students to Melbourne in time for the 2022 academic year”.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp will also work with other capital city Lord Mayors in a joint advocacy effort aimed at securing a national plan.

Other states had already raised the possibility of international students returning before the end of the year.

A NSW plan to allow entry to 250 students per fortnight was paused in June at the onset of the state’s prolonged lockdown period.

However, NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said they could return to the plan in November.

Similarly, the South Australian government has flagged international students would soon become part of a home quarantine trial.

Yet at the time of publishing, the Andrews government was yet to release plans to the tertiary sector in Victoria.

The City of Melbourne’s education and innovation chair Cr Davydd Griffiths said it was important to advocate for a specific return date – in this case, early next year.

“That obviously isn’t far away, and we need to ensure that it is a meaningful and realistic target that we can achieve,” he said.

“It’s important to have some timeframes and clear goals to aim at.”

Cr Griffiths said that the

importance of international students should not only be expressed in economic terms.

“[They are] important for a whole range of reasons; for institutions ... for the life of the city, [but] also for individual students themselves. And that, at the heart of everything we’re talking about, when it comes to international students is the most important thing, because we’re talking about human beings.”

“And we need to ensure that our city does all it can to make it the very best place for them to study.”

His deputy in the education portfolio, Cr Phillip Le Liu, acknowledged that the council’s influence on the issue was limited.

“There’s not many levers the City of Melbourne can pull,” he said.

“The federal government control visas, the state government control the education part.”

“But we really are the closest government to the people ... for us, the advocacy is really important and that’s why we’re doing everything we can.”

In July, Melbourne was ranked the sixth-best student city in the world by university ranking group QS, down from third in the previous rankings of 2019. ●



*David Schout*  
JOURNALIST

DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



## The art to rolling up your sleeve

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
ARTS & CULTURE

A Melbourne-based photographer says he’s honoured after his work featured in a public art display showing the vulnerable getting a COVID vaccine in the heart of the city.

Chris Hopkins said he was “over the moon” to see his series of black and white portraits used in a “vaccine hero” art installation at the iconic Melbourne Town Hall, which recently opened as a vaccine hub.

Mr Hopkins’ subjects included those who are currently, or at risk of, experiencing homelessness.

The two-time Walkley winner said he hoped the installation “brings about some sort of awareness”.

“I love the ability of photojournalism to implement change ... if through photography I can encourage a couple of people to get vaccinated, then that’s an added benefit of the job,” he said.

Mr Hopkins said he spent some time with each of his subjects at the Town Hall to make them “feel at ease”.

“I try to get to know them a little bit, and listen to their stories before I make their photograph, as much as it helps me know how I want to visually present them, it’s also a common courtesy.”

He said he was initially on assignment with *The Age* newspaper to document people at the hub being vaccinated before the idea of the art installation had come about.

“Because *The Age* didn’t actually run those particular images, I thought that rather than them sitting on my hard drive, they would be better put to use,” he said, before offering the photos to Cohealth, who had organised three of the subjects to attend the hub for the photo shoot.

Dr Kim Webber, executive lead of strategy and partnerships at Cohealth praised Mr Hopkins’ work, saying he had “done a brilliant job of capturing their strength and resilience”.

The City of Melbourne partnered with Cohealth in creating the vaccine hub to ensure everyone had equal access to the vaccine, with or without a Medicare card. For more read the full story on page 5. ●



## Push for vaccine passport trial in Melbourne

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

CBD pubs, clubs and entertainment venues could open sooner than planned if a council-backed COVID-19 vaccine passport trial is adopted by the state government.

City of Melbourne councillors were expected to endorse the “Health Pass” system on September 21, which would allow vaccinated and exempt Melburnians to enter certain nighttime venues as part of the scheme.

If endorsed, Lord Mayor Sally Capp would write to Premier Dan Andrews offering the city as a pilot municipality for the new system.

Cr Capp, who was critical of the government’s roadmap “baby steps”, said local businesses needed a more ambitious plan.

“The City of Melbourne has been doing everything it can to get more Victorians vaccinated because it’s the path to reopening our city,” she said.

“Nowhere in Australia has been hit harder by devastating lockdowns than Melbourne, and our businesses should be the first in line to reopen safely. They’re prepared to do whatever it takes.”

The Health Pass plan was drawn up by the council’s Night Time Economy Advisory Committee, consisting of industry leaders and chaired by Cherry Bar owner James Young.

Mr Young said safety could not be compromised under the pilot.

“First and foremost, we want staff in our venues to be safe. We want patrons to be safe. We don’t want anything to jeopardise that safety,” Young said.

“An opt-in trial in the City of Melbourne is the perfect opportunity to identify and resolve issues in partnership with industry and government. It would require streamlined technology and processes to minimise the compliance burden on businesses and venues of all sizes, and to ensure the system is rolled out quickly and effectively.”

The scheme would be a temporary measure, and operate until vaccination levels are

sufficient to lift health restrictions.

This was expected in early November, when Victoria was predicted to hit an 80 per cent vaccination rate and patrons could begin dining and drinking indoors.

At 70 per cent (expected in late October) food and drink venues can open, but only for outdoor service.

Along with industry figures, Cr Capp was not pleased with the roadmap plans.

“The immediate response has been really despondency,” she told the Nine Network a day after Mr Andrews revealed the staggered post-lockdown steps.

“People were hoping for much bigger steps forward and these have really been baby steps ... unfortunately, [it] means that we will definitely be the city that’s had the most lockdown days in the world; that even as we start to reopen, those steps are very incremental when people were hoping to step more confidently into the future.”

She said business owners had hoped for more.

“I think because Victorians have been so good, so compliant, so respectful of the rules, they’re wanting something back from the state government to recognise that effort, and it isn’t really demonstrated in these first two steps.”

Premier Daniel Andrews said, “opening up too soon – before people had the chance to get the job,” would result in Victoria’s system being unable to cope and see “catastrophic numbers” become seriously unwell.

Mr Andrews also added that “based on the overwhelming success of last Summer’s Outdoor Dining program”, the government would provide additional funding to councils and businesses to get even more activities outside.

“More details will be released about this soon,” he said. ●

**For more information:**  
[coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

## Lockdown Statistics:

- 26 New properties coming to market
- 23 Properties launched to online portals
- 837 Online Enquiries
- 442 Virtual Inspections
- 46 Site unseen offers
- 12 Site unseen sales & counting

**RayWhite**

Scan the QR code to find out why I believe now is the best time to be selling your property



## Museum of Chinese Australian History celebrates \$15K grant for new podcast

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Melbourne’s famous Museum of Chinese Australian History is celebrating after being awarded \$15,000 to help launch a podcast about Chinese-Australian family stories.

It is one of 52 projects that will share the \$350,000 *Local History Grants*, a program run by Public Record Office Victoria to support community and history organisations to preserve, record and share Victoria’s local history.

Museum of Chinese Australian History CEO Mark Wang said they were excited to receive the grant which would help develop their new podcast called *Chinese Australian Whispers*.

It will explore the historical lives of families with Chinese backgrounds in Victoria and reflect on recent family experiences across the state.

“Receiving a grant to contextualise snippets of history by connecting them to descendant families enables us to continue to join the pieces of the community jigsaw together for us to see the bigger picture,” Mr Wang said.

“It’s great that the value of our heritage is recognised and supported by the Victorian Government in this way.”

Mr Wang said while the lockdown had forced the closure of the museum, there was a “hive of activity” happening behind the scenes as it transitioned online.

This included broadcasting an eight-part video series titled “Who We Are” which was launched in February by the Australian embassy in Beijing that attracted more than 340,000 views on social media in China.

The museum has also been streaming an online educational program called “Digital Cultural Adventures” which it trialled in Victorian Schools last year.

“Currently, we are establishing new programs that will be promoted to NSW schools and



eventually to all schools across Australia. This could increase our schools’ audience exponentially,” Mr Wang said.

He said 2022 looked to be an “optimistic year for the Chinese Museum,” as it hoped to widen its audience footprint, “thinking nationally not just locally, and undertaking activities that can reach audiences via many different mediums”.

“The Chinese Museum has a cultural business that is about the connectivity of people, neighbourhoods and communities through history, culture and heritage and this can be activated outside the museum’s four walls,” Mr Wang said.

The Museum is located at a historic building in Cohen Place, which was built in 1890 as a furniture factory by the Cohen Brothers when Chinese and Jewish furniture makers proliferated in Chinatown in the late 1800s.

Government Services Minister Danny Pearson congratulated all this year’s successful projects which he said, “reflect the diversity, innovation and creativity of community groups and local historians across Victoria”. ●

**Whittles**

Owners Corporation Management Services



Established in 1968 Whittles is the largest Australian owned strata management company and widely recognised for its experienced staff and the provision of professional strata management services nationally. With specialist expertise in prestigious high-rise buildings, marinas, commercial and residential, Whittles is proud to be part of Melbourne CBD.

**whittles.com.au**

For superior owners corporation management services, contact the Docklands dedicated team

Whittles, Level 1, 838 Collins Street, Docklands VIC 3008

T 03 8632 3300 E [info.docklands@whittles.com.au](mailto:info.docklands@whittles.com.au)

# City Loop safety upgrade sits idle with no contractor in sight

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

TRANSPORT

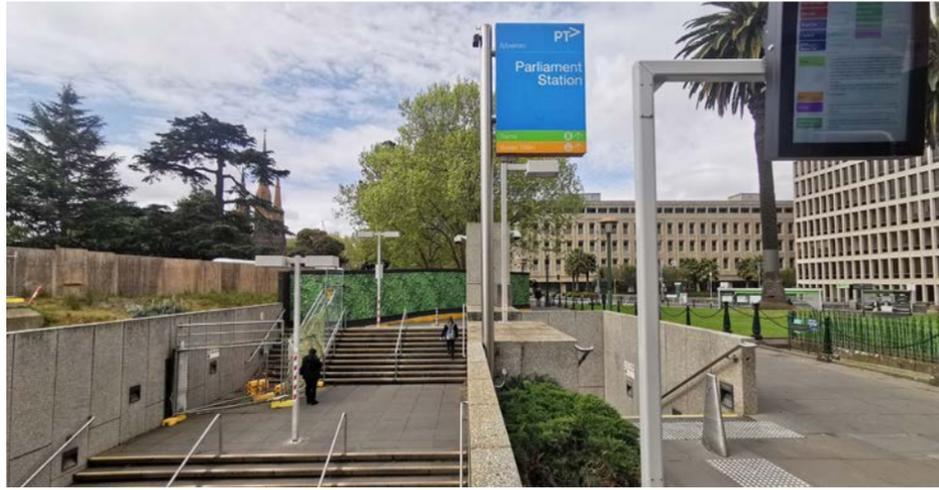
Workssites near Parliament Station and Flagstaff Gardens continue to sit dormant as the state government desperately tries to find a new contractor to finish a safety upgrade of Melbourne's City Loop.

The works have not been able to proceed since 2018 when the main contractor went broke.

The Department of Transport is trying to resolve the matter, with a spokesperson saying "Discussions are underway in relation to when work will recommence, to further improve the safety of everyone who uses the City Loop and improve reliability of train services".

According to the 2021-22 Victorian Budget papers, the total estimated investment (TEI) and remaining expenditure for the City Loop fire and safety upgrade were not disclosed, instead saying this was "to be confirmed".

"The TEI is being refined following the original contractor entering administration and will be disclosed following finalisation of the business case later in 2021," the papers stated, however, the Department expected works to be



▲ One of the City Loop worksites at Parliament Station.

completed sometime between 2023 and 2024 – up to four years from now.

In 2014, then Premier Dennis Napthine of the Liberal Party announced its government would spend more than \$43 million by the end of the year to upgrade fire and safety equipment

within the City Loop.

By 2016, the Labor Party, which had taken office two years earlier, said it would spend \$132.8 million on the upgrade with works estimated to be finished by 2020.

To date, fire and safety systems in the City

Loop have been upgraded, including existing fire detection systems, fire hydrant infrastructure, upgraded CCTV and the implementation of an intruder detection system.

But the Department of Transport said planned works to further improve fire and safety systems at Parliament, Flagstaff and Melbourne Central stations were unable to proceed when the main contractor went into voluntary administration in December 2018.

"The Department needed to resolve protracted and complex legal and commercial issues relating to the voluntary administration ahead of the project getting back on track," the Department said in a statement.

"Discussions are underway in relation to when work will recommence."

Meanwhile, large parts of Parliament Station and Flagstaff Gardens continue to be blocked off to the public despite works coming to a halt.

The next stage of works includes installing platform smoke extraction systems, upgrading sprinkler systems and integrating the new systems in the City Loop's operating environment, the Department said.

It said these works would improve reliability, reduce delays and upgrade infrastructure to improve management of emergency situations. ●

## Melbourne confirmed for electric scooter trial

WORDS BY *David Schout*

TRANSPORT

CBD locals will soon add "electric scooter" to their list of transport options as part of a 12-month trial set to begin in coming months.

The City of Melbourne was one of four local government areas selected to test the e-scooter hire scheme, alongside two other inner-city councils (Yarra and Port Phillip) and the City of Ballarat.

The trial is set to begin as early as this spring, pending council approval of an operator.

Hired scooters will be permitted to travel at 20kmh on bicycle lanes, shared paths and low-speed roads (up to a maximum 50kmh speed limit).

They will not, however, be permitted on footpaths and riders must wear a helmet.

Announcement of the trial is arguably well overdue for what is a largely unregulated transport option.

Most e-scooters currently seen on the city's streets are illegal, as they are

both too powerful (greater than 200 watts) and travel faster than 10 kmh (current Victorian law).

As Lord Mayor Sally Capp said in June, "Every time I see somebody on a scooter I think 'oops I think they might be breaking the law'."

At the time, she added, "I think sooner we get this sorted the better".

After confirmation the City of Melbourne would be part of the trial scheme, Cr Capp told *CBD News* an effective model would benefit the city in a number of ways.

"Melbourne has an excellent network of transport routes that could be suitable for e-scooter use," she said.

"We look forward to testing whether e-scooters could become another safe, effective and environmentally-friendly transport option. Innovative initiatives like this can help to bring back the buzz by attracting more visitors into the city and helping them to get around."

Data will be gathered during the 12-month trial to understand how the vehicles could be safely incorporated

into the transport network.

Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll said inner-city roads were the perfect testing ground for a new transport option.

"We are partnering with local councils that have a good mix of low-speed roads, shared user paths and bicycle lanes to trial how e-scooters may fit into our transport network," he said.

"E-scooters are an emerging technology, and there's more work that needs to be done to understand how these vehicles can be safely used in our state."

It is understood the process of hiring a scooter will likely be similar to the council's current e-bike trial with provider Lime.

Through that scheme, users download the Lime or Uber app to find the nearest bicycle and, once found, scan a QR code located on the bike.

The app then takes users through the booking process – including how to safely use and park the bike – before unlocking it ready for use.

Several cities around the world

have operated e-scooter sharing systems since 2017, notably throughout the US and Europe.

Closer to home, Brisbane and Auckland have also trialed the "micro-mobility" option.

However, safety concerns continue to dog the relatively new transport option, both for riders and pedestrians.

When the prospect of a Melbourne-based trial emerged in May, Cr Rohan Leppert said these concerns would remain until proven otherwise.

"I won't be shy about the fact that I'm very nervous about a scooter trial in the centre of Melbourne, and I'm glad that we're not going first," he said at a June 1 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

"If you look at some of the experiences in cities like Auckland and Brisbane and plenty of cities overseas, we've seen what happened – a bit like what happened here with oBikes – if you don't have enough of the base level of regulations to understand how government might support and guide an operator through being a



good citizen, then you're not going to end up with a scooter system that's publicly safe, and you're not going to end up with a system that's embraced with a high reputation."

Cr Leppert said restricting riders to certain streets and preventing scooter use on footpaths was crucial.

"I think that's absolutely vital, because we don't want to be facilitating a highly dangerous mix of different transport modes in the wrong place ... done well, this has the capacity to do fantastic things for our city. But we really have to make sure the regulations are right." ●

## Fears bicycle theft from apartment buildings "increasing rapidly"

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

SAFETY & SECURITY

Concerns are growing because of bicycle thefts from city apartment buildings and car parks "increasing rapidly", despite more people working from home.

New research undertaken by Bicycle Network has revealed the City of Melbourne topped the list when it came to reported bicycle thefts in 2020 with 1298 reports.

Yarra was the second highest local government area for bicycle thefts, with 558 reported last year, followed by Port Phillip (517).

However, Melbourne ranked second behind Brunswick with the most bicycles stolen per 100,000 people in 2020 – with St Kilda nudging out Carlton for third spot with the highest amount of thefts.

Alarming, bicycle thefts state-wide from flats, units, and apartments have grown at a rate of 40.7 per cent each year – despite Melbourne's 112-day lockdown last year.

Streets and footpaths also remain a hotspot for thefts across the state with more than 1000

bikes reported stolen last year, followed by front yards (856) and carparks (791).

But it was thefts from apartment buildings and car parks that had concerned Bicycle Network which it said reports were "increasing rapidly".

Overall, the report showed bicycle thefts had jumped by 81.2 per cent during the past 10 years across the state – an average of 20 bikes stolen every day compared to 11 in 2011.

However, Bicycle Network said lockdowns had been having an impact with thefts reported at railway stations, shopping complexes and schools all dropping in 2020.

Only nine per cent of reported bike thefts were solved by police, according to the report. But with reports of thefts increasing, police were making more arrests.

Bicycle Network chief executive Craig Richards said the lack of secure bike parking facilities made it easier for opportunistic thieves to pounce.

"Thefts happen when people can't lock their bike up in a secure or safe setting. If someone with sticky fingers sees an easy score, they'll take it," Mr Richards said.

“

*The ability for bikes to be quickly dismantled and sold to a big second-hand market makes recovering stolen bikes and catching thieves difficult.*

”

"Schools, public transport stations, workplaces and shopping centres should all have dedicated bike lock-ups while bike hoops on the street should be placed in highly-visible places with lots of foot traffic."

"The ability for bikes to be quickly dismantled and sold to a big second-hand market makes recovering stolen bikes and catching thieves difficult."

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the

best protection against bicycle theft was a good quality lock and making use of one of the thousands of bike hoops across the city."

"We're continuing to deliver new bike facilities right across the municipality as part of a range of City of Melbourne infrastructure developments," she said.

"We encourage anyone whose bike has been stolen to contact Victoria Police immediately."

Bicycle Network provided the following tips to keep your bicycle secure:

- Using a hardened D-lock that cannot be snipped apart by bolt cutters
- Always lock your bike whether you are out or at home.
- Avoid leaving your bike parked on the street overnight or for extended periods of time.
- If you use a ride recording app such as Strava you should be careful not to highlight the location of your home.
- If your bike is stolen you should immediately report it to police.
- Take photos of your bike and record details of its make, model, year, colour, and serial number (in case of theft). ●

# Residents vow to fight planned demolition of roundabout at QVM

*A battle is looming over the approved removal of an iconic roundabout at Queen Victoria Market with residents vowing to “fight as far as we can” to save it.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne is moving ahead with its removal of the Queen St and Franklin St roundabout along with mature trees after ticking off plans in December 2019.

But with fears growing that bulldozers could move in before the end of this year, residents are stepping up their campaign to keep their much-loved roundabout they argued “functioned well” while providing a pocket of green space that was pet-friendly and a “great haven” for wildlife.

While the council did not specify when any demolition works of the roundabout would begin after responding to questions from *CBD News*, it said designs for the intersection were underway “ahead of relevant approvals”.

“Following council’s endorsement of the discontinuance of sections of Queen and Franklin streets in 2019, and subsequent gazettal in July 2020, the Queen St roundabout will be removed to enable future development to the south of the market,” a council spokesperson said in a statement, adding the northern intersection of Franklin and Queen streets would be signalled to bring “about numerous safety benefits for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists”.

Resident Bob Evans, who has lived in a nearby apartment building for 20 years, said the roundabout was a “landmark in its own right” and “council has done its best to demonise the roundabout and say it’s unsafe”.

He said the “council has this great entry point” to the iconic market and it would be a “real loss” if the roundabout was removed.

“It’s not seen as a feature, it’s seen as something hostile and could be just bulldozed and have a nice building on it,” he said.

“I think the roundabout functions pretty well. You hear the occasional car horn where someone has cut off somebody but mostly cars are travelling slowly,” adding he had known of two road accidents during his time living in the neighbourhood.

Mr Evans said he had not received a response from the council as to when works would begin to demolish the roundabout if it was to proceed. But as reported by *CBD News* in February, demolition was understood to occur before the end of 2021.

Another resident, Cheryl McKinna, who joined other residents in January at the Queen St roundabout where they held placards that read “Wrong way Sally, go back” protesting to Lord Mayor Sally Capp against the roundabout’s planned removal, said the lack of support from the council and local MPs was “disheartening”.

“We haven’t got the money to take a lot of legal action,” she said. “We’ll fight as far as we can.”

“We certainly are doing everything else that we can in terms of lobbying,” she said, and would even “certainly consider” forming a line at the roundabout to stop bulldozers moving in.

But what Ms McKinna said baffled her the most was that the masterplan for the Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal had been drawn up in 2015 and “that’s what’s going to happen” without any review.

“A hell of a lot has changed since 2015 ... why can’t the council review what it’s doing? It just seems to be blinkers on.”

Friends of the Queen Victoria Market spokeswoman Mary-Lou Howie said the proposed removal of Queen St roundabout was “just another land grab” by council to maximise its return on the southern development site.

“The existing Franklin St roundabout, with its stand of mature trees that attracts a diversity of bird life, is a safe, efficient traffic control system serving Vic Market customers and the surrounding residents,” she said.

“Unfortunately, Vic Market is again being



sacrificed for the surrounding developments.”

In 2019, the council engaged engineering services company, Cardno, to undertake a traffic impact assessment as part of its process to discontinue part of Franklin and Queen streets to allow the future development to the south of Queen Victoria Market.

However, the council said “since that time, there have been new developments approved and planning applications submitted” and it was currently preparing an updated traffic assessment, which would be “completed in the coming months”.

In a letter emailed to a resident and seen by *CBD News*, a council officer said that a traffic assessment from 2020 “supports Franklin Street as a westbound only carriageway” but the findings would be reviewed “in the context of the broader precinct changes”.

A council spokesperson told *CBD News* that it was currently preparing an updated traffic assessment, which would be completed in the coming months.

Council also said it would also develop plans to replace the trees at the Queen St roundabout in “greater numbers” at the future 1.75-hectare open space.

## Concerns Southern site development could impact amenity

The residents’ fight to keep their much-loved roundabout comes as the City of Melbourne seeks a developer to transform a site on Franklin St into 600 units – of which 25 per cent would be affordable housing.

The project also proposes to create a new market car park with between 220 and 500 spaces as part of what’s estimated as a \$520 million project.

Called the “Southern site”, the land – which adjoins the heritage-listed Franklin St stores – was gifted to the City of Melbourne by the state government in 2014 to help fund the \$250m renewal of the market’s precinct. It would also “provide opportunities for mixed use development” and pave the way for the creation of 1.75 hectares of new open space for the community.

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the proposed project was a “once in a generation opportunity” to contribute \$520 million to the City of Melbourne’s economy.

According to the council, independent research had shown the Southern site development could secure \$45m in value through improved pedestrian and cycling access and new road configurations including replacing congested intersections.

But Mr Evans and other residents expressed concerns about any future development and their impact to the amenity of the precinct – with predictions it could make “life worse in terms of managing traffic”.

“[We] are doing everything we can, including an appeal to the Minister for Planning, to protect the amenity of the neighbourhood from ill-considered traffic congestion and out of control ultra-high-rise development,” Mr Evans said.

He said if they didn’t act they feared “living in a canyon of looming tower blocks that even Melbourne’s Deputy Lord Mayor decried as being nothing but spreadsheets in the sky”.

Friends of the Queen Victoria Market spokeswoman Mary-Lou Howie said traffic gridlock, caused by the narrowing of Franklin St along with the planned higher density QVM

surrounds, would “become a disincentive to the majority of QVM customers who come by car trying to freely access the market”.

Planning portfolio lead and Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the chance to develop the 11,892 sqm site was also “one of Australia’s best development opportunities that may never be repeated in the city again”.

“We have a proven record of collaborating with like-minded developers to provide high quality affordable housing and vital community facilities in developments including the Munro development adjacent to Queen Victoria Market and the Boyd development in Southbank,” he said.

“I’m confident that developers will see the benefits in locking in such a large centrally located project, which can be completed within the next three to five years.”

The council said a two-stage competitive process to appoint a developer or consortium for the Southern site was currently underway, and had “generated considerable interest” – with a preferred applicant expected to be confirmed in 2022.

## Precinct renewal takes shape with new pop-up park to open soon

A number of key projects are underway at the market precinct, including a \$30 million restoration of the market’s open-air sheds, which is due for completion in mid-2022.

Heritage and planning permits have also been issued for the new trader and northern sheds for building to progress.

“The restoration of the market’s heritage sheds has reached the mid-way point with six of the 12 sheds now restored,” a council report in August said, with more than 900 solar panels to be installed on shed roofs to generate power for the entire market.

“The project has moved to stage three, with upper market fruit and vegetable traders’

“

*“It’s not seen as a feature, it’s seen as something hostile and could be just bulldozed and have a nice building on it.*

”

temporary relocation to the recently completed sheds C and D,” it said.

“Works are scheduled for completion in December 2021, with traders returning prior to Christmas.”

Meanwhile, construction of a new pop-up park in a portion of the asphalt car park on Queen St, and roughly the size of the State Library forecourt, is expected to be completed by the end of October.

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the works would “deliver a world-class market in the long-term that will support small business owners to innovate and grow, create jobs, attract thousands of visitors every day, and boost Melbourne’s economic recovery”.

“We’re getting on with the Queen Victoria Market renewal, investing more than \$130 million over the next three years to protect the future of one of Melbourne’s most iconic destinations, its 600 small business owners and more than 2000 employees,” she said.

“Market improvements are scheduled for completion in 2024, and the broader precinct by 2026. This is in line with the timeframes set out in our agreement with the state government.”

“With the renewal program now moving into a major delivery phase, we’re bolstering the team to deliver key projects, including essential new trader and customer facilities, a revitalised food court, and a pop-up park and activation area.”

Fruit and vegetable trader Frank Fontana said while he acknowledged the market was doing it tough amid lockdowns, his stall had “been more severely impacted” after it was temporarily relocated to C shed, with a drop in foot traffic being “completely unsustainable”.

Queen Victoria Market CEO Stan Liacos said feedback from hundreds of traders had been overwhelmingly positive amid the restoration work.

A council document considered by councillors at their August 31 council meeting stated nearly \$83m had been spent on the Queen Victoria Market renewal since 2013, including \$43m in 2020-21. ●

## Island Wave moves to Kensington

ARTS & CULTURE

One of Melbourne’s most well-recognised pieces of public art is moving from the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) precinct to Newmarket Reserve in Kensington.

*Island Wave* by artist Lisa Young has been located at the Queen Victoria Market roundabout at the intersection of Queen and Franklin streets since 2003 after being launched by former Lord Mayor John So and then-councillor Kimberly Kitching.

However, *CBD News* can confirm that the steel sculpture will be relocated to a new home at Newmarket Reserve in Kensington as part of the City of Melbourne’s QVM renewal program.

The roundabout is being removed as part of a reconfiguration of traffic arrangements in the market precinct, as well as the pending development of a development site at the southern end of the market’s former car park along Franklin St.

The artwork was de-installed from the roundabout in June over three days and it presently offsite undergoing modifications to strengthen its base structure in preparation for installation at its new home, which is understood to have a



greater wind loading.

The foundation for the artwork has already been poured at Newmarket Reserve, however installation has been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

A source within the council said installation would proceed as soon as current restrictions allowed for five people to be on site. The artwork will then be painted and resurfaced on site over a two-week period, with landscaping works to be finalised once installed.

According to the University of Melbourne, the sculpture was created as the inaugural work for the council’s Melbourne Collection Commissions, a fund for significant and permanent site-specific works by contemporary artists. ●

# QVM traders fear livelihoods under threat as food court undergoes facelift

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

Food court traders at Queen Victoria Market fear they stand to “lose everything” as the market considers new operators for its proposed revamped food hall set to open in 2022.

The market has hired hospitality consultant Future Food to help find seven food and beverage operators for its revitalised food hall after expressions of interest opened in August.

The new space promises to offer a diverse range of cuisine styles and beverage offerings across takeaway, casual dining and restaurants.

Expected to open in July next year, the food hall proposes to feature all-day cafes, modern Asian kitchens, taquerias, burger and sandwich bars, woodfired pizzas, ramen and noodles, sweets and treats as well as juices and healthy choices.

But current food court traders, some of whom have dedicated decades of their life to the market and endured huge financial losses in the face of repeated COVID lockdowns, now fear losing their livelihoods.

However, Queen Victoria Market CEO Stan Liacos assured his organisation was “not terminating any leases, rather they are coming to an end and we are inviting operators to reapply as per standard commercial practice”.

“If we’re going to invest \$5.5 million in a refurbishment we also want to ensure that the food and beverage offerings and presentation are as good as the standard of the proposed



refurbishment,” he said.

He added while the market can “appreciate and understand trader anxiety”, “we can’t have a situation where everyone in the market automatically just assumes that they will always continue as they long have”.

A food court trader, who asked *CBD News* not to use his name, said while he had “no issues” with their shops being revitalised, they were concerned applying for the new food hall would be “hit or miss” and that “it’s not negotiable”.

According to the trader, QVM management had told current food court businesses that



they were “really good operators so you’ve got no worries”. But the trader added, “If that is the case why are you advertising my shop to someone else?”

Another trader said the market was like his “fourth child” and it was “disappointing” they had no guarantees of keeping their job.

“It is a bit of a concern ... we have proven 25 years what we do and not only have we proven to the Vic Market but we have proven to the customers,” the trader said, requesting anonymity as they feared it would jeopardise their lease. “I feel we will get it ... I’m just keeping my

fingers crossed.”

A café owner at the food court said they were feeling “very anxious” and described the application process like “jumping through hoops”.

“I’ve got a house and mortgage; I’ll end up having to declare bankruptcy or sell my house and declare even,” they said if their application was rejected.

Meanwhile, Mr Liacos said the current food court was a tired and an outdated part of the market which had not had reinvestment for nearly 30 years and “does not meet the expectations of many local Melburnians and visitors to our city”.

“We have been meticulously working with them to support them [traders] and encourage them to reapply and consider any new ideas and fit-out investments that they would like to present,” he said.

“This is a standard industry practice process, it is being handled professionally and transparently.”

“We need to ensure the market continues to meet the needs and demands of our customers and as part of this we need traders to sometimes re-evaluate and where desirable, reconsider their offering and innovate with new ideas.”

Plans for the refurbishment will go before Heritage Victoria for consideration. If approved, works are expected to begin in January next year.

Expressions of interest for operators close on September 30 with successful applicants to be notified in January. ●



▲ Local resident Sasha Wilmoth in her “front yard”.



▲ Indian dentist Jemi Joy on a break from a registration exam.

## A park for COVID conditions

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
COMMUNITY

A new park has opened in the CBD during COVID without much fanfare, giving residents and examinees a much-needed outdoor place to have lunch in the sunshine.

The park, on the corner of Market and Collins streets, is narrow and runs in a north-south direction.

A gap in the skyline to the north creates a sun trap in the middle of the day, even if it’s short and sweet.

Local resident Sasha Wilmoth was sitting in the park, eating her takeaway, while listening to the Premier’s press conference.

“I hope he’s going to allow picnics,” the PhD student said. She calls the park her front yard.

Small wins are the name of the game as the sun moves higher in the sky and residents of the surrounding buildings rush out to take advantage.

“I eat my lunch here every day,” 29-year-old Joe Karakatsanis said – a neighbour who is a musician and has learned how to live out of a suitcase.

Great rent deals have attracted a younger crew to the nearby residential conversions of this precinct and the towers surrounding the park.

Sasha is living on a PhD stipend from the University of Melbourne. She’s poor but there’s not much to spend money on and she welcomes the thinking space.

The park is the first created by the City of Melbourne in the CBD since the City Square in the 1980s. It was completed during COVID, ahead of schedule.

The 1900 sqm urban space gracefully abuts a new, empty W Hotel with a water wall as a boundary, native plants and even a creek.

The park is hidden from the north and rewards those approaching from Queens Bridge.

Seating is tiered among plantings and water features, with room for plenty of picnickers to space out at one per four square metres, give or take a sculpture or two.

As the city once again laboriously moves out of lockdown, the numbers are preoccupying everyone, with five adults from two vaccinated families allowed to meet.

This permutation must make single residents feel like they’re living in the most micro-managed place on earth.

“At least the government cares about you,” said Jemi Joy, one of 60 Indian dentists who spread out during a lunch break from a registration exam at the Australian Dental Council across Collins St.

“In India, people die and end up in a ditch.”

All of the dentists were educated in India but want to set up practice in Australia and are sitting the exam, which also went ahead under COVID conditions. ●



▲ Shane outside Flinders Street Station.

Photo by John Tadigiri.

## Homeless no more

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

About 10 months ago, Shane moved to Melbourne’s CBD with nothing but a blanket and a scooter.

He used to work in Queensland climbing and cutting trees for a living, until one day a debilitating injury put an end to his career.

Currently living on a pension and with an organ disease, Shane, 57, said he has done “all the hard jobs” in life, and was up until mid-way through September sleeping rough on Melbourne’s streets during the pandemic.

But after a long wait on the housing list, his living situation has suddenly changed for the better.

“I’m no longer homeless, Launch Housing said they’d keep me in a motel until I get a unit for myself,” Shane told *CBD News*.

“I’ve been waiting for a long time on the housing list with my signs up, then on Monday [September 13] they told me I could move into a motel in the city.”

Many people who have frequented the CBD in recent months will know Shane.

Often set up near Flinders Street Station, Shane has been looking for work doing odd cleaning jobs – something which has allowed him to save up to buy the

necessary cleaning equipment.

He sits next to a trolley on wheels containing an impressive array of cleaning gear including a pressurised power washer and various detergents all neatly organised and labelled.

But COVID has made finding work extremely difficult. As the hand-written message on his esky lid sums up: “COVID is starving me with no jobs”.

Another sign informs passers-by that he has completed his basic training at HMAS Cerberus Naval Base in the 1980s, but even that still did not afford Shane any priority for housing.

When he worked in Queensland climbing and chain-sawing trees for a living, Shane said one day he was either bitten by a white-tail spider, or a splinter lodged in his leg caused an infection that left him in agony and unable to work.

“I’ve done all the hard work jobs in life like night shifts loading trucks,” he said.

“I’m like an injured horse.”

“I’m still trying to find work, but the cleaning thing isn’t really working, so I might go back to chain-sawing – just without climbing trees.”

Shane expects that in the coming months he will be living in his own apartment as part of the Victorian Government’s Homelessness to Home package, safe off the streets after a long spell living rough. ●



## Couple left devastated after popular café closes amid repeated lockdowns

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
BUSINESS

A couple have spoken of their heartache after being forced to close the doors of their beloved café in the CBD, citing the ongoing challenges of rolling lockdowns.

Co-founders of Hunters' Roots, Jeff and Kerry Chew (as per their order in the photo), said "it was just too much" to keep running their business, a dream that was born seven years ago with a focus on healthy eating.

The couple, who celebrated the birth of their son Hamish four months ago, said it was "really devastating" to have to close up after their clientele – the majority of whom were office workers – reduced to a trickle amid repeated lockdowns.

"We just didn't know how long it would take to bounce back," Ms Chew said, adding "rather than drag it out we just terminated the lease and then cleaned up".

"We just didn't see it really kind of going back to how it used to be, with 100 per cent of the workforce going back, and just the vibe of the city is quite different now."

Adding to their despair was their landlord's refusal to provide any rent relief, telling them "bad luck" and "it's not my risk to take on".

After closing up their shop in the quiet lane way of Katherine Place on August 6, Ms Chew said "it was really sad because we didn't even get a chance to see a lot of the regulars".

Taking to Facebook and Instagram to announce their closure to their customers, the couple wrote, "The past year has been tough for us, as has been the case for many small businesses especially in the CBD. In the end we couldn't fight our two biggest enemies – COVID and our landlord."

"We had no way of knowing how important all our customers, staff and friends would become to us, some are now family," they wrote on social media.

Ms Chew said they were touched by the flow of tributes posted by customers – some of whom they "didn't even know".

"I remember receiving this message from a customer who said that she actually had a first date with her partner at our cafe, and she said she wanted to come back with her partner to kind of reminisce," she said.

Another customer based in Singapore said that "every time she came to Melbourne, she liked to come to our place to eat the miso salmon bowl".

"It's really sad that she will never have a chance to again," Ms Chew said.

But looking back, Ms Chew said she and her husband were proud of their journey with their café collecting a host of awards along the way.

"We wanted to work together and we were both really passionate about healthy eating and opening a small, cosy, and manageable cafe that was our home away from home."

But with the financial strain caused by the pandemic becoming too much, Ms Chew said they sadly had to "just cut our losses".

"We need to look for something, maybe just a nine-to-five [job] ourselves and something a bit more stable," she said, with both having customer service backgrounds.

In the meantime, the couple, who live in the CBD, are now turning their attention to their beloved newborn while taking the time to "re-energise and re-strategise" their future plans.

"Melbourne CBD is our place. We also want to raise our baby in the city, we think it's really cool that we can walk around and go to parks and take him to libraries and stuff," Ms Chew said. ●



## Melbourne Athenaeum to receive \$200,000 upgrade

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*  
ARTS & CULTURE

The iconic heritage-listed Melbourne Athenaeum theatre on Collins St has received \$200,000 from the state government to conduct urgent conservation works.

The 170-year-old art and cultural hub will use the money to repair the roof and clerestory windows as part of the government's \$2.3 million Living Heritage Program.

Melbourne Athenaeum business manager Sue Westwood (pictured) said the theatre was "very fortunate" to receive the grant as the works were desperately needed.

"We're very grateful Heritage Victoria recognised the need for the repairs and the importance of the building as it's hard to find the funds to maintain the heritage building as a not-for-profit," Ms Westwood said.

"The roof and lantern windows on the second floor are in a state of disrepair as the timber has deteriorated over time, and water often leaks through."

Ms Westwood said the original windows were installed around 1930 to enhance the lighting in the art gallery that existed from 1910 to 1971.

"The lantern windows have barely been touched since then aside from exterior painting, and at the moment are covered up to provide a black-out scenario," Ms Westwood said.

The Athenaeum was founded in 1839 and has been community owned and operated since 1842.

It contains Melbourne's oldest library on the first floor, and the theatre is available for the community to access for school productions, large events and independent artists.

Pre-COVID the theatre hosted events for the Wheeler Centre, the Writers Festival, the Comedy Festival, the Melbourne Opera, and productions like *The Wedding Singer*.

Ms Westwood said the Athenaeum's philosophy was to provide a heritage building that was available to the public.



"We have the library on the first floor which is operated by the not-for-profit which owns the building, the theatre, Bistrot d'Orsay restaurant and the Rutherford Jewellery store all within the Athenaeum," Ms Westwood said.

"We've been working really hard with our tenants to make sure they're with us when the pandemic is over and ensure they have emotional and moral support."

The Athenaeum library has also recently reopened to members one day per week for click-and-collect services.

Ms Westwood said it hoped to extend the service to those outside the 10km radius when restrictions eased.

"Members are able to order books online and then pick them up each Thursday, and we also have book and screen clubs still operating over Zoom," she said.

The Athenaeum is one of 19 restoration projects that will receive funding under round six of the living heritage program.

Other sites include St Peters Eastern Hill Precinct in East Melbourne, Puffing Billy Locomotives and Rolling Stock in Belgrave and Horsham Town Hall.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said the program was about protecting significant sites across Victoria for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

"These are the sites that tell stories about our history and play a major role in rural and regional Victoria's tourism industry – we're proud to protect these treasured community assets," Mr Wynne said. ●

## Protestors storm CBD after construction industry shutdown

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees & Rhonda Dredge*  
PROTEST

Melbourne's construction industry was shut down for two weeks after crowds of protesters rallied in the CBD over two days in September.

Chaos erupted outside the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) office at Elizabeth St on September 20 after tensions reached boiling point over a ban on tearooms and vaccines to be mandatory in the industry.

The protests continued on September 21, with thousands marching through the CBD and over the West Gate Bridge, causing major disruption.

Staff at Melbourne Town Hall were asked not to leave the building as a precautionary measure during the first day of violence as police faced off with the hundreds of protesters who marched through the CBD and tried to storm the union building.

In a statement the CFMEU said it

"condemns in the strongest possible terms the attack on the CFMEU Victorian branch office and the mindless acts of violence perpetrated by members of this mob."

"It is clear that a minority of those who participated were actual union members," it said.

The violent protests came after anti-lockdown protesters descended in Richmond just days earlier, with roads to the CBD barricaded off and public transport shut down.

City of Melbourne small business portfolio lead councillor Jason Chang, who runs a Japanese grocery store and restaurant in the CBD, said these circumstances meant many small businesses had to close during a time "of much-needed revenue".

"It was quite a tough [time] because people couldn't get access to most of the restaurants in the city," he said.

And the tragic death of a tradie on September 21 has fired up emotions.

The tradie jumped from a building in Spencer St, according to press reports, after he was told to down tools on the Monday of the announcement.

The government claims it was forced to make the move after seeing multiple outbreaks linked to construction and many in the industry say they saw the move coming.

Local residents in the CBD have been among those who have been complaining about breaches in safety at building sites.

In the week leading up to the announcement, a picture appeared in the *Daily Mail* of a building site in the CBD showing a number of workers not wearing masks.

The picture, according to the foreman working at the site, was taken by a local.

He did not want to be identified but said he'd been having trouble with complaints in the preceding week.

On one occasion police turned up over a complaint that one of his workers was on the footpath without a mask.

"He's just taking a breather," the foreman told the policewoman. The worker had been using heavy equipment. The policewoman believed the

foreman and left the site.

He said the constant complaints by locals were making his job doubly difficult.

"It creates another thing I have to look after," the foreman told *CBD News*. "The woman had been taking photos and implicated me to my boss. I've been ticked off."

On the day of the *Daily Mail* article, building companies received notification from the state government that inspectors would be visiting sites.

According to a press conference held on that day, a building site tearoom is "the most dangerous place" for contracting the virus.

Fifty compliance teams were deployed to ensure that workers were wearing masks and social distancing. Some visited construction sites in the CBD.

"Most people don't like to be a dobber," a resident told *CBD News*, "but, in this case, the workers may be risking the health of colleagues, people passing the site, and maybe their own family members."

"What frustrates me is that vaccinations are free and available in so many places and people still don't get one."

The foreman said it was his belief that construction workers in the CBD had not contributed to a mass outbreak.

But, according to figures released by the government in September, 13 per cent of Victoria's cases could be traced to building sites. The Box Hill outbreak at the Panorama construction site has led to around 200 cases.

The government has now mandated vaccination for all construction sites.

An amnesty has been put in place so that a limited number of workers can attend construction sites in order to shut them down safely.

All sites will be required to demonstrate compliance with Chief Health Officer directions prior to reopening – including the requirement for workers to show evidence to their employer of having had one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine before they return to site on October 5. ●

ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update

# TURNING GREY TO GREEN AS URBAN FORESTS BLOOM ACROSS THE CITY

**With spring in full bloom, the City of Melbourne’s Urban Forest Fund projects are transforming grey spaces to green with leafy laneways, curated courtyards and rooftop urban farms.**

The Urban Forest Fund provides matched financial support to new private greening projects in the city, not just for residents, but in many cases for all Melburnians keen for a stroll in publicly-accessible green spaces.

Here are four new greening projects that are transforming grey spaces across the city.

## Melbourne Skyfarm, Docklands

From a rooftop car park to an urban farm oasis, the City of Melbourne’s Urban Forest Fund is helping support greening projects in the heart of the city.

Melbourne Skyfarm is set to become a sustainable city oasis in the Seafarer’s precinct overlooking the Yarra River to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

While not open to the public until early next year, Melbourne Skyfarm has marked the completion of the first stage of works including the urban greening and urban farming component.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the City of Melbourne committed \$300,000 in matched funding through the Urban Forest Fund to support the delivery of the urban farm.

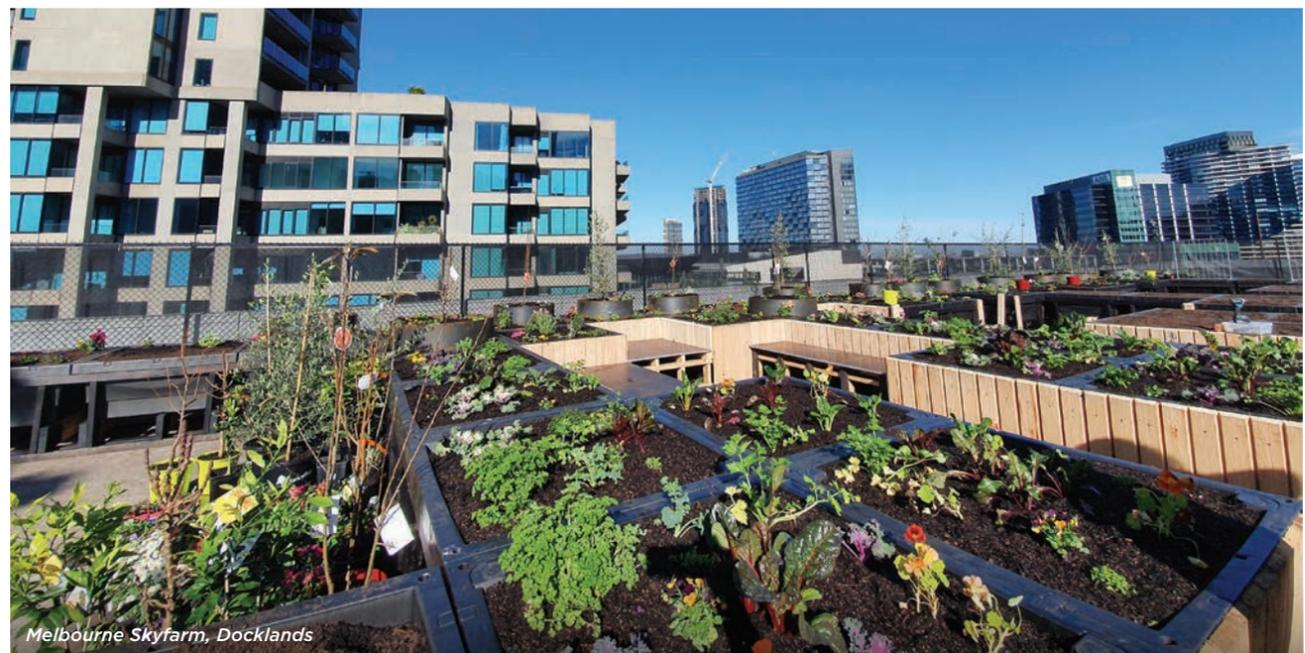
“We are incredibly excited that Skyfarm has finally come together to create a green oasis in the heart of our city.

We’re extremely proud of what has been delivered,” the Lord Mayor said.

“It has never been more important for us to invest in sustainable greening projects which engage our community, show innovative thinking and showcase how we can all work together to create an environmentally friendly and greener future for our city.”

When all stages of the works are complete, Melbourne Skyfarm will be open to the public to tour the working farm, visit the rooftop orchard and herb gardens, or purchase plants from the nursery.

There are also plans for a sustainable café and an environmental education area.



Melbourne Skyfarm, Docklands

## HAINES STREET APARTMENTS, NORTH MELBOURNE

**In Haines Street, North Melbourne plants and garden beds are now well established, softening the hard edges of an apartment complex car park.**

‘They’re doing well and we will do a lot more planting after winter,’ said Ying-Lan Dann, a resident and one of the keen gardeners behind the project.

The City of Melbourne contributed \$66,000 to the project which has transformed the car park area of a medium-density housing complex, which is publicly-accessible, into a safe, active communal space for both residents and the public to enjoy.

Now residents look out onto fruiting trees and herb beds, native flowering ground covers and vertical gardens complemented by rainwater tanks, compost bins and seating areas for relaxation.



## TRIBECA APARTMENTS, EAST MELBOURNE

**At Tribeca Apartments, building manager Garrad Flint said ‘we’ve had nothing but great feedback from our residents’ about the new greening project.**

The City of Melbourne contributed \$100,000 towards the project which has seen lush mature trees, including lemon myrtle and small-leaved fig, now line a narrow paved laneway, and the plaza area adorned with curving garden beds planted with a range of subtropical plants. Succulents and ground covers thrive.

‘It’s a publicly-accessible plaza with cafes, restaurants and a supermarket, as well as a crossing point between Victoria Parade’s greenery and Albert Street’s parks,’ Garrad said.

The cool green oasis adds to the character of the area, with a historical red brick and bluestone brewery lending atmosphere to this pleasant precinct.



## PRINTMAKERS LANE, SOUTHBANK

**The hot dry Mediterranean climate was the inspiration for cooling vines in a laneway on the University of Melbourne’s Southbank campus.**

‘Historically it is quite a harsh laneway,’ project manager Sebastian Di Girolamo said.

‘It has metal cladding so we did some testing and over summer it’s a hot area.

‘So we came up with the idea of a design from Italy, Greece and Spain, hotter climates, where they use vines to create shade and make laneways cooler. The idea is once the plants are blooming and leafy they’ll create a shade canopy over the laneway.’

The City of Melbourne contributed \$100,000 to the greening project which will transform the Printmakers Laneway into a shady green space that can be enjoyed by students and members of the public.



## WHAT IS THE URBAN FOREST FUND?

The Urban Forest Fund supports a wide range of projects, including gardens, tree planting, biodiversity projects, green roofs and vertical greening in the city.

Grant applications are assessed by a panel of greening experts and community members who prioritise projects that will provide the most benefit to the community and environment.

For more information, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/greening-the-city/urban-forest-fund](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/greening-the-city/urban-forest-fund)

ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update

# TAKING FUN TO NEW HEIGHTS

**Treetop fun has taken over the oldest playground in town with the City of Melbourne's newest place space officially open to children of all ages.**

The Lincoln Square playground in Carlton features rope bridges, play towers, slides, swings and timber play structures high up in the trees, as well as a new barbecue and picnic area.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the park's 150-year-old Moreton Bay Fig trees were incorporated into the design of the playground creating exciting new spaces to explore up high.

"We know ongoing restrictions have been incredibly hard on our community, so the completion of the Lincoln Square playground is perfectly timed to get restless kids out of the house and into the fresh air," the Lord Mayor said.

"We hope this new state-of-the-art play space will bring some much-needed joy and excitement, and become one of our city's most loved playgrounds," she said.

The playground upgrade is part of the City of Melbourne's Lincoln Square Concept Plan, and also included the delivery of new lawn and garden beds,

more trees, and improved footpaths, lighting and irrigation.

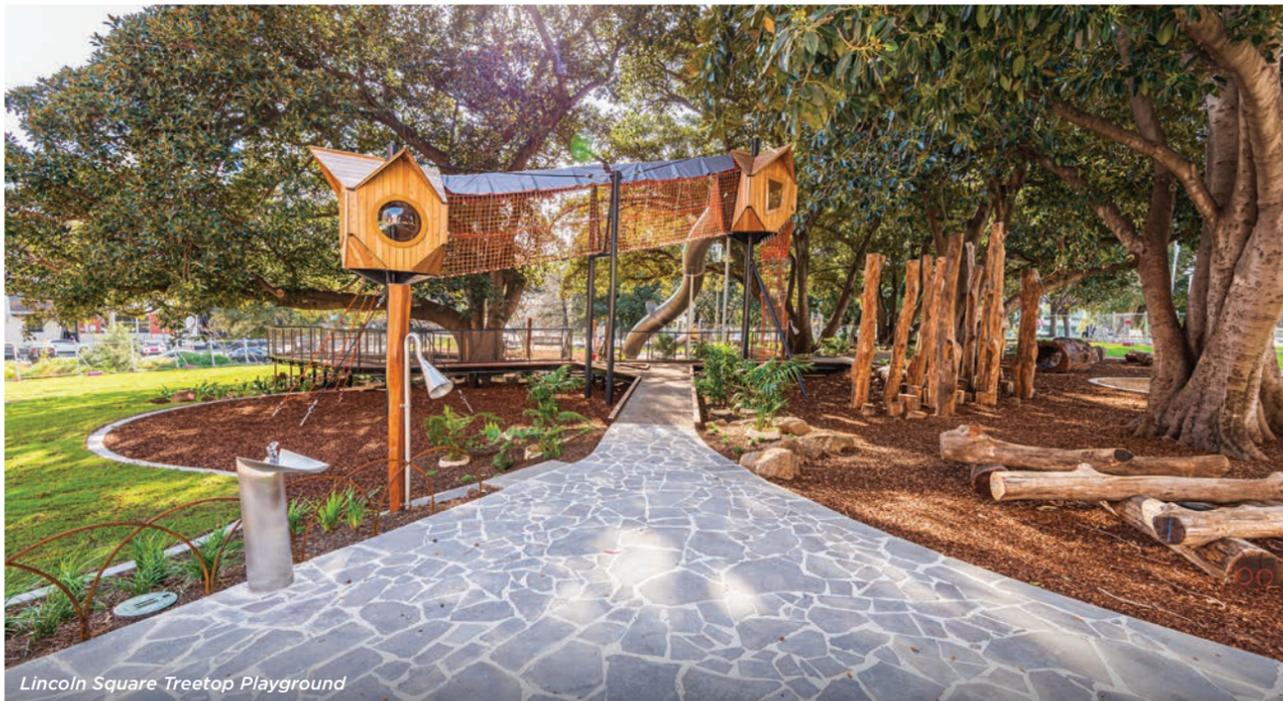
Health and Wellbeing portfolio lead Councillor Dr Olivia Ball said Carlton is one of the fastest-growing areas in the municipality and playgrounds like this are vital for the young families who call Carlton home.

"I used to live near Lincoln Square myself and it's been a joy to see the City of Melbourne expand the park and now build this magnificent new playground," Cr Dr Ball said.

"By expanding and improving our green open spaces, we're helping to

ensure Melbourne remains a highly desirable place to live, work and visit."

Lincoln Square has been home to the city's first playground since it opened to the public in 1907.



Lincoln Square Treetop Playground

## FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS AVAILABLE ACROSS THE CITY

The City of Melbourne is offering free period products in some of its public facilities to help ensure everyone can manage the normal process of menstruation without embarrassment or stigma.

When people aren't able to access these products, this can be a significant obstacle to emotional and physical health, comfort, and engagement with school and community activities.

'Period poverty' is experienced in Australia and all over the world by people who menstruate.

Council has unanimously endorsed a 12-month pilot of free menstrual care products, an initiative that addresses a number of priorities in our Council Plan.

When lockdown restrictions ease, free pads and tampons will be available at:

- Library at the Dock
- City Library
- Carlton Baths
- Melbourne Town Hall public toilets on Collins Street
- North Melbourne Community Centre
- Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre.



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.

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW GREEN WASTE COLLECTION TO WIN

**Melburnians are embracing a new food and garden organics collection service with almost 150 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill in its first two months.**

Residents who have used the food and organic waste service are encouraged to provide feedback on the pilot program.

Those who complete the survey, or share their tips and tricks, via Participate Melbourne before 1 November will go in the draw to win one of three \$100 Queen Victoria Market vouchers.

The service provided by the City of Melbourne began in June with waste collections from 9,000 homes across the municipality.

Residents in stand-alone houses and single-storey apartment blocks were

given a 120-litre lime-green wheelie bin, a kitchen caddy for food scraps and 52 compostable bin liners as part of the program.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the early success of the program showed the community is keen to embrace a more environmentally-friendly way to dispose of their waste.

"In one month alone, our team collected food and garden waste from more than 16,200 bins and processed 115 tonnes of organic waste - preventing hundreds of kilograms of Co2 emissions from being generated in landfill.

"The organic waste we've collected has been converted into about 42 tonnes of valuable compost.

"We're now exploring how best to use this compost, this will support the creation of a circular economy and help maintain our beautiful parks, gardens and trees."

The new food and organics service is part of the City of Melbourne's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030, which aims to reduce landfill and improve waste and recycling services across the municipality.

The City of Melbourne invested \$1 million to establish the service at no additional cost to residents.

Environment portfolio lead Councillor Rohan Leppert said community feedback would help Council roll out the service across the municipality.

"If you've been using our food and organic waste service we want to hear from you. Tell us what's worked and what hasn't so we can continue to improve and expand the service," Cr Leppert said.

To provide feedback on the food and organic waste service, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/food-garden-waste](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/food-garden-waste) to have your say.



## KEEP IN TOUCH

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

You can also join conversations to influence plans for your neighbourhood through Participate Melbourne at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### Connect with us

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



BUSINESS

# A masterclass in boutique architecture

*Our CBD is full of awe-inspiring architecture.*

From the State Library of Victoria or the GPO to the Manchester Unity building; pieces of engineering marvel, in some cases dating back 150 years, continue to stand the test of time.

This design excellence, however, is not limited to the civic realm.

With converted apartment buildings such as Leicester House at 8 Bligh Place, and The Georges Buildings at 180 Collins St leading the way, Melbourne is littered with masterpieces of residential real estate.

You'll have a hard time searching these prized properties without finding Gina Donazzan's name etched into its history.

As an expert of more than 20 years in Melbourne's boutique property market, now operating under the banner of Donazzan Boutique Property, Ms Donazzan's encyclopaedic knowledge of these high-end properties and what makes them great, is what separates her from competitors.

"Leicester House is just a fantastic example low-density architecture. You have so many apartments with the original brick arches, reinforced by beautiful red brick and high concrete ceilings," Ms Donazzan said.

"Because each apartment has been fitted differently, there are no two apartments the same. You'll often find a cookie cutter approach with development in the central city. Leicester House, like many of the properties I work with, are unique pieces of outstanding architecture which will never be replicated again."

"That is the beauty of what I do. Whether it be a one-bedroom tucked away, or a whole floor penthouse, they are all individual."

Of the 20 apartments in Leicester House, Ms Donazzan has sold 15. As for The Georges Apartments, her total stands at 17, while she has sold 18 apartments in the prized Dovers Building at 7 Drewery Lane.

These are just a few examples of Ms Donazzan's portfolio of boutique sales, but the true illustration in these numbers lays in her client's willingness and trust for her continued record of outstanding service.



▲ L-R: Gina Donazzan and exec. assistant, Suzie Inglis.



▲ (Top) Dovers Building, 7 Drewery Ln and (bottom) Leicester House, 8 Bligh Pl.

"I'm very blessed to be working with these unique properties, but it is about the people behind these homes and the trust they place in me," Ms Donazzan said.

"I have a client, whom I would consider a friend now, who bought a lovely warehouse style apartment on the Spring St end of Flinders Lane from me 20 years ago."

"She moved into the country but had this property as her Melbourne base for several years, but recently decided she wanted to sell the property. As she lives a number of hours away, she put all her faith in me to do what needed to be done to bring the best out of the property."

"We listed it and four days later it was sold. She wrote me a fabulous review saying that my commitment and service was exactly the same

20 years later."

According to Ms Donazzan, her team wasn't interested in listing 30 to 40 properties, her drive was to remain consistent with her brand, list only genuinely unique homes and provide her clients with a consistently personal and tailored approach to selling their properties.

With the slow easing of restrictions coming as welcomed relief, Ms Donazzan and her team have their eyes set on maintaining their hold on Melbourne's boutique property market.

"As an industry, we have proven that we know how to do this, and do it well, but we can't expect our clients to be happy with online inspections. We can't wait to welcome clients back in a meaningful way," Ms Donazzan said.

"Just like when you buy a car, yes you sit in it and go for a test drive, but you need the person

that knows the vehicle inside out and can show you the little details you may not be looking for. That is how we work as agents." ●

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



Jack Hayes  
BUSINESS EDITOR  
JACK@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

CBD LOCAL

# Taking a breather on Market St

“There was a moment there, when his career was taking off and he was playing his guitar in a room full of amazing musicians that Joe Karakatsanis felt like an imposter.”



▲ Joe Karakatsanis on lunch break.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Then he thought to himself that he must have been in the room for some reason.

"I thought, 'you're here because you have worth,'" he said.

Joe is encouraging other young musicians to keep plugging away during lockdown, planning

their next moves.

If you can't perform, haven't been near a gig nor another musician for months on end, it could do strange things to you.

But Joe is not complaining. He's renting a small flat in the CBD and making big plans for returning to Los Angeles.

He has online teaching work and is living off

his savings plus a musician's grant from Support Act.

That's not too bad for a guy who has taught himself to live out of a suitcase.

The 29-year-old session guitarist has been on tour in the United States and China, backing some big acts, such as the Latin singer Noel Schrajis.

When the pandemic hit, he returned to Melbourne before flights were stopped, did two weeks isolation and ended up on Market St.

"The rent's cheap. When I got home the rent had plummeted. The prices are really cheap," he said.

"Many people in Australia couldn't get used to being in a small apartment. I don't need a car. I can live out of a suitcase. I've trained myself."

Joe was travelling the world, performing in stadiums, doing TV in China and his life before COVID hit was crazy.

"I'm just a wild horse. I was travelling so much. It's okay now to settle and plan forward."

Joe grew up in Frankston where there was plenty of time and space to work on his guitar.

He said that the enforced break had allowed him to work at music production in a more structured way and to do some body-building.

"I've had time to dig into a skill set," he said with a laugh.

A session musician doesn't get royalties and he's been working on getting credits by creating music.

He says that Melbourne has a more grass roots music scene and that he'll be back in LA by the end of the year "going full guns blazing." ●

## Giving a voice to our international students

*While Cr Philip Le Liu has brought many passions to the City of Melbourne, his greatest ambition continues to be making Melbourne the number one student city in the world.*

WORDS BY Sean Car

Having first been elected to the City of Melbourne in 2016 on former councillor Ken Ong's ticket, Cr Le Liu is now one of the more experienced members on council after being re-elected for a second term last year.

And at just 38 years of age, he also represents an emerging younger voice at the City of Melbourne, and during his time as a councillor, the plight of the city's growing international student population has been at the top of his agenda.

Having previously chaired the council's international engagement portfolio during his first term, Cr Le Liu told *CBD News* he had made it his priority to ensure the council better served what was "pretty much our biggest community now".

Making up around 40 per cent of the residential population in the CBD prior to the pandemic, it's a community that represents one of the hardest hit by COVID and the impacts of its absence continue to be felt right throughout the municipality.

While he now chairs the council's finance, governance and risk portfolio, he said he was happy to continue playing a driving role in supporting international students as deputy portfolio lead for education and innovation.

Together with that portfolio's chair Cr Davydd Griffiths – a former teacher and education policy advisor himself – Cr Le Liu he was determined to reinstate Melbourne's title as one of the world's best cities for students.

"When I first came into council, international students were right down at the very bottom, no-one had done anything with it, yet they are one of our biggest communities," he said.

"We'd never had any funding or initiatives or anything, so when I got in I said, 'I really want to put it up here [at the top]'. We were the third best student city in the world, I want to make us number one."

"I hope that by the time I leave here [council] we're number one, and I think we can."

Amid one of the most difficult economic periods in the City of Melbourne's history, as chair of finance, Cr Le Liu has already been central to recovery efforts in helping to deliver the council's biggest budget in its history this year.

While admittedly "less about the numbers", he said he had been able to call on his background in auditing to "put a different lens" through the council's finances and make a "real mark" during a crucial time.

And despite the often "black and white" nature of council treasury, he said the role had been able to "reconnect" him with his more than 10 years of experience working across a variety of sectors, including finance, government, telecommunications and not-for-profit.

But as the city braces for a long-awaited reopening, he said the council needed to continue advocating to both upper levels of government to ensure the city's economy "roared back to life".

"I come from a different side of politics but I have to say that the state government has done pretty well in supporting the City of Melbourne with the Melbourne Recovery Fund," he said.

"It is a good partnership, but you know what? Just because they support us on one thing it doesn't mean we should stay silent on everything. The best relationship is when you test each other."

"It's about looking after our ratepayers, from residents to business owners. There is so much that we need to do for the small business owners, who have been absolutely smashed to bits."

"My family comes from a small business



background. We ran our own shop in Balaclava for 15 years so I know what it means to run a small business. I ran a milk bar when I was 16. It's the migrant story – they can't get ahead, so what do they do? They run a small business."

"I know a lot of small business owners can't really speak English, some have no idea about the bureaucracy so I think we can play a real role in the advocacy and untangling all of the red tape."

As one of four current councillors of Asian descent, Cr Le Liu said that representation of the city's Asian community had never been better at the City of Melbourne.

A prominent member of that community, in 2019 he was recognised as one of 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians and the winner of the public sector/government category. He also previously served as the general manager of the Australia-China Youth Association in Beijing, looking after Australian international students studying in China.

In reflecting on how much his community had "really suffered" during the pandemic, he said a key motivation for running again had been a desire to provide support and help it engage differently with the city.

"When COVID first hit, the Asian community was the first to get slammed," he said. "The racism is real."

"We're mainly business people, we want a good education and the right opportunities and that's essentially it for many. For me, I want to

get more of the Asian community into philanthropy and just giving back."

"They're very humble and I think the amount of work the Asian community has done during COVID hasn't really been reflected well but it's been really powerful."

Having been re-elected last year on an "unofficial" Liberal Party ticket led by prominent night club owner Nick Russian, Cr Le Liu's conservative stance on a range of issues are occasionally at odds with a number of his fellow councillors.

There are few issues he is more diametrically opposed to than the state government's current proposal for a medically supervised safe injecting room on Flinders St, which he said he was "saving all his energy" for to continue fighting.

But despite the differing political persuasions inherent at times, he described the current team of councillors as "really energetic", adding that they were each dedicated to achieving good outcomes for the community.

And as a resident of the CBD himself, Cr Le Liu said no community was more important than the city's local residents and stressed the importance of giving them a "real voice" in decision-making through "better engagement".

"The role of councillor is to represent the people. So, back to basics," he said.

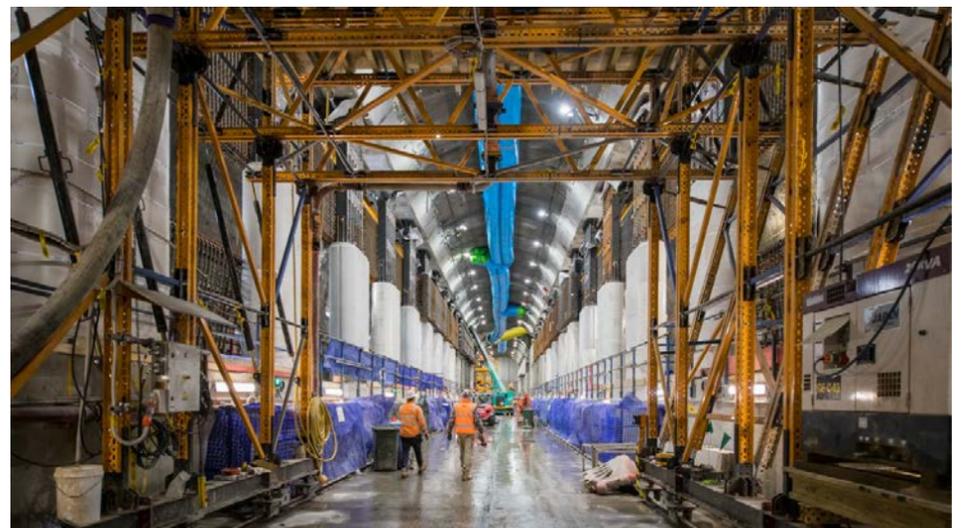
"I think we've really got to give residents a voice and ensuring that they're in the thinking in of our decision-making. There are too many times we're they're an afterthought."

"When the night-time economy was raised, I was one of the few people who said we needed to ensure residents' views were across it because they're going to be most affected from it."

"As a resident myself living in the Hoddle Grid, I know exactly when the cleaning trucks come into the laneways at different times of the morning. I know that when we approved the extension of construction permits in the city, I couldn't get any work done [in my apartment]."

"We need to engage with them [residents] more. There is no much knowledge and energy that we don't tap into." ●

### METRO TUNNEL



## Town Hall Station's City Square works ramp up ... and up!

*The Metro Tunnel's City Square site is set for some major changes over the next nine months, with construction of the new Town Hall Station moving into the next phase.*

Workers have been busy building the station from deep underground upwards during the past six months, at all hours of the day, with the site's huge acoustic shed shielding nearby businesses and residents from noise and dust.

Now crews have started preparations for the

next phase of construction, which will include installing two large cranes over the Swanston St footpath between Collins and Flinders streets.

After the two 50-metre cranes arrive early next year they will be used to dismantle the shed to make way for construction of the station's upper levels and City Square entrance. The deck inside the shed, which trucks use to transport equipment and materials to and from the site, will also go.

Crews are already preparing to install the cranes' 20-metre-high gantries on the Swanston St footpath between Collins St and Flinders Lane. These raised platforms will allow people to keep using the footpath – walking directly under the giant cranes.

Other changes will include a new loading bay,

concrete pump and gantry next to the site on Collins St. Once the cranes are installed, trucks will no longer directly access the site – instead, the cranes will transport materials from the loading bays at Collins St and Flinders Lane.

There will also be minor works at the Collins St/Swanston St intersection, and some temporary overnight closures of roads and footpaths. Local residents and businesses will be notified directly, and information will be available at the Metro Tunnel website, [metrotunnel.vic.gov.au](http://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au).

Town Hall Station will be 260 metres long – more than a city block – and as deep as a five-storey building. It will directly link passengers from the Metro Tunnel to Flinders Street Station and City Loop services.

Town Hall Station, along with State Library Station at the northern end of Swanston St, will be a new entry point to the city for thousands of passengers every day.

The Metro Tunnel is on track to be completed in 2025. When finished, it will create capacity for more than a half a million extra passengers a week during peak times across Melbourne's train network and slash travel times to key destinations including the Parkville health, education and medical precinct and the St Kilda Rd commercial area. ●

**For more information:**  
[metrotunnel.vic.gov.au](http://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au)

## HISTORY

# Taking a walk through Melbourne streets with Pierre Robin

*Melbourne-based French wool buyer Pierre Robin was a keen amateur photographer. From the late 1950s into the 1960s he spent hours roaming the streets of the CBD, camera in hand.*

A new, sleeker, modern Melbourne was emerging, a city of steel and glass, and Robin and his camera documented many of the dramatic changes taking place.

The Royal Historical Society is fortunate to have more than 400 Pierre Robin colour slides in its collection and many of these can be seen in the society's online catalogue. There you will witness the iconic Eastern Market giving way to what became the equally iconic Southern Cross Hotel (think Beatles tour, 1964). You will see Whelan the Wrecker at work in spaces where new buildings later emerged. Images of the Shell Corner (Bourke and William streets) show the demolition of the old building and the construction of its replacement. There are many more.

The image you see here (image TRA-R-217) is of Lonsdale St, looking east towards the newly constructed ICI House, a glass covered colossus that emerged at the eastern end of the city, on the corner of Albert and Nicholson streets. This photograph was taken with a telephoto lens from Hardware St one March afternoon in 1959, just four months after the building was completed. ICI House caused great excitement, as its 19 storeys made it Australia's tallest building – until 1961, that is. It was a ground-breaker, too, because at 84 metres high it was more than 40 metres taller than the then-Victorian height



restriction. So, it set the precedent for all the high-rise buildings to come.

The building hints at the modernisation and transformation of the city that took place in the 1960s, but there are a few other signs of things to come that may have escaped your attention – centre of the road, one-hour meter parking, for example. (Metered parking was introduced in April 1955, so was still a relatively new notion.) Then there's the VW Beetle that dominates the foreground. The Beetle had only been in Australia a few years and makes most other cars in the street look old-fashioned.

There are reminders of the past, too, in the elegant street lights and the Lonsdale St

buildings. The art deco exterior of the Hotel Francis on the right of the image (the south side of the street) speaks to a fairly recent modernisation of a much older building. Previously the Hotel Niagara, the hotel had stood on this site since the 1850s. Its new name came with a new owner and the 1940 modernisation. It has now taken back its original name. Next to it is the red brick building of Lacy and Osborne, leather goods manufacturers. In front of that building is a red telephone box. There is another one further down on the other side of the street. Those were the days when many homes did not have a telephone and telecommunications were overseen by the PMG (Postmaster General's

Department). If you're a baby boomer, or older, you'll remember these important structures and how frustrating it was to wait outside, sometimes in a queue while the person inside kept talking, arguing perhaps or speaking to a loved one, and sometimes just delighting in keeping everyone else waiting.

A little further down the street is the 10-storey Lonsdale St Myer Store. In this image it towers over the other buildings in the street. Today there have been huge changes to the streetscape. The Myer facade is there, even if the building behind it has changed. And it is now joined to Melbourne Central on the other side of the street by skyways and walkways, adding new dimensions to the skyline.

On the north side of the street, the domed cupolas atop two of the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital towers rise above their neighbours. Once critical in the development of the training and practice of women doctors, the Queen Vic was the first hospital run by women for women in Victoria and moved to these premises in 1946 after the Royal Melbourne Hospital moved from the site to Parkville. It remained there until 1989. Later the centre tower was refurbished and opened as the Queen Victoria Women's Centre.

Behind the towers can be seen the spire of Wesley Church, seemingly rising out of one of the hospital towers. But it is ICI House that dominates the scene ●



*Dr. Cheryl Griffin*

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## WE LIVE HERE

## High-rise truck saga

*Our inner-city champion whom we have lauded in this column has written in with a poignant precis of her tribulations.*

The outcome was ultimately a resident's victory over a cohort of developers, managers and local government officials. It is a story of corporate inequity, and regulatory incompetence.

This saga highlights the enormous challenges facing Consumer Affairs Minister Melissa Horne with the dysfunctional owners' corporation legislation and strata governance landscape.

We hope this resolute resident's testimony, quoted here in full, reaches the Minister's desk ...

"All I have ever asked for since moving into my new home in 2012 was safe passage onto my street through my single lobby door, without obstruction from removalists."

"There is an onsite loading dock with a common property goods lift that residents must use, but in 2016 a superannuation fund paid the developer \$92 million for the retail plaza down stairs from the 500-apartment tower where I live. The sale included a 300-year lease of the onsite loading dock in favour of the retail plaza. My residential goods lift is embedded in that loading dock."

"Onsite loading was a special condition of the planning permit. How could I be locked out from enjoying that amenity?"

"Last month this newspaper reported how that superannuation fund, backed by the developer, asked [a] VCAT Planning Tribunal to annexe that loading dock on behalf of the retail plaza, thereby overturning the original planning

permit of 2008. Fortunately, the Tribunal agreed that residents must be allowed to use the onsite loading facility the way it was originally designed for us. I was the instigator of the case in which the council defended my right to enjoy the onsite loading facility, a right that was included with my property purchase."

"As a result of this Tribunal decision, the matter of enforcement has progressed from the planning department to the compliance department. It took me more than four years to get the council to act to enforce its own planning permits. Righting this problem is slow going for the council. There is no clear path yet for all residents to enjoy their loading dock facilities."

"In this loading dock, trucks and huge semi-trailers who service the plaza shops and the huge supermarket chain are driving and parking in a system known only to themselves. They ignore the traffic management drawings approved by the council. The loading dock lift is still locked to residents."

"Since this story was published, I have been asked why it was up to me, as just one of 500 apartment owners above a shopping plaza in this mixed-use development, to get the council to force my strata managers to comply with the planning permit. After all, I do pay my strata managers to look after my common property interests and there is an elected committee to advise them. The other apartment owners have no idea what I have done to try to get unimpeded access to my common property goods lift and to get any illegal contracts overturned."

"Sadly, big apartment developments have very few owner-occupiers and the majority of owners are investors, who either don't know or don't care what laws are broken."

"The strata manager appointed by the developer in 2011 is still in charge, and the

committee has not changed since the strata manager approved their original candidacy."

"I have nominated for the committee, but they keep it to five people. Three of these five hold developer's proxy votes and have majority control."

"There are so many questionable service contracts. The group in control have appropriated the residential lounge to operate their business and their companies have been awarded the embedded wi-fi and cleaning contracts. The behaviour of the strata manager is consistent with loyalty to the developer, not the residents and certainly contravenes the planning permit."

"If the council stays on the case, then retail tenants will have to comply with the council's approved traffic management plans despite what their tenancy contracts say. All unapproved onsite traffic obstacles, such as spare cold stores must be removed."

"It must be safe for residential loading. Once that is done, I hope to see no more furniture removalists obstructing the pedestrian lobby. Only then will my street at my front door be safe."

*Nerrida Blashki Pohl*

If you wish to contact Nerrida, please let us know via the We Live Here website.



*Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton*

EMAIL  
CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET  
LEARN MORE AT  
WELIVEHERE.NET



### Cladding update

We will provide an update in our November column on the slowly evolving cladding landscape.

### Strata managers group makes a mess of COVID cleaning rules

The Victorian chapter of a strata managers industry group, the Strata Community Australia (SCA), had to mop up a flood of confusion following its mass email propagating a supposed government COVID diktat banning cleaning of apartment buildings.

Imagine the shock suffered by building managers, perhaps contemplating a lovely spring clean!

The SCA inbox must have been overflowing with acerbic advice from its own members because, the next morning, SCA rushed out a missive to "address any confusion arising from our COVID-19 update ... as a result of information made available to SCA (Vic) by members responding to yesterday's email, we have updated our COVID-19 advice".

To be fair to the SCA, the information from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website was, unsurprisingly, a trifle abstruse.

Apartment residents, rest assured; your building is not obliged to wallow in microbiological filth during lockdown.

### Campaign donations

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

# Harnessing the healing power of the sea

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

In her art and in her life, Wirangu artist Aunty Beverly Meldrum has always stayed close to the sea.

Inspired by her upbringing on the South Australian coast and her current home on the Mornington Peninsula, she wanted to showcase the healing properties of the ocean through her work.

So, when she was accepted into the Koorie Heritage Trust's Blak Jewellery Program, Ms Meldrum knew what to do.

"The design for all of my pieces come from kelp which I love working with because it's like a healing for me," Ms Meldrum said.

"I love the smell of it, the texture of it, sometimes it's thick and durable and other times it's thin almost like ribbons – it's always a surprise to work with and it's always different."

Using kelp, fishing net, metals and gold, Ms Meldrum created her *Found Treasures* jewellery collection which includes a necklace and a breastplate.

All of the materials were personally collected from Mushroom Reef in Flinders, with the intention to bring their beauty back to life through art. Ms Meldrum said that working with kelp meant that the final product was dictated by the sea.

"When I collect kelp I just walk until something catches my eye, almost like the kelp is



saying 'pick me!' and then I put it in a shopping bag and bring it home," Ms Meldrum said.

"When you're working with metal, you can plan how it's going to come out, but with kelp each piece is different and has a life of its own."

"I don't force my jewellery pieces into something the kelp doesn't want to be."

Ms Meldrum said that the jewellery, which will be showcased until February 27 at the Koorie Heritage Trust building, was inspired by the grounding and mediative power of the sea.

"I love the texture of the water, the sound of the waves, breathing in the sea air – it's all healing from within," Ms Meldrum said.



"Even when you sit on the beach, watching the force of the waves go in and out is like Mother Nature is breathing."

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 Meldrum, 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.

The works are currently on display in a virtual exhibition on the KHT website, with hopes

in-person visitors will be able to attend after lockdown.

Ms Meldrum said the Blak Design program had been "mind-blowing" and she was keen to learn more skills.

"Never in a million years would I have thought that at my age, I would be doing anything of that calibre, and to think it has led me here," Ms Meldrum said.

"It was an intense year of learning and re-thinking, and using the tools of the trade in the RMIT silver smithing department where I learnt about metals and the tools associated with them."

"I would love to learn even more."

As for her future plans, Ms Meldrum said she was brimming with new jewellery concept ideas.

"Do you know when you go to the pokies and the machine goes off, that's my head at the moment with all these jewellery ideas," Ms Meldrum said. "It's crazy, it's very exciting."

To view the virtual exhibit, visit [koorieheritagetrust.com.au](http://koorieheritagetrust.com.au) or Aunty Meldrum's Instagram @bevonline56 ●

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

## TRADER PROFILE

# Generational cooking filling the market with flavours from Turkey

*For Nancy Turan, owning the Borek Shop within the Queen Victoria Market isn't just a job, it is a way to bring memories from home into the city where she now lives.*



WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Operating at the market since 1996, Nancy originally started baking borek with her mother and grandmother.

"I learnt to bake borek from my small village in Turkey. My mum and grandmother used to do it, and so I said I wanted to try it [in Melbourne]," she said.

Borek, a traditional Turkish dish involving wrapping various ingredients and flavours in a home-made Turkish pastry, is something Nancy prides herself on.

Admitting her most popular dish was either the cheese and spinach borek or the lamb borek, she was confident every customer will be able to find a flavour they loved.

"The potato-filled ones are really nice too," she said. "If I don't eat it or don't like it, I don't sell it".

While getting to bake for a living is something Nancy loves and cherishes, what makes her job even more special is the relationships she shares with both her staff and customers.

Standing its ground for nearly 26 years, the Borek Shop customers have been continuously served by a very committed team, with three of the staff members each being there for nearly 20 years.

It is this determination to treat her

business like a family unit, that has seen the success of the Borek Shop continue to be loved by the customers of Queen Victoria Market.

"I still have so many of my same customers from over the 26 years. I love everything about my job," she said.

Through love and dedication to her shop, Nancy continues to make herself known in Melbourne having opened up other shops in South Melbourne and on Elizabeth St in the CBD.

And while having three shops has been difficult during the pandemic, she was quick to heap praise on her loyal staff for helping her through the current climate.

Hopeful things will start to get back to normal soon enough, Nancy is positive she has succeeded in her mission to bring traditional flavours from home into the households of many Melburnians.

The Borek Shop is located at shop 95-96 in the Dairy Hall at Queen Victoria Market ●

**For more information:**  
[qvm.com.au/shops-stalls/borek-shop/](http://qvm.com.au/shops-stalls/borek-shop/)

## PRECINCTS

# A bright vision for a new precinct

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

Last month's news that the CBD's business community was set to welcome a new precinct group, the Melbourne City North Business Association (MCNBA), has been welcomed as local businesses plan their post COVID-19 recovery.

As reported in the September edition of *CBD News*, the MCNBA will be spearheaded by inaugural president, Christina Zhao (pictured top), who can now reveal the make-up of the precinct's executive committee and their vision to build a thriving business community.

Working alongside Ms Zhao will be vice president Nolan Taing (pictured below), vice president Tony Shu, secretary Ethan Zheng, and committee members, Jason Song, Tina Jian and Michael Zuo.

All small business owners in their own right, the committee represents a host of industries including public relations, retail, hospitality, e-commerce and manufacturing.

The MCNBA's geographic catchment will comprise businesses from Russell to Queen streets and Lonsdale to Victoria streets, excluding those within the Queen Victoria Market as they fall under a separate council funding scheme, but will include key nodes such as QV, Emporium and Melbourne Central.

According to Ms Zhao the MCNBA is understood to have secured 90 official members to date, with the aim to increase that number to 120 by year's end, and 160 members at the close of 2022.

With stakeholder engagement and the development of a harmonious precinct at their forefront, Mr Taing said the key to driving "efficient responsiveness and decision making" is ensuring community development happens in the right way and within the broader scope of City of Melbourne precinct plan.

"It's a common misconception that the value of engagement lies within the size of its members. At City North, we do believe that this is also important, but we hold its depth of engagement as more significant," Mr Taing said.

"We aim to give community members a place to express themselves. Members and residents love to talk and most importantly talk about things that matter to them."

"This is what we will encourage most, make it easy for our community to tell their stories, share their experiences and help grow their business. This also makes community building and engagement an excellent tool for retention."



According to Mr Taing, successful associations and communities are unpinned by responsive interactions and a noted importance placed on connection between members and locals to get involved with the wider strategy.

The MCNBA will look to celebrate the precinct's official launch with an event at one of its many hospitality member venues when COVID-19 restrictions allow.

As for future precinct events, the MCNBA is currently in talks with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra to hold a "Happy Hour Concert Series".

"The Happy Hour Concert Series will be aimed at creating pop-up musical experiences within CBD office towers, as a way of increasing foot traffic back to the city," Ms Zhao said. "The target audience will not only be office workers, with the aim of encouraging people to return to the office, but also general visitation, like people coming into the city for dinner."

The MCNBA will aim to actively promote the precinct to the wider community through various marketing channels, with both online and offline events, seeing momentum already evident through the word-of-mouth campaign generating enough members for official precinct endorsement. ●

**For more information:**  
[info@melbournecitynorthbusiness.com.au](mailto:info@melbournecitynorthbusiness.com.au)

# Zero emissions vehicles

*Have you noticed that the air is clearer with less vehicle movements under COVID lockdown? Right now, we are experiencing a little of what it would be like if a high percentage of vehicles had zero emissions.*

This article draws some of its material from a January 2021 background paper from Infrastructure Victoria entitled *Tackling Victoria's Transport Emissions*.

Most people these days are well aware of the need to counteract climate change on many fronts. In the dense living conditions of a large city like Melbourne, there are at least two short term initiatives that will help reduce the production of CO<sub>2</sub> and other noxious gases. First, despite good intentions, we still need to plant more trees and other vegetation that absorb CO<sub>2</sub> as well as moderating temperature extremes. The second intervention is to aim for zero emissions from all transport vehicles.

In the background paper, zero emissions vehicles are defined as those powered by electric batteries or hydrogen fuel cells. Both types need electricity either to charge a battery or to produce hydrogen via electrolysis.

Transport accounts for 22.9 per cent of Victoria's emissions compared to 45.4 per cent from electricity generation.

When there are more zero emissions vehicles, will that not mean more polluting emissions from centralised generators? One way to think about it, is to understand that emissions from vehicles are spread over a wide area. In a sense they are diffusing emissions affecting the air quality for many. Vehicles using combustion engines are inefficient, wasting a lot of energy through heat and waste products such as their polluting gases.

On the other hand, centralised electric power

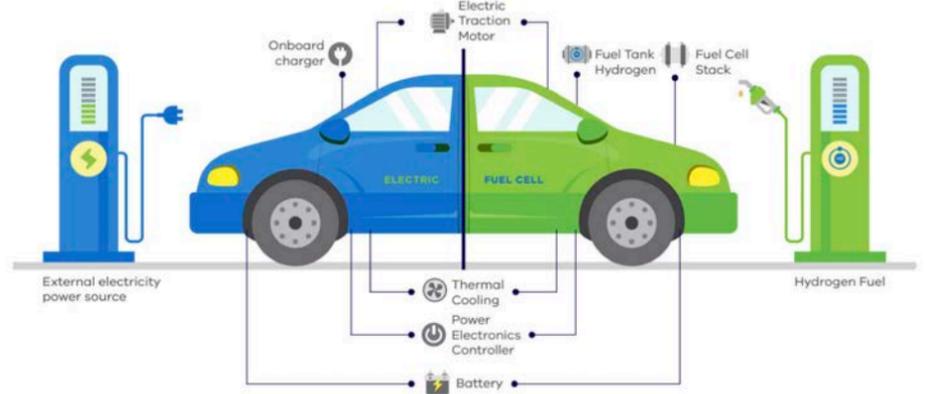
generation is normally an efficient process and less costly per unit of electricity produced. Being a concentrated source of electricity, it is possible with constant improvements in design, to increase efficiency and to find ways to sequester the damaging CO<sub>2</sub> gases. It is much easier to tackle the emissions problem at the power station compared to finding a solution for every internal combustion engine-driven vehicle.

Looking around the CBD, I see Melbourne's iconic trams moving people around with an old technology but way ahead in being emission free. The same applies to our metro trains. Then there are more and more electric bikes and scooters. But there are only a few electric vehicles.

The 2020-21 Victorian Budget committed \$20 million in a state-wide trial to investigate solutions to achieve a zero-emission bus fleet. The trial will run over three years, testing different technologies on buses across Victoria.

Imagine our city with all vehicles, including trucks and buses, running with zero emissions. This would mean cleaner air, healthier people. Electric vehicles are quiet. Noise pollution is substantially reduced.

Why is the uptake of zero emission vehicles so slow? The vehicles are too expensive? There are not enough charging facilities? Although that need not be a problem. Most people would charge their vehicle overnight, just like your laptop, phone, watch and other electronic devices. Just add the car! High-rise buildings need



Source: Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

to ensure that car parks have electric vehicle charging facilities installed for residents.

The Victorian Government needs to think about incentives to encourage the uptake. However, a new charge on electric vehicles is not helpful. In the 2020-21 Victorian Budget, the Victorian Government announced that Victorian owners of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles will be charged a usage fee of 2.5 cents per kilometre from July 2021. The charge is intended to offset the loss of revenue collected from petrol and diesel vehicle sales. Why not only charge the "electric vehicle road tax" when the uptake has reached a significant percentage?

Jurisdictions worldwide are using a range of regulatory, financial and infrastructure incentives to promote zero emissions vehicle uptake in order to help meet their emissions reduction goals. The country with the highest zero emission vehicle market share, Norway, uses a mixture of financial and infrastructure incentives to drive uptake. Norway's capital city, Oslo, has the highest per-capita representation of battery electric vehicles in the world, with 10 per cent of Norway's total fleet of vehicles and more than half of new car sales being electric.

When it comes to regulatory interventions, simply removing the ability to choose

a traditional internal combustion vehicle is a powerful mechanism. To date, 13 countries and 31 cities/regions have announced plans to phase out sales of internal combustion vehicles to encourage the transition to zero emissions vehicles.

Last thought – why are Australian entrepreneurs not coming up with a smaller, less costly electric vehicle? The silent, pollution-free, Aussie city car – imagine! We used to manufacture motor vehicles, didn't we? Why not innovate to produce our own cost-effective electric vehicle? Come on Aussies, come on!

Note: Infrastructure Victoria is an independent advisory body, which began operating on October 1, 2015 under the Infrastructure Victoria Act 2015 ●



Dr Sue Saunders  
VICE PRESIDENT OF RESIDENTS 3000 MELBOURNE



## City Life



**“We are pretty good. You have to be or you can't get on site.”**

Lonsdale St

### STATE MP

## Thank you to our community healthcare heroes and everyone getting vaccinated

*On my way to Parliament recently, I popped in to say hello and thank you to the amazing nurses and staff from Cohealth and the City of Melbourne who are running a pop-up vaccination clinic at Melbourne Town Hall.*

This clinic welcomes all, especially providing vaccinations to those experiencing homelessness, international students and other people without Medicare, and anyone else who has had difficulty accessing the vaccination program so far.

The nurses told me that people lined up from 3am on the first day it opened.

Thanks to the City of Melbourne, Co-Ground is also providing free coffee and snacks, as well as a friendly face and time to chat, to people who are sleeping rough while they're waiting. These people are prioritised in the queue to ensure they don't face any additional barriers to getting their jab.

Staff from Cohealth have also done an amazing job setting up pop-up vaccination clinics at public housing towers in Melbourne's inner-city suburbs, and providing health advice in local languages, something we're very proud to support.

Every vaccination helps protect our community, and with the recent "re-opening roadmap" it's our ticket to opening up again. The government has announced that for the next few months, many of the things we want to do (like going to a cafe or pub or



event) will only be available to those who are vaccinated, so now is the time to book an appointment if you haven't already.

Thank you to all those who have already had your jab. Young people especially have been coming out in droves over the last few weeks and months, since many have only recently become eligible for the vaccine. Thank you.

I've recently been double-jabbed, as soon as I was eligible, and I'm also feeling very grateful for science and scientists! We're incredibly lucky to have a vaccine, and even luckier to have access to it when so many

countries still don't.

If you'd like to make an appointment at the Melbourne Town Hall vaccination clinic, or any other clinic near you, you can do so at [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au).

If there's ever anything I can do for you, please get in touch. ●



Ellen Sandell  
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE  
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

# 10,000 steps a day may not be enough to stay healthy and pain-free as we age

*All Australians should incorporate strength training into their weekly routine, but it is especially important for those aged over 40.*

The recommendation of 10,000 steps a day is well known as the key to staying fit and healthy, however walking and aerobic activities are only part of the story. The Australian Physical Activity Guidelines recommend at least two-and-a-half hours of moderate intensity physical activity per week as well as muscle strengthening activities at least two days per week. While many Australian adults participate in the recommended amount of physical activity, only one third complete the recommended amount of muscle strengthening activities. This number gets even lower as we age, with only 11 per cent of those aged over 55 participating in strength training twice per week.

According to physiotherapist Nick Nicolaidis, "These numbers are hard to understand when we know the incredible benefits that strength

training can have on an individual, especially as they age".

Nick is the Clinic Leader of Kieser, which welcomes clients of all ages to its strength training programs and has seen first-hand the benefits strength training can have on those aged over 40.

"We see clients everyday with back pain, knee pain and chronic conditions such as osteoporosis and arthritis which are currently on the rise in those aged over 40. Clients are surprised to hear that many of these conditions can not necessarily be managed with aerobic exercise alone," Mr Nicolaidis said.

Muscle mass decreases approximately three to eight per cent per decade after the age of 30 and this rate of decline is even higher after the age of 60. This involuntary loss of muscle mass, strength, and function is a fundamental cause of and contributor to pain and injury as we age. However, these changes in muscle mass can be counteracted by strength training, which increases muscle protein synthesis in both younger and older adults.

A common myth for those with osteoporosis is that strength training is unsafe and can lead to fractures. However, numerous studies have



shown that progressive resistance training is actually one of the most effective forms of exercise for clients with osteoporosis due to the dynamic and rapid loading of bones which improves bone health.

Kieser is a unique physiotherapy and exercise facility, which changes the paradigm of the traditional fitness facility to welcome clients of all ages and provide older clients with a safe and supportive environment in which to improve their strength and physical function. Our training facility is designed to support our clients, with a quiet, non-invasive environment that has a focus on physical performance, rather than physical aesthetics. With an average client

age of 55, our members are able to train in a safe and supported environment surrounded by their peers.

Kieser has a clinic 300 metres from Southern Cross Station at the corner of King and Collins streets. Kieser is open for essential face-to-face care with a physiotherapist during lockdown ●

**For more information:**  
call 9448 9999  
or visit [kieser.com.au](http://kieser.com.au)

STREET ART

## Creative isolation

*As we keep the city locked down Melbourne is slowly dying.*

As we wait for inevitable tsunami of COVID to spread across the country, further damaging Melbourne and its creativity, the creatives of Melbourne are really struggling with loss of work, and subsequent financial worries, making life hard.

Money worries are hard, but artists are resilient in the sense that they are used to being poor and underpaid.

On the scale of the disruption that COVID has caused to the creative sector, not being paid, or having no work is almost tolerable. The real pain lies in the lack of community.

Artists are socially inept at the best of times, yet they crave social situations and community. For the past two years, COVID has shut all exhibitions, studios and stopped all social scenarios. This was hard on artists last year, but this year it's become a real problem.

Creatives are prone to depression and mental illness at the best of times, now with artists being essentially cut off from society, depression and mental illness has become a second pandemic within the creative community.

Artists, comedians and actors all operate on the boundaries of social norms and isolation is really making life hard for many artists.

As things open-up, it will take years for the arts industry to recover. Many galleries, festivals productions, studios and venues have closed. There is, for the first time, a creative exodus with artists leaving Melbourne in droves.

What this will mean for Melbourne's creative soul will only be understood in time. Melbourne



will be different now. These lockdowns have altered the way artists engage with the city, and while it may not be a long-term negative, at the moment COVID is ripping out Melbourne's creative soul.

Please reach out to a creative friend, give them a call or write them a letter. Times are tough for everyone, but artists are particularly at risk at the moment. If you are struggling, or you know someone who is, contact Lifeline on 13 11 14.

The best way to support creative Melbourne as we move into the future is to get out there and support the arts, go see some comedy, local theatre or live music. You can also buy some art, go on a bar tour or even a street art tour.

The main thing we need to try and do is support each other and stay connected.

Here is a piece I have painted during COVID called *Suburban isolation* (2021), mixed media paint on canvas.

Have an awesome month, stay kool and stay in skool ... ●



*Adrian Doyle*

ADRIAN DOYLE IS THE BLENDER STUDIOS

LEARN MORE ON THEBLENDERSTUDIOS.COM

SALVOS

## Lock them out, lock them up or lock them in?

*It has been really interesting hearing the increased anger and frustration in the conversations that I have been having with people around the city in recent times.*

Some people are claiming that the current plight of the city or their business is solely due to the presence of rough sleepers and people that are vulnerable.

If we continue to judge and focus blame on a particular group of people, then I can see absolutely no good or positive thing coming from this behaviour.

Rough sleepers and people who are dealing with complex mental health issues often describe feeling "locked out". They are locked out from family, a meaningful sense of community, education, training and employment. For many of them, their experience is that when they are locked out, it is often a very short path until they are locked up. When they are locked up, it is often a very difficult, if not impossible, path for them to rebuild their lives and re-integrate into society.

That is why it is incumbent on all of us to change the narrative and to begin to play our small part to lock the vulnerable into supportive community, housing with appropriate support and to create meaningful pathways into practical training and opportunities that will lead to employment, or at least volunteering opportunities.

You may be reading this and thinking, "what could I possibly do to create that level of difference?"

Well, it doesn't actually take much. It basically starts with us changing our narrative from one which might be focused on judgement to recognising that every person, no matter what their background, will respond far more positively to being locked into appropriate supports rather than being locked out.

There is a young man called Ben\*, who is in his 30s. Ben worked in hospitality in Brisbane. Ben's sister died suddenly and tragically when she was 31 years of age. Her death had a devastating impact on the family. Ben left Brisbane and headed to Melbourne to try and re-start his life. Sadly, Ben started dabbling in drugs. He was charged and convicted for minor drug possession. Ben had been passionately committed to his work in the hospitality industry, but the conviction made him believe that he had been locked out of employment for the foreseeable future.

Unbelievably, Ben went to bed and stayed there for two years! He would only leave his bed to go to the bathroom and to go to the local supermarket once per week. I met Ben recently and asked him if he had any goals for the

“

*You may be reading this and thinking, "what could I possibly do to create that level of difference?" Well, it doesn't actually take much.*

”

future. Surprisingly, Ben said he did have a major goal. I asked him what it was. Ben said that he was planning to take his life on his 40th birthday. Ben told me that he had invested a lot of time into this plan as he had nothing else to live for.

A few minutes after Ben and I had this conversation, Paul Licuria, vice president of the Collingwood Football Club, called me. Paul was wanting me to pick up some furniture and clothing that he was wanting to donate. Ben got to meet Paul and Paul went to work in getting to know Ben's story. Since that day, Paul has connected with Ben via Whatsapp every day to encourage Ben to get out of bed and go for a walk. Through Paul's ongoing support, Ben has lost 30 kilograms, has a renewed desire to get fit and to get re-employed at the beginning of next year. A lawyer has also been doing some work on the Victorian spent conviction policy. Lots of people, doing their little bit to support Ben, have literally turned his life around to the point where Ben is poised to once again become a productive member of the community.

The questions for all of us is, what does our language, actions and thoughts do for others? Lock them out, lock them up or lock them into meaningful and appropriate support which may well help get their life back on track?

(\*Ben is not his real name.) ●



*Major Brendan Nottle*

COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE SALVATION ARMY MELBOURNE - PROJECT 614

BRENDAN.NOTTLE@SALVATIONARMY.ORG.AU

## Vertical homework

*Staying home has meant learning new work-ways – but what now might be expected of our apartment buildings?*

September saw the release of the Productivity Commission's *Working from home* research paper, which investigated how working from home (WFH) might impact Australia's economy and individuals' income, employment and wellbeing.

Described as a "forced experiment" brought about by the pandemic, WFH is one of the biggest changes to our working life in the past 50 years. According to Michael Brennan, chair of the Productivity Commission, "In less than two years we have gone from less than eight per cent of Australians working from home to 40 per cent. While this percentage may not always remain so high it is inevitable that more Australians will work from home."

And during our lockdown, we received much advice about WFH practices, ranging from how to set up our home offices, to employers grappling with OHS standards. Of particular concern was the ever-changing issue of security – both of customer data (you *did* install that last update?) and employee privacy, with reports of "tattleware" being installed on home computers – that's software that logs keystrokes, takes photos and assigns a "productivity score".

The Productivity Commission also considered the impact of WFH on central business districts (CBDs). Its contention is that as more people WFH and avoid commuting into the CBD, significant economic activity (such as retail, hospitality and personal services) may drift from the CBDs to the suburbs. This means that demand for office space may decline as firms downsize or relinquish their offices.

And if so, there will likely be an accompanying decline in office-worker demand for inner-city apartments. This is because being close to their work may no longer mean living close to the CBD.

This is of concern to vertical villages as many of our residents have traditionally been office-workers seeking to be close to their work sites. With work-proximity removed as a major appeal of our buildings, we will need to give serious thought to futureproofing our buildings against this drift away.

This starts with knowing how our vertical villages are impacted by more residents WFH – and then identifying what is required to build our new appeal.

Francesco Andreone (GoStrata Stak) has given this some thought, identifying several issues that vertical villages need to consider, including:

- Increased facilities usage and "wear and tear": WFH means people stay in and around their building for longer, which means more frequent lift usage, increased

use of common property (e.g. gyms) and greater demand upon central utilities (e.g. air conditioning).

- Increased noise and sensitivity to noise: more people active in the building throughout the day and night means greater noise more frequently generated (accompanied by lower tolerance levels, as revealed during lockdowns when noise complaints soared).
- Increased demand upon staff services: more people at home leads to greater demands upon staff, such as managing deliveries (food and parcel), coordinating maintenance repairs, and mediating conflict resolutions (e.g. noise complaints).

In addition to this, vertical villages should consider how their existing amenities can be improved to better support WFH. For instance, some apartment buildings already offer facilities such as business hubs or conference rooms, but often their acoustics (such as sound-proofing) are questionable. Allied to this, vertical villages will need to review associated protocols to ensure their facilities do not become dedicated office resources for individual residents. Other features in need of revamp may include parcel management and storage facilities, with staff now having to contend with growing volumes of work-related deliveries. Together, and as noted by the Productivity Commission, these WFH changes bring increased complexity for risk management, and a need for greater clarity

about WFH responsibilities and their potential impact upon insurance.

As WFH is primarily a CBD-centric shock, the City of Melbourne has already launched activities aimed at "saving our CBD". Yet it seems to me a key element of saving Melbourne's CBD remains overlooked – namely, retaining residents already living here. As WFH promotes a drift away from inner city living, steps must be taken now to make WFH in vertical villages more appealing.

However, the burden of realising this CBD revival strategy should not rest entirely upon the volunteer committees and the personal pockets of residents.

So, here's an idea.

What about business revival grants being open to vertical villages for improving their amenities to support residents WFH and remaining in the City of Melbourne?

In this way, our vertical villages can play an active role in "saving Melbourne's CBD", while also building our own vertical village resilience.

•



Dr Janette Corcoran

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/  
SKYPADLIVING/

### CRITIC



## A sad, old ghost town

*On Victoria St near the market is a cool little lounge/gallery called One Star that has a foot in both the CBD and West Melbourne.*

The place is next door to the city's oldest Balinese restaurant and up the street from a bar filled with books.

One Star caters to those who love art rather than like it, because it knows how to hook a passer-by.

Often you have to peer through the window to catch their latest takes on life but it is always worth the effort.

The work always looks like it's been done by local artists, even though some are on the international circuit as well.

One Star has a vibe that is difficult to reproduce.

On a pedestal in the window is a clunky hunk of metal with a small figure sitting nearby.

The figure has its legs dangling over the edge of the pedestal.

No-one is trying too hard to look arty in this window display.

There's a casual painting on a stand, a couple of photographs and an abstract in the right-hand bottom corner.

Group Show is the unpretentious name plastered across the glass.

There are no obvious statements. The light at the end of the verandah seems to say it all.

One Star is a setting for outlaws.

The figure on the pedestal next to the metal column is called *Monumental Failure*. It's by Brendan Noonan.

In the art world puns are acceptable, even sought after. The work seems to depict the stuff up we're all now experiencing. Perhaps Noonan has a formula.

The ghostly painting isn't bad either.

It's great just to walk by and not know anything about the place.

One Star is a mystery now that it's closed like a book, waiting to be re-opened, like everything else in this sad, old ghost town.

Group Show, One Star Lounge & Gallery, until ... •



Rhonda Dredge

JOURNALIST

RHONDA@CBDNEWS.COM.AU

### MUSIC

## Visiting Hours

*Surrounded by thousands and thousands of people in stadiums around the world, and with just an acoustic guitar and voice, musician Ed Sheeran can hold an audience captive. That's an incredible talent.*

Ed Sheeran has a new album out in his symbol series entitled =. On = there is the song Sheeran wrote to commemorate the passing on of music man Michael Gudinski, entitled *Visiting Hours*. In fact, Sheeran has dedicated the entire album to Mushroom Records driver man Michael Gudinski. Take your hat off and enjoy =.

*Security* is a ripper of a song from popular Melbourne punk rock band Amyl and the Sniffers. Their second album *Comfort To Me* has arrived and it is a strong follow-up to their debut album. Think Cosmic Psychos and Radio Birdman. It made the grade as a 3PBS feature album of the week in September 2021. In an interview with *Vogue* (yes, *Vogue*) singer Amy Taylor described how hard it could be for musicians used to performing more than a hundred gigs a year having that creative interplay with an audience taken away.

That's one thing Amyl and the Sniffers have is a strong connection to their audience. Amy Taylor is a singer with a magnetic charisma in the tradition of Chrissy Amphlett from The Divinyls.

Amyl and the Sniffers will be performing a special live online concert on October 5 playing the entire *Comfort To Me*. Go to the band's website for details.

Archie Roach is having tremendous conversations at his kitchen table with fellow musicians and artists about music, life, the land, water, people living in a pandemic, the creative process. Go to Archie's Facebook page for entertainment and enlightenment.

Cult folk musician Adam Geoffrey Cole

was fortunate enough to play a gig on a Tuesday night between lockdowns at the Bendigo Hotel. He was playing new material from a forthcoming solo album and the music was well received by the audience. The man from the band Trappist Afterland has ventured into the solo realm with his first limited edition vinyl EP album featuring the songs *Death Behind Me* and *Seasick*. This is the *Seasick* EP single and is a continuation of the old school on the south bank of the Thames River vibe of Trappist Afterland. A.G. Cole is drawing upon very established folk traditions, and he is doing it very well. For some, this music might be an acquired taste but it's well worth the listening effort. It's like an onion. For fans of Bert Jansch and Chris Chapple's *It's a Wonderful Life* this is material you will enjoy.

Like many Australian artists Adam Geoffrey Cole is better known overseas than in Australia. Of the more than dozen albums Trappist Afterland have in their catalogue, just about all of them have sold out.

Cole is assisted on these intergalactic folk music recordings by Anthony Cornish who helps out with harmonium and violin. A talented multi-instrumentalist, Cole himself apart from vocals plays guitar, mandolin, hurdy gurdy and oud. This provides for a very rich and dense texture. Music soothing for the spirit. The cover of the single features a sepia tinted photo of A.G. Cole, sitting in a rural setting wearing a cap, with a black dog resting next to him. Adam Geoffrey Cole's *Seasick* four-track single is available from Sonido Polifonico and the best record stores in Melbourne.

The debut solo album from Adam Geoffrey Cole is called *Following* and is out now on Sunstone Records. A.G.Cole is an old school folk musician extraordinaire of the 21st century

•



Chris Mineral

MINERALSANDS@HOTMAIL.COM



## 营业时间未定 酒店工程开始

历史悠久的Bourke街遗址将改建为大型酒吧和餐厅的工程将于10月份开始，尽管其业主要求营业至凌晨3点的牌照许可仍未解决。

WORDS BY David Schout

O'Brien集团曾在2020年威胁要对这个废弃的Job Warehouse“交还钥匙”，如果该拟建场地被迫要在每晚凌晨1点关门，但是该集团将在本月推进其价值为490万澳元的工程，尽管其酒牌的营业时间仍然悬而未决。

该集团和墨尔本市政参加了8月举行的维州民事和行政仲裁庭(VCAT)的审理听证会，目前正在等待最终裁定。

在仲裁庭上市政指出，为了保护附近居民的利益，这个容纳673人的场馆营业至凌晨1点是适当的。

附近的居民中，有一些人住在Liverpool街，离拟建的酒店不到10米的距离。

集团首席执行官Michael O'Brien曾在2020年12月辩称，这个拟建的名为“朱丽叶露台”的新场所，其经济可行性是依赖于这个酒牌的营业时间。

他说：“由于该建筑的年代和遗产状况，修复这个建筑所需要的特别护理、时间和技能是正常情况下的三倍，为了能使其在经济上可行，我们需要一个至凌晨3点的营业牌照。”

“现实情况是，如果没有墨尔本市政对营业至凌晨3点牌照的支持，这个项目将无法进行，我们别无选择，只能交还钥匙。”

可是该集团并未坚持其威胁，并计划不顾仲裁庭(VCAT)的裁定而开始施工。

O'Brien先生没有回应本报所提出的置评请求。

在9月14日的网络Zoom会议上，该集团通知附近的居民和商家企业，将于10月开始拆除Liverpool街上的四家餐厅。

项目工程预计需要12到14个月。



## 让国际学生2022学年返回

墨尔本市政呼吁国际学生在2022学年及时“大量返回”，并敦促上级政府在这个问题上发挥其领导作用。

市政表示，州政府和联邦政府对国际学生的返回都采取了“总体上保守的方法”，认为明年的国际学生返回计划应该“立即开始”。

在新冠疫情之前，中央商务区(CBD)十分之四的居民是国际学生。

然而，在整个疫情流行期间，澳大利亚严格的边境政策使得CBD的国际学生大为减少。

在9月7日的未来墨尔本委员会会议

上，一份提交的报告得出结论，国际学生的返回不仅仅涉及高等院校，而且对在市中心许多依赖他们的商家企业也至关重要。

报告指出：“国际学生的返回对本市的中短期复苏至关重要。”

“墨尔本的经济将受益于国际学生的返回，这不仅仅直接在高等教育领域，自澳大利亚关闭边境以来，高等教育领域已经出现了大量失业，国际学生的返回还将受益于学生在住房、食品和服务等领域源源不断支出

的经济效益。”

在市议员的一致支持下，墨尔本市政将与国际教育领域的关键人员进行合作。

他们的任务是推动维州政府和联邦政府“让国际学生在2022学年及时返回墨尔本”。

市长Sally Capp还将与其他州首府市长合作，共同倡导并确保对此的国家计划。

其它州已经提出了国际学生在年底前返回的可能性。

新南威尔士州一项每两周允许250名国际学生返回的计划，于6月份在该州延长封锁期开始时暂停。

然而，新南威尔士州财政部长Dominic Perrottet表示，他们可能会在11月恢复该计划。

同样，南澳政府也表示，国际学生将很快成为家庭隔离试验的一部分。

在本报出版时，维州政府还没有发布有关维州高等教育部门的计划。



## 商家呼吁就地圣诞购物

市中心零售商一直在储备本地出产和澳大利亚制造的产品，以帮助购物者避免在圣诞期间澳大利亚邮政的延误。

WORDS BY Katie Johnson

Nic Poltronieri是一位拥有74年历史的Flinders街标志性商店Hearn's Hobbies的老板，他表示，在当地购物是支持墨尔本商家的最佳方式，这些商家为了维持经营，已经苦苦挣扎了两年。

他说：“每一元的花费、每一句谢谢的话、每一个支持的信号，都是帮助我们走出这段艰苦的时间。”

“市中心虽然有一些居民，但并不那么繁忙，所以我们已经改为当地送货、网上点击提货、并在设计我们本地的产品。”

“在这段时间里，尽管很艰难，我和我的员工一直在尽最大努力相互支持。”

在Degraeves街上具有标志性的Clementine's商店已经有十年的历史，销售维多利亚制造的家居用品和礼品，目前也已经为圣诞节准备就绪了。

店主Melanie Ashe目前对圣诞节销售季节还是充满希望，她敦促购物者尽早购物以避免延误。

她说：“很明显，邮政系统将会有很多问题，所以我们提醒人们早作安排，尽早购物，这样就可以过一个愉快和祥和的圣诞节。”

Ashe女士说，在封锁期间保持高昂的士气至关重要，这也得到了周围商家的支持。

市长Sally Capp在9月15日的讲话中说，墨尔本市政正在计划圣诞节的“亮丽装饰”，该装饰将从11月27日持续到圣诞节。

## 墨尔本确认试用电动滑板车

在接下来几个月里将实施为期12个月的“电动滑板车”试用计划，CBD当地人将很快把“电动滑板车”添加到他们的交通选择之中。

墨尔本市是被选中试用电动滑板车租用计划的四个地方政府区域之一，另外有两个内城市政(雅拉市Yarra和菲利普港市Port Phillip)以及巴拉瑞特市(Ballarat)。

该试用计划最早将于今年春天开始，等待市政批准一家运营商。

租用的电动滑板车允许在自行车道、共享路段和低速道路上以20公里/小时的速度行驶(最高限速为50公里/小时)。

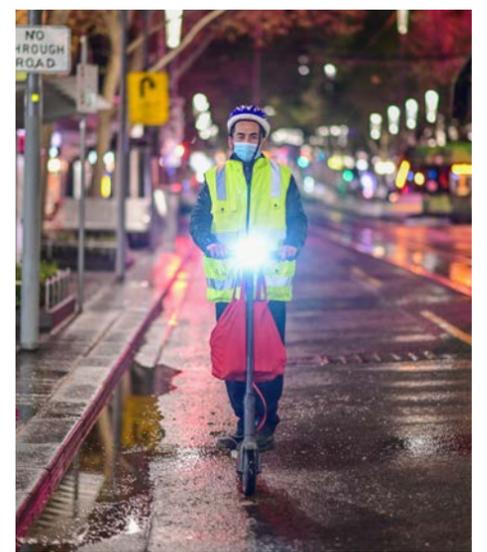
但是，不允许在人行道上行驶，使用者必须戴上头盔。

对于这种基本上不受监管的交通选择来说，宣布试用计划的时间可以说是姗姗来迟了。

目前在本市街道上看到的大多数电动滑板车都是非法的，因为功率太大(大于200瓦)，而且行驶速度超过了10公里/小时(维州现行的法律规定)。

正如市长Sally Capp在6月份所说的：“每次我看到有人骑电动滑板车时，我都会想‘他们可能违法了’。”

在当时，她补充道，“我认为我们越早解决这个问题越好”。



在确认墨尔本市将成为该试用计划的一部分后，Capp市长告诉本报，一个有效的模式将在很多方面使本市受益。

她说：“墨尔本有一个极好的交通网络，可能适合电动滑板车的使用”。

“我们期待测试电动滑板车能否成为另一种安全、有效和环保的交通选择。像这样的创新举措可以吸引更多的游客进入这座城市，帮助他们四处走动，从而有助于恢复人气。”

在为期12个月的试用期间将收集相关数据，以了解如何将电动滑板车安全地纳入本市的交通网络。

# What's on: October 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](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)



## MELBOURNE MUSEUM AT HOME

Ongoing

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!

[museums victoria.com.au](http://museums victoria.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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:walks@residents3000.com.au)



## LANEWAY LEARNING

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

[melbourne.lanewaylearning.com](http://melbourne.lanewaylearning.com)



## NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN CLUB SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

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

[gardenclub@residents3000.com.au](mailto:gardenclub@residents3000.com.au)

# Business Directory

## Accounting

Maximising your profits by minimising your tax

PH 9603 0066

[www.rubiixbusinessaccountants.com.au](http://www.rubiixbusinessaccountants.com.au)

## Family Law

Working with individuals, families & business.

Tel: 9614 5122 Fax: 9614 2964

[www.pearcewebster.com.au](http://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](http://donazzanboutiqueproperty.com.au)

James Flynn  
0417 337 819  
[www.mcre.com.au](http://www.mcre.com.au)

## Childcare

Address: Level 5, 450 Flinders Street, Melbourne 3000  
Phone: 03 9629 9860  
Email: [director-riverside@sentia.vic.edu.au](mailto:director-riverside@sentia.vic.edu.au)

## Gifts

Clementine's, for your locally made gifts, homewares, accessories and fine food

7 DeGRAVES St, Melbourne | 639 2681 | [info@clementines.com.au](mailto:info@clementines.com.au)

AWARD-WINNING MELBOURNE DEVELOPER

1800 63 8888

[melbournegrand.com.au](http://melbournegrand.com.au)

Ray White Southbank | Port Phillip  
111 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006  
P: (03) 8102 0200  
[www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au](http://www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au)

## Escorts

96503295

Mature Sophisticated Affectionate Discreet Genuine Affordable Escorts

[paramour.com.au](http://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](mailto:chris@chrisnell.com.au) Visit [chrisnell.com.au](http://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](http://QVM.COM.AU)

(03)9654 6011

Melbourne's Finest Escorts can be at your door in 5min as we're located in the CBD

## Property

For all leasing enquiries, please contact:

JLL Knight Frank

Alexandra Harper 0407 052 070 Simon Hale 0417 147 785  
James Palmer 0438 155 359 James Pappas 0419 319 367

GPT The GPT Group \*Approx

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



*With over 30 years combined experience Gina and Kim and their team understand Property Management requires robust experience in an ever changing market.*

*Property owners want personalised, hands-on service with the same person, not generic communication and a revolving door of changing managers.*

*Our focus is on stability and building strong relationships with our clients.*

*We continue to be truly Unique and Boutique.*

*Find out why so many have chosen the Melbourne Boutique experience in Property Management.*

**Prestige Leasing, Boutique Service**

# Donazzan Boutique Property



LEASED

\$850 per week

*12 Warburton Lane*



LEASED

\$800 per week

*The Georges- 180 Lt Collins Street*



LEASED

\$550 per week

*Hero- 118 Russell Street*



LEASED

\$1800 per week

*The Royal Domain- 368 St Kilda Rd*



LEASED

\$1800 per week

*The Royal Domain- 368 St Kilda Rd*



LEASED

\$995 per week

*35 Spring Street*

*... Melbourne's Finest*

**Kim Davey 0418 924 324**

**Gina Donazzan 0412 430 326**

**donazzanboutiqueproperty.com.au**

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