

# CBD NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P25



## Block Arcade unites *Photo by Murray Enders*

Block Arcade owner Grant Cohen [back row] was joined by tenants last month in a show of support of his management and passion for the arcade as a bitter dispute between his family and the former operator of the Hopetoun Tearooms continues. *More on page 17.*

## Late-night pub bid rejected

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
PLANNING

A bid to extend the opening hours of a proposed Bourke St hotel from 1am to 3am has been rejected by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

The tribunal was unconvinced that the under-construction venue, in part a restoration of the 1840s-built Job Warehouse, would not have “unreasonable impacts on the amenity of the area” and backed the City of Melbourne’s decision to order the venue close at 1am.

Concerns principally surrounded long-term residents on Liverpool St, some of whom live less than 10 metres from the proposed venue.

One of those, Nicola Smith, said the decision handed down on December 17 vindicated their hard work.

“It was a nice Christmas present, a huge relief. I am incredibly proud of the residents who invested 18 months

of hard work and argued their case so compellingly,” she said.

“Residents banded together, fought to retain some level of amenity and were able to prove their case. It was pleasing that the VCAT members assessed the reality on the ground and disallowed any further impact to what we will already have to endure until the early hours, 365 days per year, and it certainly highlighted some inadequacies in the planning permit conditions and reports as issued.”

The 673-patron bar and restaurant, set to be called Juliet’s Terrace, would replace the derelict Job Warehouse, which has sat dormant since 2012.

Developers the O’Brien Group, owners of the nearby Imperial Hotel, had previously argued that the economic viability of the new venue 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

*Continued on page 7.*

## Resident fears for her safety as luxury apartment tower becomes a hotbed for violence, drug activity

*A resident of a lavish CBD skyscraper says she no longer feels comfortable living at her newly developed apartment building as it becomes overrun with violence and illegal drug activity.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HEALTH

“I’ve been asked for heroin; I’ve been asked for ice, every drug under the sun and it’s just so uncomfortable,” Jane [not her real name] said after moving into her Queens Place apartment building at the corner of Queen and A’Beckett streets in July last year.

As part of its \$150 million Homelessness to a Home Program, the state government bought apartments at the Queens Place complex in May last year – 12 of which are now occupied.

The program assists placing Victorians experiencing homelessness out of emergency accommodation and into long-term housing.

While Jane, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals and putting her personal safety at risk, welcomed the initiative to get people off the street, she said her experience of living alongside clients of the homeless program had made her feel unsafe.

“I don’t want to walk downstairs to get UberEats and have to deal with everyone,” she said. “There’s always a fight among them, there’s always something going on.”

The 24-year-old said security guards had been stationed at the complex, but they hadn’t stopped the issues from occurring, including violent screams throughout the building and aggressive behaviour.

One man, she said, exposed himself while her friend and fellow resident took footage of a “guy literally

in the entrance smoking on a crack pipe”.

In another instance, she said a woman approached her asking for “shard” [also known as ice, a type of methamphetamine] as Jane went to the lobby to pick up a food delivery at 9.30pm one evening.

“I said no,” Jane said she told the woman who then approached others “and there was some exchange”.

Another man was found either asleep or passed out at the front steps of the complex before being moved on by security.

Jane said she was furious at the situation and had reported multiple incidents to the building’s management but still “nothing gets done about it”.

This included a time her mother and her partner had attended the complex to visit Jane for her birthday when a man yelled abuse at them.

“The guy followed them in and said if he could get to the eighth floor. They said, ‘sorry we are here visiting someone’.”

“He started calling my mum the C-word and yelling at her and he lightly kicked my Mum’s partner in the leg.”

Fortunately, the man was removed from the building within a week, but Jane said open drug dealing, violence, and chaotic behaviour were a common occurrence at the 80-storey tower.

“I don’t feel safe walking to the building at night,” she said, adding her partner “will always drive me home and walk me in”.

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# Meet “HER”

BUSINESS

An entire CBD building dedicated to some of Melbourne’s greatest loves – dining, immersive art and a vinyl soundtrack – will soon open to the public at 270 Lonsdale St on February 2.

Established by HQ Group, the team behind Arbory and Arbory Afloat on the north bank of the Yarra River, HER is touted as a “wonderland of modern classic food, sophisticated drinks, art and music”.

Located across four levels of a Federation building, which has undergone an extensive renovation, the name “HER” derives from the feminine architectural features of the building and speaks to the building’s context and its curious history.

HQ Group has partnered with leading architects and designers JCB and Tamsin Johnson to create four distinct venues within the building, which include:

- Ground floor – HER BAR. For cocktail-drinking, with chic, Parisian-inspired interiors, it features soaring woven cane ceilings and leather banquettes, while a 10-metre painting of colour and movement by local artist Eleanor Louise Butt sits above the long, zinc-covered bar, with more artworks coordinated by Lily Mora (Sunday Salon) in *Salon Hangs* on the walls.
- Level one – Music Room. A level dedicated to the love of sound inspired by the listening bars of Japan and Europe. With its American walnut-panelled walls mimicking a speaker box, and a bespoke sound system and console showcasing three turntables, the room is complete with a wall of vinyl records curated by local artist, DJ JNett.
- Level three – BKK. A Thai BBQ canteen led by head chef Sungeun Mo and HQ Group’s executive chef Nick Bennett. Inspired by the night markets of Thailand, BKK has a stripped back interior – terracotta walls



▲ HER will open in February at 270 Lonsdale St.

- and exposed brick – to complement its fiery kitchen.
- Rooftop – HER ROOFTOP. With inspiring cityscape views overlooking some of the CBD’s most stunning heritage icons, the rooftop space is inspired by the European garden party, with playful interiors, fun drinks and food from the BKK menu.

HQ Group’s marketing director Georgie Larkins said HER would provide the CBD with a trove of new experiences.

“This project has involved so many creatives, people who love what they do, whether they express themselves visually, in design or in music, or make superb food or cocktails – and all in the one place. The result is HER; a fun and gorgeous place to spend your time with friends. We think it’s pretty special,” she said ●

**For more information:**  
[her.melbourne](http://her.melbourne)



## Works begin on theatre forecourt

CAPITAL WORKS

The City of Melbourne began work on a \$1 million expansion of the Princess Theatre forecourt on Spring St.

The council is adding 240 sqm of additional public space to the forecourt area, which will see new street furniture, garden beds, bluestone paving and protective bollards installed, as well as a new raised asphalt pedestrian crossing at the Little Bourke and Spring streets intersection.

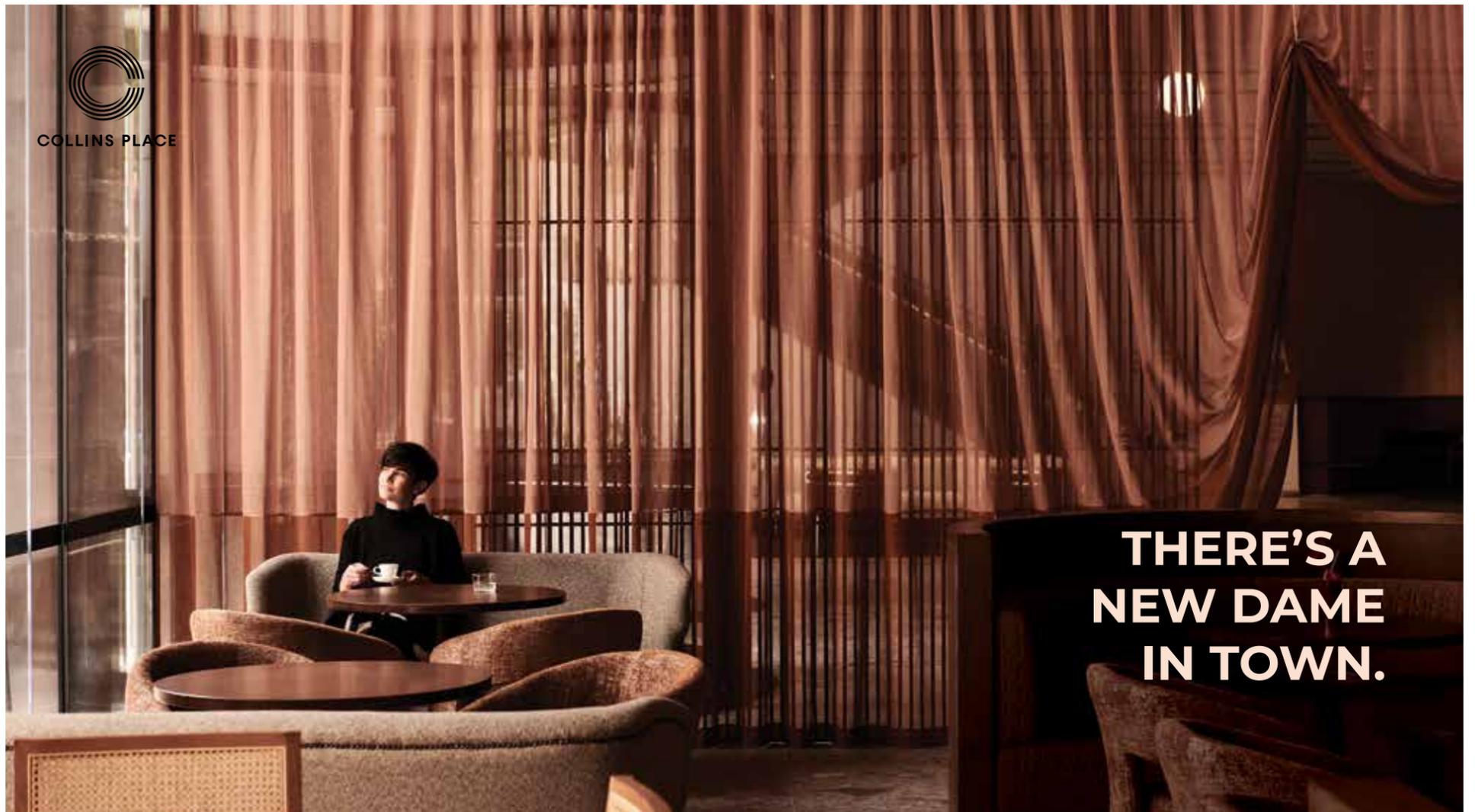
The project is being delivered as part of the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund – a collaboration between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the expanded forecourt would better accommodate both pedestrians and theatre patrons as the city continued its recovery from COVID.

“We’ve seen theatre goers return in droves recently, thanks to the popularity of shows like *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*,” Cr Capp said.

“The new forecourt will create a more inviting space for those visiting the Princess Theatre, encouraging them to dwell and support local businesses.”

Temporary work to expand the forecourt was undertaken in 2018 to manage the large audiences drawn in by theatre shows, which included closing a section of the Spring St service lane. The temporary work and service lane closure will be made permanent as part of the expansion ●



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**DAME**

## Resident fears for her safety as luxury apartment tower becomes a hotbed for violence, drug activity

*Continued from page 1.*

An email sent to Jane from the building's management and seen by *CBD News*, said it had received reports from residents and was "working hard on a resolution" with the owners' corporation.

Jane said she was most disappointed she had not been told that she would be living with formerly homeless Victorians before buying her apartment, adding her real estate agent was not even aware.

The alarming reports come as the newly-built Botanic apartment complex in Southbank has also become a hotbed for violence, illegal drug activity, and aggressive behaviour after the state government bought 13 apartments at the building as part of its Homelessness to a Home Program.

According to Homes Victoria, a small number of residents in the program "have had difficulty settling into their new homes".

"Some are overcoming trauma and disadvantage, and for them, transitioning into a new home has been challenging," it said.

"Homes Victoria is working with its community partners to ensure wrap-around support is provided to these individuals and to resolve and respond to any issues that may arise in the building, to ensure all renters are fulfilling their obligations under the *Residential Tenancies Act* to afford neighbours the quiet enjoyment of their own homes."

Homes Victoria confirmed it had bought "a number of apartments" in locations across Melbourne, including "some" at the Queens Place complex.

The Queen St complex, which consists of twin towers and a five-level podium at 57 A'Beckett St and 370 Queen St, was developed by Chinese developers 3L Alliance, who did not respond to a request for comment.



▲ The Queens Place building. Photos: John Tadigiri.

Homes Victoria said where appropriate alternative long-term accommodation could be identified, and renters agreed, "we have and will continue to support people to relocate. No one will be left without a home".

"We welcome this developer's commitment to the wellbeing of all residents and their support for social and affordable housing options integrated into residential construction in Victoria," it said.

A Homes Victoria spokesperson said it had helped break the cycle of homelessness for more than 1500 Victorian households – or 1800 Victorians – as of January 12.

"We're continuing to adapt this program to meet the complex needs of those eligible for the program," the spokesperson said ●

## City Loop to close in 2023 due to safety works

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

Delays in fixing safety upgrades in Metro's City Loop will see the network closed for a "short period" in 2023, as the project's cost blows out by \$249.2 million.

The second stage of works include installing platform smoke extraction systems, upgrading sprinkler systems, and integrating the new systems into the City Loop's operating environment.

It comes as the works have stalled since 2018 after the contractor hired to complete the repairs went broke, leaving large worksites unattended and blocked off to the public at Flagstaff and Parliament stations.

The safety upgrades were originally identified in 2014 by the then Liberal state government, which announced it would spend \$43 million to rectify the issue.

But by 2016, the Labor Party, which had taken office two years earlier, said it would spend \$132.8 million on stage two of the upgrades with the project slated for completion in 2020.

In September last year, the Victorian Auditor-General's Office revealed in its Major Projects Performance report that the total cost of the stage-two safety upgrades had blown out to \$382.09 million – nearly nine times the original cost.

Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) confirmed it would now lead stage two of the works on behalf of the state government, with the City Loop to be shut down in early 2023 for a "short period" without elaborating for how long.

"Like all disruptions, we'll work to minimise the impact and provide lots of warning to passengers," an LXRP spokesperson said.

LXRP said it had already carried out extensive investigations, planning and design work during the past 12 months.



"A contract for the next stage of the project is expected to be awarded shortly, with work to commence by the middle of this year," it said in a statement.

"The City Loop is currently safe and operates in accordance with all required national rail safety laws and standards."

"The planned safety upgrades are about catering for patronage growth and the future needs of Melbourne's train network, with about 105,000 entries across the three stations each weekday prior to the pandemic."

Stage one of the project has been completed including upgrades to existing fire detection systems, fire hydrant infrastructure, upgraded CCTV and the implementation of an intruder detection system.

Opposition public transport spokeswoman Steph Ryan said the safety works exposed a "shocking neglect of commuter safety".

"There will be massive disruptions when the entire City Loop has to close, meaning that the CBD and an unknown number of train lines will be grinding to a halt at a time when businesses are attempting an urgent recovery," she said.

"Surely these closures could have been scheduled while people were working from home during the pandemic."

LXRP said "every effort is being made" to minimise any disruptions and more information would be provided to commuters "well ahead of the closure" ●

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# Concerns grow over heritage-listed building, but Planning Minister says there's "no plan" for destruction

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HERITAGE

A fight to save a city icon from destruction is underway after Minister for Planning Richard Wynne called in an application that proposes to redevelop the site of the heritage-listed Shell House.

The 28-level building at the corner of Flinders and Spring streets was designed by the late Harry Seidler, one of Australia's greatest modernist architects, and has received multiple state and national architecture awards.

Formerly known as Shell House, the 1 Spring St tower, which is a mixture of government and commercial offices and well-recognised for its curved and interlocking shell-like shape, was added to the Victoria Heritage Register in 2017.

But an application which proposes to build a second 121.68-metre-high office tower within the co-location of Shell House with a bridge linking the two buildings at the 15<sup>th</sup> level has ignited concerns from the National Trust, the Australian Institute of Architects, and residents' groups.

Under the plans submitted in November 2020, which are understood to have since been amended, the existing Flinders Lane forecourt would be "reinterpreted, to provide an inviting accessible plaza for the public to enjoy and a welcoming new internal plaza situated between the proposed Tower 2 and the existing Tower 1".

Mr Wynne said he had called in the application after Heritage Victoria refused permit applications and the applicant had sought a review from the Heritage Council.

However, he affirmed, "Let me be clear – there is no plan for the destruction of Shell House."

"This building is undoubtedly one of the most significant modernist buildings in Melbourne and it is rightly included in the Victorian Heritage Register for its architectural



▲ A render of the proposal next to Shell House.

and aesthetic significance to Victoria," he said. "Milton House – located at the rear of Shell House – and built as a private hospital in 1901 – is one of Melbourne's most exceptional Art Nouveau buildings."

He said the state government had "strong credentials when it comes to protecting the heritage values communities cherish."

"In this instance I believe it is crucial that planning and heritage matters are considered concurrently to ensure the best outcome for the site," he said. "Calling-in both applications means an expert advisory committee will advise on both the heritage and planning components of the proposal."

"I am particularly concerned about new buildings cantilevering over heritage places and need to ensure that heritage places are actively used so they are conserved and have a future. There are two separate decisions for the development which will be considered – one related to heritage and the other to planning."

The Planning Minister has the power to intervene or "call in" in a planning application that has been referred to local councils or appeals being reviewed by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Simon Ambrose, chief executive officer of The National Trust for Victoria, said the proposal by Phillip Nominees Pty Ltd would "destroy the aesthetic and architectural integrity" of Shell House which encompassed the building, a plaza, and a podium on Flinders Lane.

"Shell House, which won both state and national awards following its completion in 1989, is the only example of a Seidler-designed skyscraper in Victoria," Mr Ambrose said.

"It remains remarkably intact to its original design and is one of the most important buildings of this period in the state."

Mr Ambrose said if approved, it would set a "concerning precedent" for future developments at heritage sites in the CBD, and "undermine the integrity" of the state heritage register.

In its submission objecting to the redevelopment application, the Australian Institute of Architects said constructing a new tower "would result in irreversible damage to a significant heritage place that actually helps define the high-quality environment of Melbourne".

According to the plans, the proposed tower has been "carefully considered to respond to the heritage context" of Shell House and the historic Milton House in Flinders Lane. "The organic building form sweeps in a gentle curve away from Tower 1 and is set high above the street providing breathing space to Milton House," it said.

Melbourne University architecture academic, Rory Hyde, who is also opposed to the redevelopment, said it would be a "real detrimental outcome of the building as a whole."

"I think that building being heritage-listed is important and we need to respect the decisions made by those bodies," he said.

He also believed the site should not be built over, saying, "I think that we need more open space in the city".

Professor Hyde, who also sits on the Melbourne Design Review Panel, a newly created body that provides expert design advice to the City of Melbourne on major developments, said that the minister's decision to call in the application "does strike me as very unusual".

"Obviously we don't know what the minister's decision will be. I think in the past things get called in when they want to get overturned, or the proposal would be approved without going through those proper processes."

"If that is what happens I think it doesn't really respect the processes as they are, and I think it would be a shame for the building."

CBD residents' group EastEnders president Dr Stan Capp said, "we should do everything we can to protect the integrity" of the building because it was "of great significance to Melbourne's CBD".

"To have a separate process called in by the minister just seems to me to be very unusual and unnecessary and an inappropriate lack of confidence shown in the heritage council frankly," he said.

Dr Capp added he hoped the City of Melbourne and Heritage Victoria would "actively advocate for the retention and non-development of this precinct".

Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo described the proposal as "insanity". "They should not touch significant architecture. We already have too much influence on our buildings in the city," he said ●



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# TRAILBLAZER NAMED MELBURNIAN OF THE YEAR



Peggy O'Neal is a prominent business leader and women's advocate

**Prominent businesswoman and Richmond Football Club President Peggy O'Neal AO has been crowned 2021 Melburnian of the Year for her work advocating for women in leadership roles.**

Since moving to Melbourne from West Virginia in the United States of America more than 30 years ago, Peggy has forged a successful career as a lawyer, and in 2013 became the first-ever female president of an AFL club.

Peggy is also a board member of Women's Housing Ltd - helping disadvantaged and vulnerable women gain access to safe housing.

'When I came to Melbourne in 1989, I could never have imagined that an honour like this would come my way,' Peggy said.

'My deepest thanks to the City of Melbourne for this recognition. When I consider those who have previously been named Melburnian of the Year, I am surprised and truly humbled to find myself in such company.'

'I am particularly pleased that this award cites my lifetime commitment to equality for women and girls and the significant role that sport can play in making equality happen for all communities.'

Previous Melburnian of the Year winners include leading medical researcher Professor Doug Hilton AO and radiation oncologist and tobacco-free lobbyist Dr Bronwyn King AO.

The prestigious award forms part of the annual Melbourne Awards program, which this year recognised another eight organisations for their valued work across a range of industries.

Winners included The Torch, a program supporting Aboriginal art in prison and in the community; Farmer's Daughters, a food and dining experience that champions local sourcing and sustainability; and RMHive, an app developed to respond to the unique mental health needs of health-care workers.

Visit [magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au) to read more about their amazing achievements.

## HONOURING A PASSIONATE PIONEER OF LANEWAY DINING

Feel instantly at home in the rustic surrounds of Il Solito Posto. Set in a sub-basement off Collins Street, the Melbourne institution offers casual cafe meals and authentic formal dining amid wine-stacked shelves.

Restaurateur Michael Tenace, Managing Director of Il Solito Posto, said he loves running a business in Melbourne.

'Having travelled the world to many beautiful cities, returning to Melbourne always reminds me how lucky I am,' Michael said.

'When I was young, I lived in Reservoir and there was a little window with views of the city. My dream was to be in the Melbourne CBD.'

'When I was nine, my mum opened a ladieswear boutique in the Southern Cross Hotel on the corner of Exhibition and Bourke and this is when my true passion for the central city started.'

'When I was 24 and decided I wanted to open up a cafe, it had to be in Melbourne CBD.'

Il Solito Posto is now one of Melbourne's beloved institutions, built in a forgotten basement, tucked down a laneway. The success of the welcoming haunt was one of the catalysts of Melbourne's distinctive laneway culture.

Like so many of Melbourne's businesses, Il Solito Posto has been hit hard by COVID-19.

'The last 18 months have been the most challenging in all my time here. I was on my knees and I didn't know if I was going to last,' Michael said.

'Nobody knew what was going to happen. To receive the support of my landlord, my customers, family and friends to say you're going to be okay meant the world to me.'

'Having come through the recession in the 90s and the struggles of the global financial crisis, I strongly believe that Melbourne is a true thoroughbred and will survive. I have seen her deal with trials and tribulations and always rise to the top.'

The City of Melbourne has recognised Il Solito Posto with a Lord Mayor's Commendation, a program that celebrates the vast contributions

small businesses make to our city.

'It is quite an honour when I was the recipient of the bronze commendation, and to receive the 25-plus years commendation is a dream come true,' Michael said.

'It gives me validation that my passion and loyalty has provided such a substantial contribution to the Melbourne CBD.'

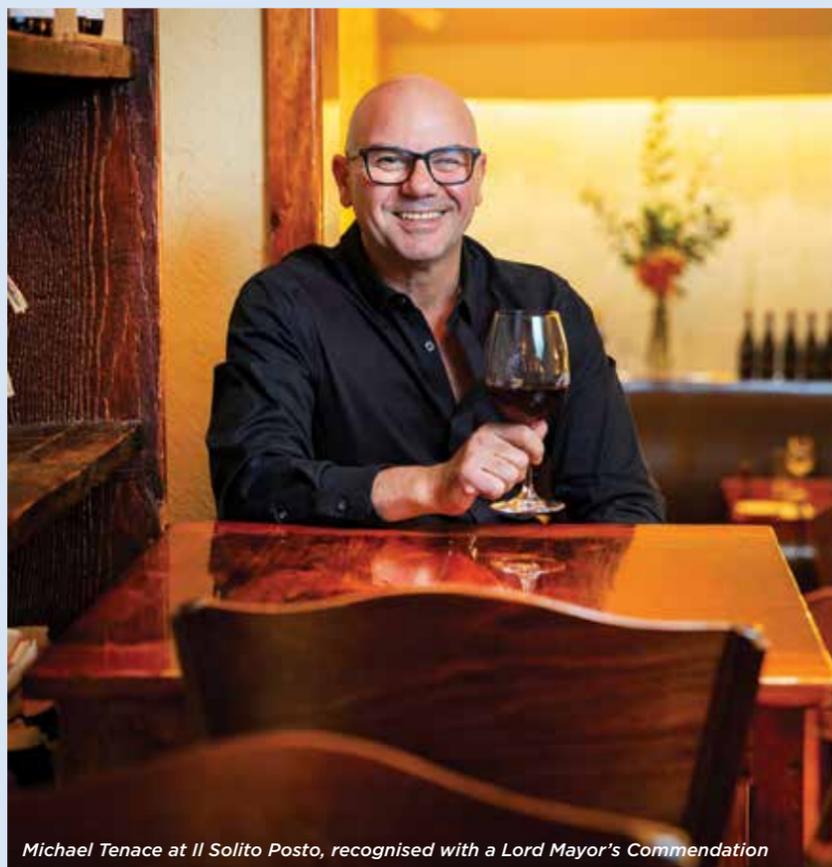
'It is a great initiative by the City of Melbourne to recognise the hard work and dedication it takes to create longevity in a business and it is a huge honour to share the commendation with many well-respected businesses.'

'Hopefully one day I will be recipient of the 40-plus years commendation to really stamp my legacy in the Melbourne CBD and my children can be recipients of the generational commendation - fingers crossed.'

To read more inspiring stories of Melbourne's small businesses, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/commendations](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/commendations)

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Michael Tenace at Il Solito Posto, recognised with a Lord Mayor's Commendation

# Unison CEO hopes council housing project could be the first of many in the CBD

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
HOMELESSNESS

When Unison CEO James King first got wind that the City of Melbourne was looking to transform one of its CBD properties into housing for rough sleepers, he knew his organisation was well-placed to deliver its vision.

The Make Room project at 602 Little Bourke St will see the council-owned building refurbished by Unison as part of a \$20 million initiative offering 50 studio apartments to the city's rough sleepers. Early works are scheduled to begin in March.

And with recent figures indicating that there are anywhere between 60 and 90 people sleeping rough on our streets on any given night, Make Room presents a significant opportunity to curb what's an ever-growing challenge when it opens in 2023.

But not only will Unison be responsible for managing the physical transformation of the building, currently used to store the council's art and heritage collection, it will also manage the ongoing wraparound services for residents upon completion.

Operating under the vision – “communities that thrive” – Unison's vast experience in collaborating to not only develop housing for those experiencing homelessness, but also managing it, saw it given the nod to deliver this life-changing project.

Speaking with *CBD News* in the wake of receiving a \$1.75 million grant from the Ian Potter Foundation last month, taking its fundraising total up to \$11.75 million, Unison CEO James King said this would be the crucial component to ensuring successful outcomes.

“The project isn't so much the success; the success is when I see rough sleepers being accommodated who otherwise wouldn't be accommodated in the CBD. And, after a period of time, they've been able to sustain their tenancy and transition into long-term housing,” he said.

“I think it's [managing construction and wraparound services] pretty important because we have a very deep understanding of what works and what doesn't and especially for this cohort. If you look at some of our projects which have won awards recently we have offices located on site. It's part of our place-based approach.”

“We're acutely aware of the homelessness and rough sleeping problem or numbers in the CBD. We work with that cohort daily anyway, so we're not shocked by some of the challenges.”

With an existing presence in the CBD at its 660 Elizabeth St office, as well as other bases spanning from Geelong and Melbourne's west to the northern suburbs, Unison has a long history of providing housing for our most vulnerable.

Having led Unison as CEO for the past two years after first joining as the director of property development, Mr King said the organisation's impact in changing people's lives had proven powerful in his own journey in the housing industry.



▲ Unison CEO James King.

He told *CBD News* that one moment forever etched in his memory was showing a resident their new bedroom in a project completed by Unison in Footscray. He said the man, having only previously lived in rooming houses and on the streets, “couldn't get his head around what the bedroom in the apartment was for.”

“When I explained to him that was his bedroom that was where he slept and that he didn't have to sleep in the kitchen, that was quite an emotional moment for him. He'd never been in his own sort of bedroom before where he didn't have to leave,” Mr King said.

“So, in my journey in community housing, it was at that moment a lot of it kind of came home to me in terms of helping those who need help and giving them that opportunity to establish a home. That was pretty powerful for me.”

It's that same opportunity to provide the human right of safe and secure housing to our city's most vulnerable which is what makes the project at 602 Little Bourke St so exciting, according to Mr King.

He said the initiative also underscored the City of Melbourne's commitment to ending homelessness.

“They're [the council] putting up their asset, putting their money where their mouth is so to speak,” he said.

“I think they came to the position that long-term social housing is a state government problem, but that there's been under investment for a considerable period of time and there is housing stress on everyone. Whether you're on the verge of homelessness or not, everyone feels some sort of stress at some point in time.”

The City of Melbourne is providing the \$7.45 million former electricity network building in addition to \$365,000 to begin the refit. The Victorian Government has already tipped in \$9 million for the project, while the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund has contributed \$1 million.

While the project still requires an additional \$9.25 million to fulfill the vision, Mr King said the City of Melbourne had considered underwriting the shortfall to allow for construction to begin.

“With projects like this, sometimes once you



▲ A render of the Make Room project.

commence it gives funders, or donors, some confidence that the project really is happening as it said it's going to happen so we're hoping there'll be a late surge in funding as well,” he said. “But we're pretty confident that we'll be able to get the funds in order to be able to deliver this project.”

As part of the refurbishment, 50 studio apartments will be constructed alongside communal living areas, housing and homelessness services, a social enterprise, cafe and wraparound support for residents.

Mr King said that while Unison still had to do “a lot of due diligence” in repurposing the building, each apartment would be of a “suitable size” in accordance with the state government's apartment design standards and incorporate their own outdoor space.

“We're looking at each apartment having an in-step sort of balcony within the building envelope which creates some challenges but gives the residents the ability to have their own sort of outdoor space,” he said.

Despite managing a number of government-owned properties for other housing initiatives, he said that the model of partnership underpinning the Make Room project represented a first for Unison.

With the City of Melbourne, Victorian Government and a significant core of philanthropy joining forces, he said he hoped Make Room would be the first of many more projects just like it in the CBD and surrounds.

“There's no reason why it can't be replicable and I'm really keen to develop it and deliver this project so that people do ask that question – ‘okay, it's been delivered successfully, and these are the outcomes. What's next?’” he said. “I know the City of Melbourne has a serious mandate to look at replicating this across other assets in the CBD.” ●

**For more information:**  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/make-room](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/make-room)

## Late-night pub bid rejected

*Continued from page 1.*

three times what it would normally be. To make it viable, we need a 3am licence,” CEO Michael O'Brien said in December 2020.

“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.”

Residents were angered by this expectation.

“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,” Ms Smith previously told *CBD News*.

The O'Brien Group did not follow through on its threat to hand back the keys, and began development on the site in October, notably before VCAT had handed down its decision.

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

Planning policy dictates that most larger CBD venues, like the proposed Juliet's Terrace, close at 1am.

While some hotels in the CBD may operate until 3am, VCAT found this did not translate to a one-size-fits-all model.

“Because one, or more, hotels within the CBD may operate until 3am or beyond, that does not mean it is an acceptable outcome in all situations,” the findings read.

“In other words, adding to the vitality of the central city as a 24-hour city, does not mean in all locations – it does not mean it should occur here.”

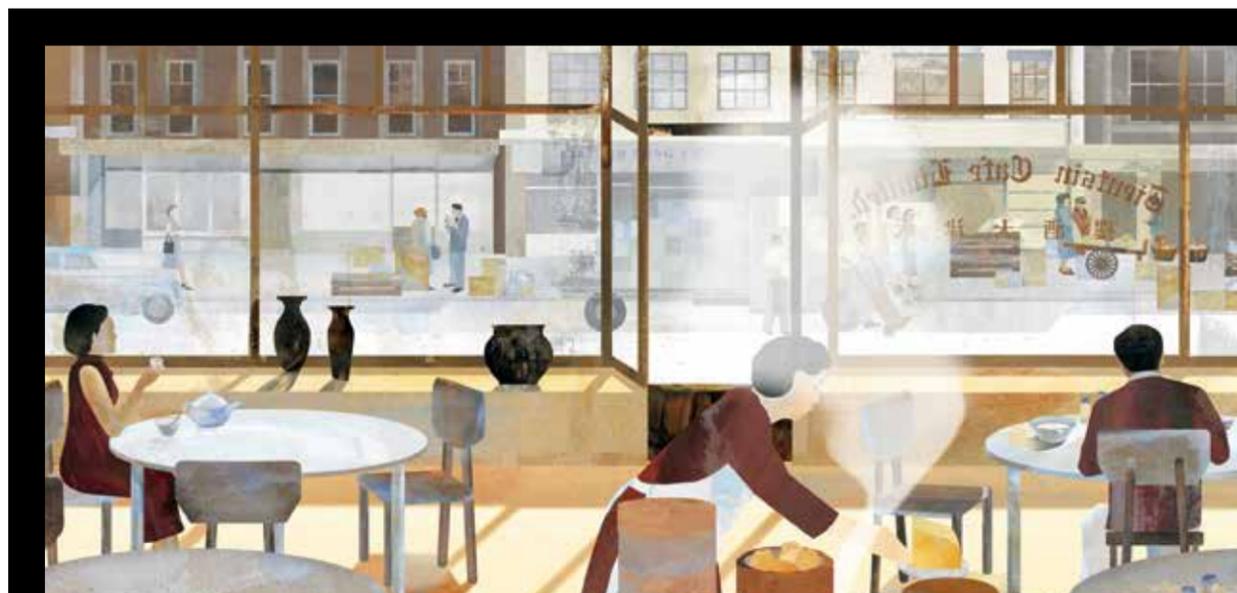
The tribunal was not satisfied the venue could prevent “unreasonable impact” on nearby locals, particularly those on Liverpool St.

“To allow the venue to operate beyond the hours supported by the planning policy, we would need to be satisfied that the proposal would not result in unreasonable impacts on the amenity of the area. As based on the material before us we are not satisfied that this is the case.”

The development is significant as it represents the much-needed restoration of one of the CBD's oldest buildings.

The Job Warehouse, which last served as a haberdashery, has been described as one of the CBD's “most high-profile eyesores”, and calls for its restoration have come from across the board, including from residents.

However, a planning application submitted in April 2020 proposed an almost 1000-patron venue which would remain open until 3am ●



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# QVM People's Panel members speak out after recommendations "broadly ignored" by council

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Members of the City of Melbourne's Queen Victoria Market (QVM) People's Panel, formed to give the community a greater voice in the market's redevelopment, have called on the council to "cease misrepresenting" them.

It comes after Lord Mayor Sally Capp drew condemnation for comments she made at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on December 7, in which she described the People's Panel as being "absolutely critical in providing us with a reset and a way forward" for the future of QVM.

Residents and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV), who form part of the 40-member People's Panel which was set up by the council in 2018, were outraged by the Lord Mayor's claim, saying the council "consistently misrepresents" or "broadly ignores" the panel's recommendations.

According to some members of the panel, the City of Melbourne ignored its first recommendation which called for a review of storage and amenities for traders with concerns the "gold plating" of infrastructure would lead to higher costs and rent to traders.

The panel also said the council had ignored its rejection of turning the existing carpark at Queen St into green space, however, it said the council arrived at a compromise by keeping the 500 car spaces at the site and the remaining land converted to open space.

Furthermore, RHSV said it had "strongly recommended" that "all significant fabric is retained in-situ and restored" with any new infrastructure placed outside the heritage area of the market, but "instead council is planning three major new buildings inside the heritage area for storage, mechanised delivery and distribution, change rooms, showers, lunchrooms, etc. These are not sought by traders".

Professor Charles Sowerwine and Associate Professor Judith Smart of RHSV, both of whom are members of the panel, stressed the importance of protecting "the social and intangible cultural heritage significance".

"The City of Melbourne, under the leadership of Lord Mayor Sally Capp, is pressing ahead with a drastic remake of the Queen Victoria Market, in line with the discredited Doyle plan," a statement from the RHSV said.

"The City of Melbourne still seeks to implement changes that the people of Melbourne have consistently rejected. They must not be allowed to misrepresent the People's Panel to support these changes."

Speaking at the December 7 council meeting, which saw the endorsement of the QVM renewal program delivery plan proceeding, Cr Capp said after Heritage Victoria's shock decision to knock back planned works on heritage sheds in 2018, "I think the People's Panel absolutely was critical in providing us with a reset and a way forward".

She continued, "I'm grateful to everybody who was involved in that so that we could move beyond a deadlock with confidence and really provided that pathway for ongoing engagement to ensure that the renewal could go ahead and that we could move forward knowing we had significant trader, public and heritage support. That's where we find ourselves today."

Cr Capp added improvements to the market would "deliver broader community benefits for one of our fastest growing precincts and our investment is the only way to secure the future of QVM".

People's Panel member Mary-Lou Howie, also president of the Friends of QVM, wrote a letter to the Lord Mayor, saying she "wanted to set the record straight" following Cr Capp's remarks which she believed had "seriously misrepresented the actual situation".

"The PP [people's panel] workshops did not provide 'a reset and a way forward' as you claim," she wrote.

"Since the PP workshops, your council has repeatedly endorsed recommendations which, in effect, either misrepresent or broadly ignore the PP's recommendations which were arrived at by hard work and in good faith by community and stakeholder participants."

Ms Howie told *CBD News* that the claim Cr Capp had the support of

the market community was "totally wrong" and the council had "cherry-picked things they wanted to do anyway".

"Management is not interested in listening to the traders because they completely have another agenda."

## Updated market business case for QVM based on "assumptions"

Councillors have endorsed the Queen Victoria Market's updated business case 2021 in December following a nine-two vote, despite a council report noting it "was based on a number of assumptions which are closely aligned to the 2017 business case" including the provision of 720 car spaces.

However, a report prepared by SGS Economics and Planning on the business case, said the market renewal budget had been reduced from \$308 million to \$268 million because of the pandemic and "significant budget pressure" on the City of Melbourne, with cost savings made across the overall budget.

The report also concluded the precinct renewal would be financially viable and for every dollar invested in the program, more than four dollars in value would be returned to the market and local community.

"The updated business case reinforces that our renewal program remains critical to the market's future," the Lord Mayor said, adding it "forecasts the market returning to an operating profit from 2025" with visitation "growing year on year" after trade took a blow from repeated COVID lockdowns.

However, heritage portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert, who voted against the business case motion, said while he recognised the "extraordinary work" of SGS he was "not confident" that the impacts of COVID had been "adequately modelled" in the updated business plan.

"There are some assumptions underpinning the cost benefit analysis in this business plan that are still very, very rubbery or the 2017 business plan was very, very wrong," he said.

But he supported a separate motion for the delivery of the QVM renewal program to go ahead, saying "traders just want us to get on with it".



▲ People's Panel member Mary-Lou Howie says the panel's workshops did not provide "a reset and a way forward". Picture: Murray Enders.



▲ QVM ladies clothing stall holder Soraya Niazmand was left devastated after her stock was damaged from a leaking roof. Picture: Cameron Grant.

This year will see the redevelopment of the trader and northern sheds begin as well as the refurbishment of the food court, however, the progress of projects including Queens Corner Building, Market Square and southern development site have been delayed because of COVID-19.

A council report said several decisions relating to the outcomes of the southern development site investment would be considered between July and September 2022.

A preferred developer for the southern site - which will include mixed use development and between 220 and 500 car parking spaces for customers - is expected to be announced by mid-2022.

## Storm causes havoc at heritage sheds

A video has captured the moment rain poured through a newly renovated market roof at J shed after a storm hit the city on January 7.

Ladies clothing stall holder of 35 years, Soraya Niazmand, who runs West 49 Fashion, said she was left "really disappointed" after a more than \$1000 worth of stock was damaged.

"Rain from the roof like a waterfall came on top of my stock. I was screaming, I didn't know what to do," she said before traders and security came to her aid.

"I took them [clothes] home to dry it out, some of them the colour is terrible. I didn't have good weather the next two days to dry them out."

She said management visited her stall and told her to write a list of

items that were impacted by the storm.

Market chief executive Stan Liacos said the storm was "incredibly intense" but maintained he was "not concerned" about the structural integrity of the heritage sheds which were recently restored at a cost of \$30 million.

"We believe that the workmanship and the drainage capacity is appropriate and certainly not any different to what's been for 142 years," he said.

Mr Liacos said around eight to 10 traders were impacted by the storm and his team would support them "as appropriate".

"Very few roof drainage systems can cope with that intensity of rain, but in our case absolutely it caused some difficulties but that will happen from time to time."

Asked if affected stall owners would be compensated, he said they would be "assessed on a case-by-case basis".

Former federal MP Kelvin Thompson, now convenor of lobby group Planning Democracy, said he was disappointed by the leaking roof and believed the council was "failing to deliver a market which works for traders and maintains its unique heritage features".

"There are plenty of tiled floor retail options around Melbourne but there's only one Queen Vic," he said.

"This is the latest in a series of issues where it would seem, the council is not supporting the traders or listening closely to them and managed to spend a lot of money, but the roof doesn't seem to be fit for purpose." ●



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# Businesses driven to wall as Omicron chaos fuels staff shortages and hesitant customers

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Cameron Grant*  
 BUSINESS

The fast-spreading Omicron wave is causing headaches for hospitality owners in the CBD with some labelling the crisis as “bad as lockdown”.

Many eateries and restaurants told *CBD News* they were fighting on two fronts to stay afloat including staff shortages due to COVID-19 infections or having to isolate as close contacts as well as consumer spending plunging as hesitant Victorians avoided public places.

Georgia Mackie, owner of Seedlings Café in Flinders Lane and Little Collins St, said she was forced to get back into the kitchen despite being on maternity leave after her two chefs had to self-isolate for a week as they awaited the results of their PCR tests.

“I’m juggling to look after a 14-week-old baby and working to cover our chefs. I’ve had friends and family come in to walk him around the city in between feeds and everything,” she said.

“Everyone is desperate for staff. It’s as bad as lockdown, I think in the city with people being told to work from home, it’s as bad as it’s ever been.”

“We’re doing what we can to stay open and have some income come in through the door,” she said, adding she hoped the government would offer fresh financial support schemes.

“Our trade is actually worse than what it was in lockdown but there’s no support available.”

“It’s so quiet, we’re doing a couple of hundred dollars a day. It’s just nuts. We’re getting some tourists who are still around and hopefully we have some people around for the tennis, but we mostly rely on corporate workers.”

Caroline Tuohy, owner of Café Segovia at the Block Place, said business had been stretched so thin that she reduced her opening hours due to staff shortages.

“I lost four of my staff within a day because of close contacts,” she said.

“You can lose people rapidly; everybody gets knocked out.”

She said there was “literally no-one” to hire. “People go ‘what about giving school kids a go?’ I do employ school kids, three of my staff members are single parents, one of my staff is a mature age student. I do hire quite a large diversity of different people.”

Ms Tuohy said the situation was “very stressful” and she was worried about keeping up with expenses. “You’re stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It’s a challenging time. The main question is when this is going to get any better?”

One of her supervisors Ali Pajouhandeh, who had been lucky enough to avoid the Omicron wave, said all staff had banded together to support the business, adding “we try our best to work as a team”.

Scott Assender, owner of the Mint Bar and Restaurant on William St, and 100 Burgers Group chain, said trade was “way quieter than normal” because of the Omicron chaos.

“Normally we run at about at this time of year 50-60 per cent of trade normally, but not 30,” he said.

“We’re pretty resilient so I think we’ll get through, it’s a challenge.”

John Vakalis, owner of the Journal Café, said revenue was down 80 to 90 per cent of normal trade as more people avoided crowds. “The issue is there’s not enough people in the city. It’s very frustrating and I’m a bit concerned to be honest,” he said.

Collins St Precinct Group spokeswoman



▲ The Omicron crisis has caused disruption at Journal Café as staff member Jenn welcomes the few customers.



▲ Ali Pajouhandeh, supervisor at Café Segovia, said their venue had resorted to reducing their hours.

Charlyne Manshanden said the hospitality, retail and leisure industries had suffered a “huge impact,” and needed help to “recover, rebuild resilience and thrive”.

“The Collins Street Precinct Group welcomes any additional financial support from the state or federal government that will assist our members and help them bounce back from the devastation caused by the pandemic,” she said.

City of Melbourne councillor and small business portfolio lead, Jason Chang, said many businesses were finding it “hard to make ends meet”.

“They’re paying deferred payments and trying to cover their debt. It’s a huge struggle for small businesses.”

The state government has extended the commercial tenancy relief scheme to allow small to medium businesses experiencing hardship by coronavirus to defer rent.

Innes Willox, chief executive of the national employer association Ai Group, said one potential solution to staff shortages was to temporarily grant work rights to all visa holders currently in Australia to allow them to work in the areas of “acute need” ●

# A safe outing for those on “staycation”

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Some of us have been waiting for seven months to see the Patricia Piccinini exhibition at Flinders Street Station.

The exhibition was cancelled at the last minute then extended then postponed again.

This is a common feature of many of the live cultural events in the city.

Amanda Bacon was one of the few who finally made it to the exhibition in January, at a time when most people were away.

She met a friend under the clocks and the exhibition was her treat during a “staycation”.

Not only has Amanda been working from home but holidaying at home as well, staying in Melbourne to be close to her daughter.

“Human beings are very nuanced,” she said. “It’s hard to know how people are coping.”

Piccinini’s show *A Miracle Constantly Repeated* deals with this dilemma.

In one exhibit a girl rewinds a rare species trapped in a ghost town. In another a couple pulls apart computers to scrape together a meagre living. In a third, a dolphin rescues a girl beneath the sea.

The theme of the exhibition resonates with the current zeitgeist. Humans as social creatures, Amanda says, who care for other species and for each other. This can be difficult during a pandemic.

This is the first time in 40 years that Flinders Street Station has been opened to the public and the exhibition is staged in rooms off the third floor corridor where life-like creatures and video installations create heart-warming stories.

You might pass a few leaks and the plasterwork has seen better days but the arched windows, the barrel-vaulted ceiling of the ballroom and Australia’s third longest corridor have their own stories to tell, as well.

In the old days of the railways, according to a “humble 19-year-old” who was acting as a guide,



▲ *The story corridor at Flinders Street Station.*

management cared so much about its employees that they had their own library containing 10,000 books.

Employees living in outlying suburbs could have their second book delivered by train to their local station.

There was a billiard room with pool tables, a ballroom, a child welfare department, nurseries and even a 440-yard running circuit on the roof.

The exhibition prides itself on being as COVID-safe as possible.

Visits are scheduled with just small numbers in a large space, there are temperature checks and you have to be double-vaxxed ●



# CBD, West Melbourne COVID vaccine clinics open for kids

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*  
HEALTH

Cohealth has welcomed 5- to 11-year-olds to a new CBD vaccination clinic at the Drill Hall opposite Queen Victoria Market, also opening its West Melbourne vaccination clinic to 5 to 11-year-olds from January 10.

Both sites will welcome people aged 12-plus for COVID vaccinations, alongside 5- to 11-year-old children seeking their first dose of Pfizer.

Child-friendly, native animal themed rooms have been created at Cohealth’s West Melbourne site to cater for the thousands of children expected through the doors in the coming weeks.

Cohealth has been preparing for the vaccination rollout to 5- to 11-year-olds since late last year, with staff receiving special training to enable them to safely administer the vaccine to children.

As well as dosage requirements, the training supports staff to make the vaccination process low-stress for kids, including avoiding the use of the words “needle” and “jab”.

Cohealth chief executive Nicole Bartholomeusz is urging parents and carers to book their children in for their COVID vaccination.

“By choosing to get your child vaccinated against COVID, you are giving them the best possible protection against the virus, as well as protecting those around them,” Ms Bartholomeusz said.

“When children are vaccinated, the risk that they will become infected and spread COVID-19 to family members, friends and others around them is reduced.”

“It’s much better to be preventing children from getting COVID than to be treating them when they become unwell.”

“With the school year starting in less than a month, now is the time to book your child in for their COVID vaccination,” she said.

Cohealth says its new vaccination site at the Drill Hall opposite Queen Victoria Market will provide an accessible CBD vaccination location.

“Demand for COVID vaccinations is at an all-time high, and we’re working hard to find new and accessible spaces to set-up vaccination clinics,” Ms Bartholomeusz said ●

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# Century-old building saved following community campaign

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

A historic building within the Hardware Lane precinct has been saved from the wrecking ball after an application proposing to redevelop it sparked a community fight.

The six-level Melbourne House at 360 Little Bourke St was built in 1923, and while the City of Melbourne considered it of “some architectural and historical merit,” it was not heritage protected.

But when the council approved a \$68 million plan in 2018 to demolish the building to make way for Singapore-based developer Roxy Pacific to build a 23-level hotel, restaurant, and shop at the site, it alarmed the local community.

Following a campaign fight and 35 objections to the proposal to save the historic building, Roxy Pacific shelved its plans to instead refurbish it for commercial use and add eight storeys on top – which the council has approved.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the council was “very pleased” with the amended application.

“This is a win for people power and the inner-city locals who have campaigned for the retention of this building for many years,” he said.

“Melbourne House is a century-old building in the heart of the Hardware Lane district in the CBD and it was heartbreaking that it was scheduled to be demolished due to lack of protections.”

Mr Reece said the proposal would retain much of the interwar building with its Manhattan-style façade “which is a great contributor to the character and identity to the CBD”.

“Little Bourke St is one of the most desirable development streets in our city and it’s important any new construction displays high-quality architectural design and respects the area’s heritage.”

“This new office development will make a great contribution to the activation of the CBD as a place to do business as we recover from COVID-19.”

National Trust’s Victorian CEO Simon Ambrose said it commended the developers of the site for “finding a way to incorporate Melbourne House in the design”.

“

*Melbourne House is a century old building in the heart of the Hardware Lane district in the CBD and it was heartbreaking that it was scheduled to be demolished due to lack of protections.*

”

“We encourage developers to incorporate historic buildings within their plans wherever possible, and to prioritise retrofitting and re-use, regardless of whether places are formally protected,” he said. “This can have both cultural and environmental benefits for the city and the community.”

Melbourne Heritage Action president Tristan Davies said his group congratulated the community for its win “which fills a gap left by the previous heritage study of the precinct, with this new design being a clearly better option”.

He said the new design was “a clearly better option balancing needed new development with respect and restoration of a heritage landmark of the area”.

“We only wish Chart House just a few doors down was being given the same treatment by its owner/developers,” Mr Davies said.

Chart House is a cherished interwar era building at 372 – 378 Little Bourke St, which is likely to be redeveloped into a 17-storey commercial tower. A planning panel appointed by the state government decided against upgrading heritage protection at the site in 2019 ●



▲ Geofencing technology will enforce “no go” and “go slow” zones for the scooters within the CBD.

## E-scooters to launch on February 1

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
TRANSPORT

Hundreds of electric scooters will be available to hire across the CBD and nearby surrounds from February 1 as the City of Melbourne confirmed details of a long-awaited hire scheme.

Up to 1500 scooters will be available to hire and ride across the Melbourne, Yarra and Port Phillip council areas, via confirmed providers Lime and Neuron Mobility.

The green and orange scooters, booked via their respective apps, 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.

Once a user has completed their ride, they can park it almost anywhere provided it is out of the way of pedestrians and away from designated “no go” areas.

Within the CBD, these areas include Bourke Street Mall, Queen Victoria Market and high-use areas outside Flinders Street Station.

Neuron Mobility’s head of Australia and New Zealand Richard Hannah said the group was “delighted” to have been chosen for the multi-municipality trial, which will run for an initial 12-month period and continue if successful.

“E-scooters are really well suited to the city and they will be a great way for locals as well as tourists to travel in a safe, convenient and environmentally-friendly way,” he said.

Safety concerns surrounding e-scooters have reared their head in several jurisdictions both within Australia and around the world, and Mr Hannah said it was a key area of focus.

“Safety is our top priority; it dictates our e-scooter design and

also the way we operate them. Our e-scooters are packed with a range of cutting-edge safety features, we have a full suite of insurance, including third party liability cover, and we know from experience in other cities that our riders really appreciate this.”

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 trialled the micro-mobility option.

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

Most private e-scooters seen on the city’s streets prior to the trial’s launch were illegal, as they are both too powerful (greater than 200 watts) and travel faster than 10 kmh (current Victorian law).

While Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll said last year that inner-city councils – with a mix of low-speed roads, shared user paths and bicycle lanes – were an ideal testing ground for new transport options, the truth is that Melbourne has had a chequered relationship with micro-mobility hire schemes.

Singaporean-based oBikes were quickly booted from the city when their fleet of yellow bikes were more likely to be found in trees and rivers than paths and roads during a calamitous period in 2018.

Later in 2019 the state government’s “blue bikes” were also axed.

While these sturdier “docked” blue bikes had not experienced the same dumping issues as oBikes, uptake was low.

More recently, however, e-bikes (also provided by Lime) have emerged as an available option, also in the neighbouring councils of Yarra and Port Phillip.

The City of Melbourne said it would closely monitor outcomes during the year-long e-scooter trial ●



▲ The century-old Melbourne House at 360 Little Bourke St has been saved from demolition.

Photo by John Tadigiri.

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# “Victoria” set to enliven Federation Square

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
PLANNING

After years of deliberating on how to transform Federation Square, a new proposal for the Yarra Building has been accepted with the structure to be home to restaurant Victoria by Farmer's Daughters.

Following the success of its unique provenance-based restaurant Farmer's Daughters in the 80 Collins precinct, the restaurant team is partnering with Federation Square to expand its reach and showcase the best of the state.

Scheduled to open in autumn, Victoria by Farmer's Daughters, alongside executive chef Alejandro Saravia, are “passionate and proud” to be at the forefront of the move to help reimagine Federation Square and its riverside.

“It is an honour to be given the opportunity to work with such an iconic landmark in Melbourne,” Mr Saravia said.

“We are a Victorian restaurant that is championing the best of Victoria and bringing regional towns closer to the city. The restaurant will be a gateway for visitors to start discovering our regions more.”

As a Peruvian who migrated to Australia when he was younger, Mr Saravia moved around the country before making Melbourne his home. And while he has been known and credited in the past for introducing Australians to Peruvian cuisine, he is now passionate about showcasing the best of a state that made him “feel comfortable and welcomed”.

“We want to unveil all the secret gems that each region has that are yet



▲ A render of Victoria by Farmer's Daughter at Federation Square.

to be discovered,” he said.

“We are committed to working with the best of Victorian farmers, producers, winemakers, distillers and brewers to evaluate and showcase what they are doing. We have learned that a lot of them have dedicated years of passion to their craft and that is why they are the best.”

Focused on highlighting the expansive products and stories found in the waters of the coast of East Gippsland through to the state's west paddocks and the wines of the High Country, the restaurant aims to immerse diners in an all-round enriching experience.

From including various sensory additions throughout the dining rooms to providing MasterClass cooking sessions, Victoria will become a space where guest chefs, restaurants and producers will be welcomed and encouraged to share their expertise with the restaurant attendees.

Concentrating on seasonal menus where particular regions will be a focal point at various times throughout the year, the 180-seater restaurant

represents what a real farm-to-table experience involves.

“This is an initiative for all Victorians and everyone in Victoria. We want everyone to work with us as a community to help elevate a place for every Victorian to be proud of and to build a strong identity that we can show to international visitors once they come back to Australia,” Mr Saravia said.

While Victoria by Farmer's Daughters is the first active project to be accepted for the Yarra Building in the past few years, it has not been the only proposed idea.

In December 2017, plans were announced for an Apple global flagship store at the site, which would have seen the Yarra Building demolished.

The highly controversial idea not only raised concerns surrounding the commercialisation of public land, but also the disruptions it would have caused to the cultural significance of Federation Square.

One community group known as *Our City, Our Square* was at the



▲ Alejandro Saravia. Photo: Tristan Jud.

forefront of the debate, creating three petitions opposing the proposal and gaining a Facebook following of more than 1200 people.

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) was also against the proposal and nominated Federation Square for the Victorian Heritage Register as a place of “historical, architectural, aesthetic and social significance” despite it only being constructed in 2002.

A 12-month consultation ensued and the public was asked by Heritage Victoria to comment on the demolition permit application, resulting in an influential 3418 submissions.

Federation Square was ultimately heritage-listed, and the Apple store proposal was later refused due to its “visually dominant” nature.

Those events led to a review of Federation Square by the state government in 2019 and a \$20 million injection from its Building Works Stimulus program followed in 2020, which helped pave the way for the “immersive Regional Experience

Centre”, Victoria.

Federation Square's CEO Caroline Ralphsmith told *CBD News* she was excited about the addition to the Square.

“Victoria by Farmer's Daughters joins an award-winning group of quality restaurants at Fed Square such as Hero, Big Esso, Taxi Kitchen and Chocolate Buddha, that continue to put Fed Square on the map for one-of-a-kind dining experiences,” she said. “What sets Victoria apart is the immersive concept of the restaurant that has been developed by Fed Square and the team behind Farmer's Daughters over the past two years. The restaurant will engage visitors in the stories, art and culture of Victoria's distinct regions while plating up exceptional, seasonal produce.”

While the Yarra Building will undergo renovations to allow for the vision to be executed, attention to maintaining and preserving the original unique architecture of Federation Square, and the Yarra Building specifically, will be prioritised.

Ms Ralphsmith said the improvements aimed to increase interaction and connection between the Yarra River and Federation Square.

“The restaurant will open Fed Square's Yarra Building to the river for spectacular outdoor dining in a first for Fed Square's riverside,” Ms Ralphsmith said.

“Our vision is for Fed Square to be a globally iconic destination where people can meet and become immersed in Victoria's unique culture, history and identity. We seek out and create projects with partners that share this vision across food, art, film and experiences.” ●

## Local heroes shine in Australia Day Honours list

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COMMUNITY

Four CBD residents have been recognised for their outstanding contribution to the community in this year's Australia Day Honours List.

Peter Mac board chair, academic, and former Victorian Labor politician Maxine Morand was appointed Member of the Order (AM) for her significant service to the Parliament of Victoria, and to community health.

After starting her career as a general nurse at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Ms Morand went on to become the CEO of Breast Cancer Network Australia and as a research scientist at the Centre for Behavioural Research at the Cancer Council Victoria.



▲ Maxine Morand.

At the height of her political career, she served as the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development and Minister for Women's Affairs between 2007-2010.

The honours list also saw Tony Pagone, a former judge of the Federal Court of Australia, awarded an AM for his significant service to the law, to the judiciary, and to professional associations.

Mr Pagone, who was appointed commissioner of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety from 2019-21, has also dedicated himself to the community.

This includes serving as a board member for the Luke Batty Foundation, council member for Melbourne Girls Grammar School, and foundation president of the Sicilian Association of Australia.

An AM was also awarded to George

Stamas, the director of the Epworth Medical Foundation, for his significant service to the community through the not-for-profit sector, and to business.

After starting his career as a part-time cleaner, he worked his way up to become the principal and managing director of property maintenance firm GJK Facility Services in 1987.

Mr Stamas is also a supporter/donor of various charitable organisations including The Hunger Project Australia, Open Family Australia, and the Kids Cancer Project.

Dr Jillian Tabbart was honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to the Uniting Church in Australia of which she became the first woman to be elected as president in 1991. She is currently the secretary of the Carlton Church of All Nations ●

# ELLEN SANDELL

## STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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# Community weighs in on future of CBD living

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*  
COMMUNITY

The first phase of community engagement for the future of Melbourne's CBD is now complete, with the City of Melbourne (CoM) now considering feedback on how it can make the city an even better place to live. But community leaders say there is still a long list of challenges that need to be addressed to improve liveability.

Running from October 18 to December 16 last year, hundreds of locals had their say on the council's services and facilities, as well as issues including safety and neighbourhood connections through the Participate 3000 initiative.

The feedback will inform the CoM's CBD Neighbourhood Plan, one of 11 such neighbourhood plans, alongside plans for Carlton, Kensington, North Melbourne, West Melbourne, East Melbourne, Parkville, Docklands, Southbank, South Yarra and Fishermans Bend.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the voices of the community had always been integral to the way that the council worked, as it delivered services and planned for the city's future.

"In an effort to become even more inclusive and responsive, we're connecting with our communities on a neighbourhood level - we're eager to better understand their needs and ideas," she said.

But asked about the feedback received so far and what people envisaged for the future of Melbourne, EastEnders president Stan Capp (no relation) said there was still a long list of challenges.

"There will be several reasons why people moved to the city that are now being challenged," he told *CBD News*.

"The arts/theatre [precinct] has certainly taken a hit but most will hopefully remain and re-surface stronger over time."

"Access to work for some will have been a reason and this has been turned on its head with working from home."

While nice views, sunlight and good amenity were "big" reasons for moving to the city in years gone by, Mr Capp said the proliferation of high-rise apartments or commercial premises with "little to no regard" for existing residents, and the loss of amenity had been profound.

"This is a pre-COVID phenomenon and coming out of COVID it will

remain a problem," he said.

"Similarly, drug trafficking, users, homelessness and anti-social behaviour is likely to continue post-COVID notwithstanding some useful initiatives that have been implemented. More needs to be done."

Asked what people were envisaging for the future of Melbourne, Residents 3000 vice president Artur Hajda said that inner city locals did not want to be treated any differently than any other communities across Australia.

"Yes, a higher percentage of us live in tall towers and we sometimes encounter particular issues that may be uncommon for residents from the suburbs, but in the end the city is where our home is," he said.

"And more and more people make the city their home."

Post pandemic, Mr Capp said it was unlikely that office workers would return to the pre-COVID numbers as business realised staff could be productive working from home with hybrid arrangements anticipated.

With staff spending 50 per cent of their time at home, this would have a major effect on demand for office space and a re-configuration of commercial premises would be "inevitable", he said.

"An emphasis in building a night time, alcohol-fuelled economy may bring short-term visitors but will not do much for residents and I predict that will mean a re-consideration of domicile for some," he said.

"Most people I know who live in the CBD are very fond of Melbourne and love its laneways, quirky shops, restaurants and access to our iconic arts facilities. These areas need support post-COVID."

"While the City of Melbourne adapts to these likely changes, the integrity of the city needs to be retained."

The second phase of engagement for Participate 3000 will begin in March. The CBD Neighbourhood plan will be finalised in mid-2022 and made available via the Participate Melbourne website ●

**For more information:**  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-3000](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-3000)

# Autistic artist empowers community through mural

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
ARTS & CULTURE

At first glance, autistic artist Prue Stevenson's mural in the heart of the CBD may appear to be a collection of bright, wavy lines with hand-painted messages.

However, the work, which took her two weeks to complete, is about celebrating human diversity. By depicting neural networks surrounded by her thoughts on a wall in Little Williams St, the Melbourne-based Ms Stevenson said she hoped to stop the stigma around autism and build an all-inclusive community.

"The broader disability community can really struggle to access public spaces in the city," the 32-year-old said. "So, I took that opportunity on so I could create a painting that's very empowering to the autistic and neuro-divergent community."

"To see some of my values and thoughts and experiences on a public wall in the city ... it just makes society feel a little bit safer because there's more understanding with something like that existing in the city."

The mural, which stretches 12 metres by 2.5 metres, is part of the City of Melbourne's *Flash Forward* program, a street art exhibition in CBD laneways for summer.

A total of 33 lanes have been transformed into creative and lighting installations, forming one of the largest revitalisations of laneways in Melbourne's history.

Ms Stevenson said she was "really stoked" with the outcome of her piece. "I hadn't even used acrylic paint before. I was a bit nervous but being an artist I'm pretty good at jumping in the deep end."

"Often people hear about or know about autism as being a deficit thing, being a bad thing and then to see big text to say 'I love being autistic' it changes people's perspective and that's really exciting."

"I hope people continue the conversation that the mural is having and expand it and create more opportunities for



▲ Autistic artist Prue Stevenson with her "neural pathway" mural.

the disability community or what I like to call the access health and wellness community."

After struggling to fit in mainstream and special education schools, Ms Stevenson is proof that being neurodiverse is no barrier to success.

She achieved high distinctions in her Master of Fine Art course at RMIT, is an autistic consultant, an ensemble member of Rawcus Theatre Group, a third Dan black belt in Taekwondo, and founder of Stim Your Heart Out project.

"I think studying art worked for me. I think artists tend to be a bit more open minded than the general population and it meant my perspectives and behaviours were encouraged," she said.

Meanwhile, other works in the CBD include five bold pastel paintings beautifying Stevenson Lane, inspired by artist Olana Janfa's Ethiopian culture.

Gumbayngirr woman Aretha Brown has painted a series of four lightboxes in Meyers Place depicting colonialism in Australia, while a giant crushed paint can by artist Ling has been installed in Wills St.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the pieces were "the perfect backdrop for our creative city" ●

# The murmurings of a creative collaboration making its way to the CBD

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Melbourne's very own Museum of Chinese Australian History is kicking off the year with an exhibit that speaks into the core of what the museum hopes to achieve when showcasing creative work.

Open from late January through to the end of March, following the decision to extend the date due to COVID restrictions, *Family Murmurings* is unlike anything else the museum has ever shown.

A collaborative art project combining Ken Chan's written stories with artist Nancy Liang's illustrations, the exhibit is brought to life with the help of Oliver Clifton's virtual reality aspects.

It's a cleverly dynamic project that the Museum of Chinese Australian History's CEO Mark Wang could not pass up on having in the museum.

"Ken Chan's activity is at the foundation of what we do [as a museum].

These stories are the most important aspect of the museum because they are stories about the identity and heritage of Chinese Australian people," he said.

"*Family Murmurings* is a very individual experience and shows what the museum wishes to see more of in the coming years."

Proud to be sharing such an "interactive" experience with visitors, Mr Wang believes the virtual reality aspect of the project will only aid in making the stories more "interesting and meaningful".

While *Family Murmurings* delves into the area of fiction, and originated from his higher degree thesis, writer Mr Chan said the stories were predominately inspired by his childhood of growing up in Sydney as a Chinese Australian.

"I took remembered events as a starting point and then refashioned them into fiction. There's a collection of nine stories altogether and they are each linked," he said.

"With fiction you can explore and



use creativity to develop dimensions in a story that don't otherwise exist. You can open up the narrative and invent situations that get more to the core of what is going on."

Located in a historic building on Cohen Place, *Family Murmurings* follows on from the Museum of Chinese Australian History's *One Million Stories* Exhibition, which focused on bringing attention to its monumental 200-year celebration of Chinese people arriving in Australia ●



**POOL HOUSE**  
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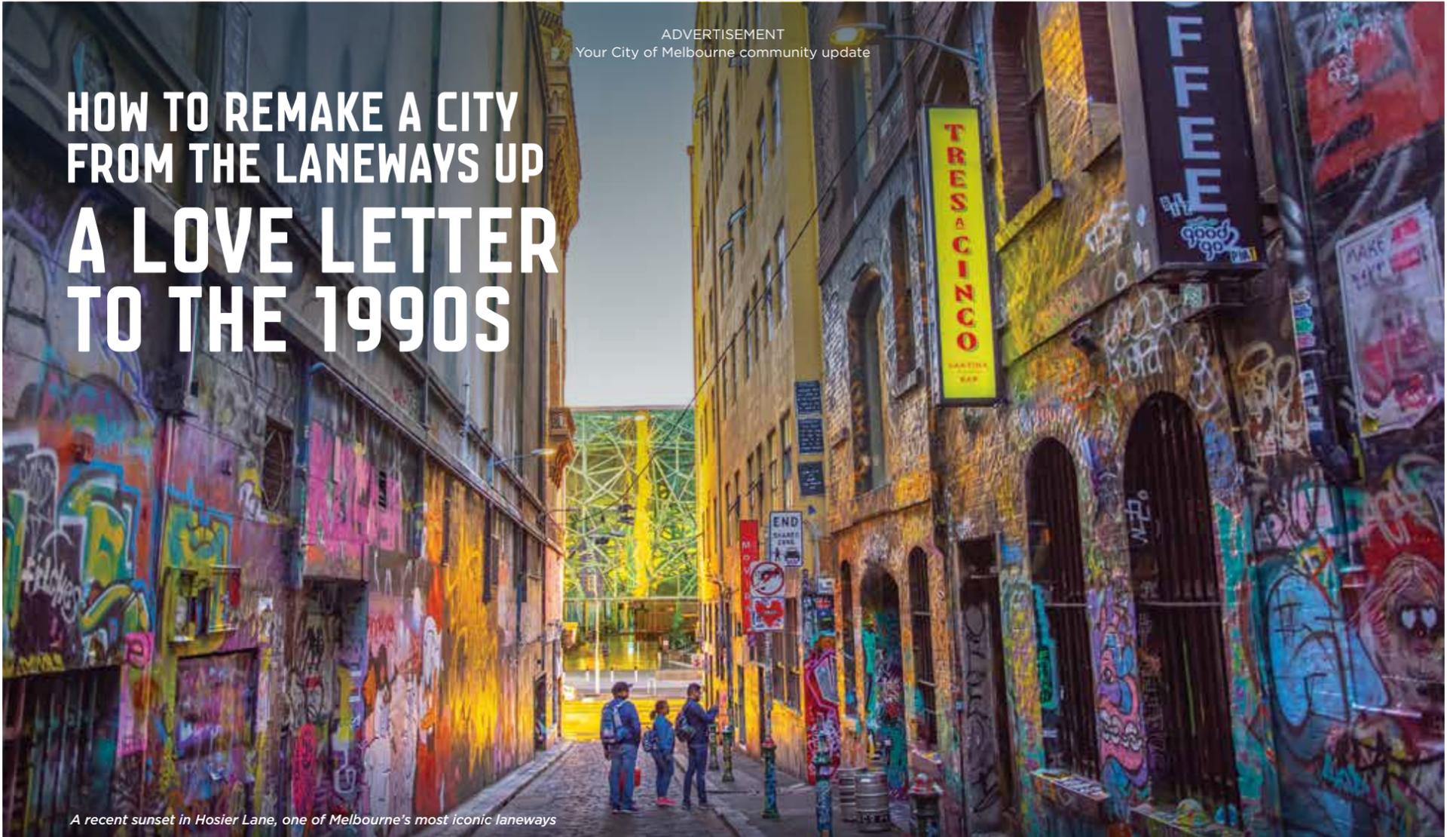
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Your City of Melbourne community update

# HOW TO REMAKE A CITY FROM THE LANEWAYS UP A LOVE LETTER TO THE 1990S



A recent sunset in Hosier Lane, one of Melbourne's most iconic laneways

## What can the genesis of Melbourne's much-loved laneway culture teach us about remaking the city?

As the sheen came off our '90s obsession with sundried tomato focaccias, a quiet revolution was underway in the city's abandoned buildings and underground arcades.

'On a Sunday we'd cook a barbie on the roof of our building on Hosier Lane, and it felt like the only other living creature in the city was the bird of prey circling overhead,' said Mark Healy, a founding director of Six Degrees Architects.

Mark and 10 friends had taken over the top floor of an old building made vacant by the recent recession. It felt like they had the city to themselves but when the sun went down their entertainment options were limited to musty pubs and noisy nightclubs.

'We wanted somewhere in the city to stay up late and drink and talk with friends, and one of us had the idea of starting a bar,' said Mark. They pooled their slender resources and converted a stripped-out hair salon into the city's first laneway bar.

'There were no grand plans beyond that. Meyers Place was open from 4pm to 4am and all drinks were \$4,' said Mark. It was 1994.

The bar was quickly crammed full of curious artists, designers, makers and city dwellers, many of whom had set up homes and studios in hidden warehouses and faded neo-Romanesque beauties.

Tiny bars were soon scattered like secrets across the city's laneways: Rue Bebelons, Misty, Hairy Canary, St Jeromes, Troika, Hell's Kitchen, Robot, Gin Palace.

'Melbourne discovered its mojo during the 1990s recession,' said Craig Allchin, another co-founder of both Meyers Place and Six Degrees Architects. 'It built a brand out of empty spaces.'

'It was an interesting place. It was cheap to rent those old spaces. That's what enables new things to happen in cities. And that's currently up for grabs again.'

Although the crew from Meyers Place has moved on to different projects, some of these bars are still serving drinks more than 20 years later, and our foodie scene now graces our footpaths and parklets through our outdoor dining initiative.

**'There's value in curating free or very inexpensive spaces for creative people. There's a lot you can do with empty spaces created in the city by the pandemic.'**

## Cheap rent attracts artists

A sweeping view of the city convinced jeweller Ali Limb to take a seventh-floor studio in the Nicholas Building in 1994. That and the cheap rent. She joined a matrix of creatives tucked away in draughty city studios.

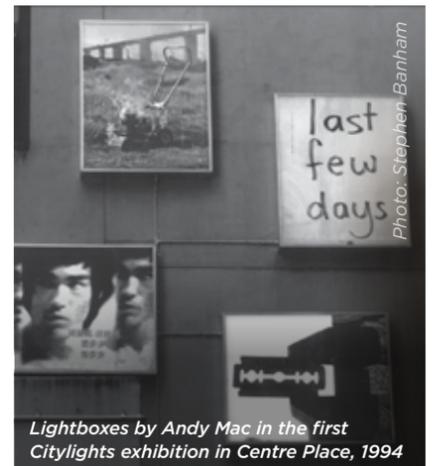
'Jewellers in the city were doing really great and edgy stuff. Like an exhibition of rings formed from ice that would gradually melt over the day,' said Ali. 'Beautiful, spontaneous, experimental.'

In 1998 Ali teamed up with friend Emma Goodsir to create a laneway retail space and gallery for local jewellers. A startup grant from City of Melbourne helped them take the leap and e.g.etal is still running today in the central city under Emma's direction.

'e.g.etal fuelled the craft and made it a financially viable career for many artists,' said Emma. 'This contributed to the city's growth into an internationally recognised hub for contemporary jewellery.'

Momentary beauty was also fostered by indie fashion house Alice Euphemia, which opened in a 'dark and spooky' underground arcade in Flinders Way in 1997 and eventually moved into an empty police station in Cathedral Arcade.

'The rent was so cheap we could afford to be creative,' said owner Karen Rieschiek, who ran Alice Euphemia for 17 years. Alice nurtured nascent local labels including Gorman and Kuwahi.



Lightboxes by Andy Mac in the first Citylights exhibition in Centre Place, 1994

The launch of each new collection was an excuse for a party that spilled out into the laneways and attracted all types of creatives. Collaborations abounded.

'You can't fake that. There's value in curating free or very inexpensive spaces for creative people. There's a lot you can do with empty spaces created in the city by the pandemic. How landlords use their empty space is going to be very beneficial to the city,' said Karen.

The City of Melbourne is now connecting landlords with prospective tenants like artisans and entrepreneurs to convert empty shopfronts into pop-ups through its Shopfront Activation Program.

## Putting the fun back into art

Look up while walking down Centre Place and you'll still see two of the four light boxes that the City Lights crew stuck to a wall on the side of a bank in the early '90s. Vessels for a new type of exhibition space.

'It was 50 per cent permission and 50 per cent punk anarchy,' said Citylights co-founder Richard Butler Bowdon. 'The punk anarchy sucked people in. It was unexpected. People were used to seeing advertising in light boxes but instead they got art.'



Citylights 2 launch party in a pre-graffiti Hosier Lane, circa 2000

Citylights soon expanded to eight smaller light boxes in Hosier Lane. On the surrounding walls, young artists began to put up stencils, stickers and paste-ups.

Street art culture began its stealthy spread. The laneway launch parties got rowdier.

'The stencil thing really blew up at that Hosier Lane site. It was from the ground up. We were part of a current that put fun back into art,' said Richard.

When the city turned its attention to buffing the streets until each surface sparkled, it also created empty canvases for street artists, according to curator Dr Lachlan MacDowell.

'You wouldn't spend six hours painting a wall that would be cleaned regularly. So stencilling began to make sense - you could create multiples and not worry too much. They were at the human scale,' said Lachlan.

From punk roots sprang the City of Melbourne's Laneway Commissions program which saw new temporary artworks commissioned, like love letters to the local terrain. A giant safe lodged perilously overhead. A confession chamber. Unreachable phone boxes.

Having seen the city as a playground in the 1990s, Lachlan has teamed up with artists to bring light and colour to our laneways through the Flash Forward program, which commissioned artists to add their distinctive mark to 40 city laneways.

**'The punk anarchy sucked people in. It was unexpected. People were used to seeing advertising in light boxes but instead they got art.'**



The former Meyers Place bar, a pioneer in laneway culture

### Urban choreography

It may have seemed spontaneous, but the slow dance of 'urban choreography' - as Council's City Architect Rob Adams describes his 38-year relationship with Melbourne - began in 1985.

'We made incremental changes to reinforce the city's own character,' said Rob. Footpaths were widened. Lighting was added and traffic calmed. Disused roads were reclaimed as green space. Melbourne began to play to its strengths: iconic bluestone pavers, laneways.

'Gradually, we even returned our attention to the long-forgotten river.

'When the property market crashed, rents in old buildings dropped and everyone moved to high-class accommodation. These old buildings were left empty.'

While adventurers had made a community in some empty spaces, Rob and his team approached landowners and encouraged them to convert their buildings into residential spaces.

The idea was controversial at first and required fancy footwork with the fire department and other regulators, but Postcode 3000 evolved quickly and Melbourne's residential population swelled from 685 city dwellings in 1982 to more than 40,000 dwellings today across the CBD, Southbank and Docklands.

Through a new residential campaign, 'This is your local', we're once again encouraging people to embrace city living and make the most of current stamp duty concessions on new apartment purchases.

There were unexpected side-effects of the success of Postcode 3000. As more professionals moved into the city, studio spaces were converted into apartments and rents went up. Many artists were forced to withdraw, but they left a powerful legacy.

'The creative people who got pushed out by Postcode 3000 are the people we can bring back into the central city post-COVID,' said Rob.

'If we can get those empty spaces and put creatives into those spaces, what a great combination.'

**Footpaths were widened. Lighting was added and traffic calmed. Disused roads were reclaimed as green space. Melbourne began to play to its strengths: iconic bluestone pavers, laneways.**

For more information visit [magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au/reignite-melbourne](http://magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au/reignite-melbourne)

### WAYS TO LOVE MELBOURNE

#### Laneway street art

Look at our laneways afresh. Flash Forward has revitalised 40 central city laneways with art, sound and lighting. Or book a free street art walking tour. Read more at [magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au)



#### Melbourne moments

Get discounts through the Melbourne Attractions Keypass. Look for \$20 tickets at Arts House. Catch a gig. Connect with Aboriginal Melbourne. Cruise around our friendly bike lane network. Find out more at [www.klook.com/en-AU/promo/city-of-melbourne/](http://www.klook.com/en-AU/promo/city-of-melbourne/)



#### Shopfront activation

Look for entrepreneurs and artisans-in-residence at street level. We're transforming empty shopfronts into creative spaces and temporary shops under a \$2.6 million program with the Victorian Government.

#### Local businesses

Enjoy an outdoor table at your favourite eatery. We're making it easier for businesses to trade outdoors with permit fee waivers, new infrastructure and a boost for the Business Concierge.

#### Parks and gardens

Pack a picnic basket full of goodies from an indie city grocer and explore our stunning city gardens. Find the secret waterfall, do some forest bathing and breathe.



#### Creative spaces

Find a space so you can create. Creative Spaces fosters art in the City of Melbourne by connecting artists with affordable studios. We manage several studios and two public art galleries, as well as the national website [creativespaces.net.au](http://creativespaces.net.au)

### CRYSTAL BALL: WHAT'S NEXT FOR MELBOURNE

Here's what five 1990s laneway legends imagine might come next for inner-city Melbourne.

#### The long lunch

'For all the talk of different styles of work, the social nature of one-to-one time is what we're craving. Maybe it means the return of the business lunch? That chance to say, "Hey, let's have lunch and go shopping", or meet after work for a drink. The human stuff.'

Mark Healy, co-founder of Meyers Place and Six Degrees Architects

#### Old-fashioned 'hospitality'

'It will all be about the word "hospitality". People will want to be cared for, made welcome. It's not all about the dollar, or how many bums you can fit on seats. It's about creating a wonderful space that people want to enjoy.'

Andre Bishop, founder of Robot Bar in Bligh Place

#### Artist-led recovery

'An artist-led recovery will only work in the long-term if artists are seen as central to the functioning of a city, no matter how gentrified it gets.'

Stephen Banham, designer and lecturer at RMIT

#### Business innovation

'Allowing inspired small business people freedom to create is what sets Melbourne apart, so we should continue to invest in them.'

Ben Luzz, owner Gin Palace and Bijou Bar and Bottle Store

#### Bring the energy back

'I'd like to see some pop-up places - independent fashion stores, shopfront artist's studios, small music events, artist-run galleries in vacant shops, street markets. It would be great to bring back the vibe of the 90s.'

Concettina Inserra, artist and photographer



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

### KEEP IN TOUCH

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# Yarra Pools left disappointed by council's rejection in Greenline

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Final plans for a four-kilometre green trail from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge have been released, but the City of Melbourne has opted to not progress with a swimmable pool along the Yarra River.

An updated implementation plan for the "Greenline" project, which represents Melbourne's "biggest transformation" since the opening of Federation Square in 2002 according to Lord Mayor Sally Capp, was adopted by councillors in late 2021.

And while the council was pushing ahead with most aspects flagged in May's draft plan, the proposal for a pool at Enterprize Park on the Northbank was axed.

It determined that the proposal (for a lap pool, kids pool and wetlands area) was not feasible due to a lack of space in the area next to Melbourne Aquarium.

It was also denied on less clear "financial and non-financial" grounds.

Pushed by community-led not-for-profit group Yarra Pools since 2016, the decision is a blow after years of campaigning and advocacy.

President Felicity Watson said they were "very disappointed" with the council's decision.

"It was a scheme that has been created over a number of years by a lot of people who have contributed an enormous amount of expertise and talent to create this vision," she said.

"We know it's an extremely popular concept and proposition and has always attracted a lot of positive attention, so we're obviously disappointed not only from our perspective but also on behalf of Melburnians."

That sentiment was backed by at least two councillors.

One of those, Cr Rohan Leppert, said he "still believed in a swimmable Yarra".

"It is a beautiful symbol and metaphor as well for everything we're trying to do here in the city," he said.



▲ Yarra Pools will not form part of Greenline.

"Just as Greenline will be a remarkable project and a symbol of this city rising from a time of hardship, so too do I want to look forward to the day when our waterways are clean enough to swim in — that is something we should all aspire to ... so while Yarra Pools won't be a part of Greenline, I want to commend them. Keep on pushing the idea because the idea alone is worth talking about every day."

The reasons the council opted to reject the pool proposal at Enterprize Park are still unclear.

Almost two months on from the decision, Yarra Pools has not been provided with details of the decision-making process in a written response, as requested.

While the council did write back to the group on December 15, the reasoning provided in the one-page letter (seen by *CBD News*) largely reiterated those seen publicly in the council's resolution.

Ms Watson said this was not good enough given the group's effort over several years.

"This is very disappointing considering that the councillors committed to 'formally' assessing the proposal, as well as the huge amount of community support for the project, and the extraordinary amount of effort that has been put into the proposal over many years by Yarra

Pools and other partners," Ms Watson said.

"We provided the City of Melbourne with a significant amount of documentation including a stage 1 business case, and they haven't responded to any of this in any kind of detail."

While the news was a blow to Yarra Pools, the final Greenline implementation plan did not shut the door on hopes for a future pool nearby.

"That is not to say that a swimming pool(s) in the city's waterways couldn't be considered in the future, or in other locations (e.g. Victoria Harbour)," it noted.

*CBD News* understands that two Docklands locations — at Bolte West and near Ron Barassi Snr Park — delivered stronger feasibility scores for a prospective pool than Enterprize Park.

Ms Watson reiterated that Yarra Pools' purpose was not confined to one Northbank location, and it would be open to looking elsewhere.

"We have said all along, and we made it really clear to the City of Melbourne that we're open to this complex being constructed in a different location. We weren't 100 per cent wedded to Enterprize Park — we were absolutely open to other possibilities and we're still open to alternatives as well."

She said the group's hopes and objectives had not changed despite the council's decision.

"We're definitely not going anywhere. Our campaign has always been, first and foremost, about advocating for a swimmable Yarra River and for all of the changes that need to happen for that to occur. So, improving water quality, promoting water-sensitive design and all of the things that need to be embedded in our planning and the way that we use our landscape in order to create a swimmable river. So as a team we're going to refocus on that objective and see where that takes us."

Since releasing draft plans earlier this year, the council received 390 survey submissions on Greenline and held two workshops, each attended by more than 40 targeted stakeholders.

This included land owners, local traders and business associations.

An overwhelming number (51 per cent) of respondents said they wanted the Northbank to primarily be used for exercise and recreation, followed by relaxation (14 per cent) and commuting either by bike or foot (14 per cent).

The entire Greenline project will be separated into five key "precincts", each determined on the basis of land management, activity and character attributes.

These are (from east to west): Birrarung Marr, Yarro Yarro, River Park, Maritime and Salt Water Wharf.

The four-kilometre trail was proposed to be six metres wide (the equivalent of two traffic lanes) and create a large network of green spaces.

"Imagine walking along the north bank of the Yarra from the MCG to Docklands as the sun sets. You meander along pedestrian boardwalks and over bridges, explore in new parks, and celebrate our Aboriginal heritage and culture," Cr Capp said.

"Just as Southbank and Federation Square energised Melbourne at the turn of the century, Greenline will usher in a new era for our city at a time we need it most."

Cycling will be supported on the trail, but not at high speeds.

Contemporary Aboriginal culture will be at the heart of the project.

"We are proudly working with our traditional owners on this plan as we develop Greenline which at its heart, its spine, is about celebrating and respecting the most ancient of cultures," the Lord Mayor said.

"For all of those stories to come to life for our locals, for learning, understanding and sharing, but also as a main feature for visitors. It's often the question I hear being asked at our visitors' centre: 'where can I go to have a distinctive indigenous experience?' And it's really difficult to point that out at the moment." ●

## "They are missing, we miss them": Plan to bolster city's student reputation

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
EDUCATION

More than a third of the CBD's student population have left the city since the onset of COVID-19, and a plan has emerged to arrest the slide.

The City of Melbourne has released a blueprint to make Melbourne the world's number one city for "student experience" to combat those turning away.

The council has acknowledged it needed to "re-build Melbourne's reputation" and would employ a range of measures to attract and retain international students.

These included free tickets to local attractions and events, wellbeing services and employment pathways.

The city is currently joint-second — alongside London and behind Berlin — in the "student view" indicator according to university ranking group QS.

The rankings form a key part of marketing to prospective students around the world.

Melbourne was the third-best student city overall in 2019 according to QS but has now dropped to sixth, and councillor Phillip Le Liu said those in the sector were feeling the pinch.

"The feedback so far from the industry [is that] they're being hit hard," he said.

"It [declining ranking] is a big hit for the agents who are trying to entice students back to Melbourne."

In has emerged that students have turned away from Australian universities in favour of those in the United Kingdom and Canada.

A key reason for this related to Australia's strict border policy throughout the pandemic.

International education is Victoria's largest service-based export and in Melbourne in particular, the decline loomed as a long-term

economic and cultural hit.

"We feel it everywhere," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"Whether they are renters of property, workers in businesses, customers at retail hospitality and cultural venues or volunteers in our local community groups. They are missing and we miss them."

Among the blueprint was plans to launch an inaugural Melbourne International Student Week at Federation Square this year. The council acknowledged that several factors related to a prospective student's decision to come to Australia, including border and visa issues, were outside its control.

However, it said a student's experience within Melbourne was something it had the capacity to influence.

On this measure it had a "clear" plan to be ranked number one in the world, as Cr Capp conceded the city could improve.

"Other counties have been making the most of this opportunity to attract international students to their cities, to welcome them. We've seen incredible upticks in enrolments in places like London and Toronto. We need to get out there again," she said.

"This policy really sets the ambition not just for a reputation that we can use in marketing, but to fundamentally enhance the experience that international students have because let's face it, word-of-mouth from international students to other friends and family recommending they come to Melbourne because it is the number one student city is the best thing that we can be doing, and it's about what we deliver."

The pandemic has had a major impact on Melbourne's remaining international students.

The City of Melbourne's support has included free vouchers to be spent at the Queen Victoria Market, and the establishment of a vaccination hub at Town Hall to assist vulnerable students

## Horse-drawn carriage operators fight to keep their livelihoods

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
TRANSPORT

For the few horse-drawn carriage drivers left operating in the CBD, one of whom began his career as a teenager 55 years ago, the hope of keeping their livelihoods alive is quickly fading.

After being battered by COVID-19 lockdowns, carriage operators are now fighting plans by the state government to ban their services from entering the CBD.

"I don't know what we're going to do," Ray Whittaker said, who has been operating horse-drawn carriages in the city for the past 35 years.

"We take a lot of aged people and handicapped people — that's probably 20 per cent of our business. I do a few rides for Make a Wish Foundation; now how can I operate?"

"My opinion is we're gone, but I'm not going to give up without a fight. I want to sit down and talk to them."

"What I don't understand is [Lord Mayor] Sally Capp is saying on TV we encourage small businesses to come in and keep going ... then they're kicking out the horses."

Under the proposal, carriages would not be permitted on public roads in the CBD area bounded by Flinders, Spring, La Trobe and Spencer streets.

Operators would still be able to drive their horse-drawn carriages outside this zone within the City of Melbourne with pre-booked passengers.

The proposed law follows a City of Melbourne initiative to stop issuing street trading permits for horse-drawn carriages in 2017, however, they were still allowed to operate as they are classified as vehicles under VicRoads' rules.

Calls to regulate the industry were heightened in March last year after a horse pulling

a carriage in Arden St, North Melbourne, collapsed and died — sparking an outcry from the community with concerns of animal welfare.

But Mr Whittaker, who is based in Mernda, argued that their practice was safe. "There are more accidents in town with trams, cars, and bicycles than what there ever has been with horses," he said.

John Baird, the owner of Horse Drawn Cab Co, said there had been a lack of transparency in the government's plan which he believed would "severely cause a problem".

"I'm very disappointed, nobody said anything to me about it, I just learnt about it ... as an operator they're severely limiting my business," he said.

"It was all put through, there was no discussion with operators."

"They've brought up issues of safety — to be honest we've never had an incident in the City of Melbourne in 55 years."

"It draws visitors; the kids love it; the families love it. There's a small percentage of people who don't like it, but we can't please everyone."

Roads Minister Ben Carroll said the state government had heard the community's concerns and believed the proposal would improve safety and animal welfare.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said, "We look forward to ongoing consultation with operators and key stakeholders to ensure horse-drawn carriages operate in lower risk areas."

RSPCA welcomed the proposed ban, saying it had "long held concerns for the welfare" of horses in the CBD "where horse welfare and safety are severely compromised".

The government said it would consult with operators and stakeholder groups until January 2022, before further information is released. However, of the horse-drawn carriage drivers who spoke to *CBD News*, none had yet to be contacted to have their say ●

# Former owners of famous cake shop bitter over exit, claiming they were “set-up” and “will not be silenced”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
BUSINESS

The former husband-and-wife operators of the much-loved Hopetoun Tea Rooms have broken their silence, claiming their exit from the Block Arcade was a “sham” despite a tribunal ruling otherwise.

Kon and Kelly Koutoumanos, who sold their famous cake store business in late 2020 after it went into voluntary administration before going into liquidation, claim the sale was an act of “corruption” and now want to tell their side of the story with the “hard facts”.

It comes after the couple lost their legal battle against the owners of the 130-year-old Block Arcade, the Cohen family, during a Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) hearing in 2019.

Block Arcade owner Grant Cohen dismissed the Koutoumanos’s latest allegations, saying “The problem is they didn’t agree with the judge. For them to suggest this is the first time the truth is being told I would love to know what they were telling the court.”

“He’s also not accepting of the fact that when a business goes into liquidation it no longer belongs to the owner, it belongs to the liquidator,” he said.

During the VCAT hearing, the Koutoumanos were ordered to pay \$1.5 million to their landlord over a failed business expansion to create a 200-seat eatery in the basement

after the Cohen family lent the couple money in 2016.

The new owner of the Hopetoun Tea Rooms, which has been trading since 1892 in the Block Arcade and is a major tourism drawcard for its spectacular cake window display, is businessman Vikramjeet Singh.

Mr Singh revealed plans last August to move the culinary icon to 421 Bourke St and undertake a revamp of an 1859 historic building [adjacent to the Bourke Street Mall].

The shop at the Block Arcade is now called the Tea Rooms 1892, but the original Hopetoun Tea Rooms signage on the windows remains in what Mr Cohen described as being of “historical significance”.

However, tensions have resurfaced between Mr Cohen and Mr and Mrs Koutoumanos after the couple launched a website which purports to tell the “truth” following their messy exit from the luxurious arcade.

“I maintain that I was set-up, and I will not be silenced,” the website reads. “Many attempts by all the ‘key players’ have been made to silence my story. No more.”

“In order for the Block Arcade to prevent me and my husband from asking any questions – an Intervention Order was applied against us in December 2020. An attempt to silence us, but we will not be deterred.”

The website also claims the couple were victims of “landlord interference, unconscionable conduct, conspiracy, corruption, professional misconduct, at a minimum”.



▲ Hopetoun Tea Rooms at the Block Arcade. Photo: Murray Enders.

But Mr Cohen, who, along with his parents were described by VCAT senior member Rohan Walker as “honest” witnesses, said Mr and Mrs Koutoumanos “should really learn to live with the decision of the umpire and move on”.

“They had their 15 days in court ...

telling the truth on their side, undetected, uninterrupted,” he said.

“He’s created a website that’s fanatical and poles apart from the truth ... which is exactly what the senior member thought when all this was addressed,” he said.

Mr Cohen, who is seeking legal advice on the matter, said it was also “alarming” that the website appeared to be advertising the new Hopetoun Tea Rooms with phone numbers and the original logo – which was covered by red text saying, “Gone from Block Arcade”.

“It doesn’t pass the pub test,” he said. “It looks like they’ve tried to alleviate themselves from all this debt and just reopen up under a new company name. He doesn’t accept the umpire’s decision and he’s behaving so poorly, it’s really quite extraordinary,” he said of Mr Koutoumanos.

“They keep harping on the fact we’ve taken their business and destroyed it – that is so untrue.”

Mr Cohen added, “We’re very proud of the tea rooms and the history of the tea rooms and will continue to be a very special part of the Block Arcade.”

“We’re just happy it’s back open, it’s busier than ever, and we’re very pleased that people in Melbourne and interstate and international visitors who are allowed to come are enjoying the historical experience.”

Speaking to *CBD News*, Mr Koutoumanos confirmed he had designed the website while his wife had written the material as they had “had enough”.

“I lost the business. I lost my credentials; I lost my professional status,” he said.

“I am putting facts to support my allegations, and I’m not afraid to put the facts there. I will use court documents because they’re public documents, I will use affidavits et cetera.”

Mr Koutoumanos, who was not regarded as a “reliable witness” at the tribunal hearing, said, “I’m not in the mood for creating stories for the sake of creating attention.”

“The Hopetoun was in our blood for 10 years, and what occurred – I don’t care what court decided – it was a sham and that’s why I’m writing this website.”

“The Block Arcade had every opportunity to buy the brand and for me to pay off the debt.

“I’ve got more to come – I’m holding back,” he said, adding he had engaged a “global media company” to conduct an investigation, which he claimed is “going to make all these people put egg on their face”.

Meanwhile, an Instagram account titled “TheFraudAtBlockArcade” which Mr Koutoumanos strenuously denies he or his wife created, claims the Block Arcade owners were behind a “malicious scheme to devalue the wholly privately owned Koutoumanos tea rooms”.

Mr Cohen said it was “business as usual” at the Block Arcade: “People who have been coming are so delighted that it [the Tea Rooms] hasn’t disappeared because it is a 130-year tradition of going to the Block Arcade to have a high tea.” ●



▲ Max Johnson.



▲ Leona Edwards at Collins Place Medical Centre.

## “Everyone has COVID”

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
HEALTH

Despite dire warnings about COVID ripping through the CBD and decimating the workforce, brave defenders of the culture are showing how to deal with it.

Max Johnson, bar owner at Whitehart in a lane off Little Bourke St, found out he was positive on Christmas Day.

He steeled himself for 10 days of isolation over the break.

But the rules changed and he was out after seven, back at the groovy outdoor music venue created out of containers by his dad.

Leona Edwards, practice manager at Collins Place Medical Centre, had booked in children for vaccines.

The vaccines never arrived so she drove down to the Austin Hospital and collected them herself.

Fourteen children were vaccinated on Friday, January 14, the first lot at the Collins St clinic.

“You solve each problem as it arises,” Leona told *CBD News*. “It’s good to have a voice.”

There has been a lot of criticism of the federal government’s handling of rapid antigen tests (RATs) with people queuing at Chemist Warehouse outlets in Bourke St.

Testing Victoria, just up the street on the corner of Royal Lane, was offering free RATs

until 4pm each day with just a five-minute wait in line when *CBD News* visited.

But what is available one minute can disappear the next. The Town Hall testing site had run out soon after.

There is no need to panic if you develop COVID symptoms, medicos say. Many young people are trying to manage the disease themselves and protect contacts, creating a huge demand for RAT tests.

“If you’re double vaxed we’re advising people to treat COVID like the flu,” Leona said.

The trouble is that some young people have never had flu because they get annual vaccinations. Leona said the centre had been inundated with calls and emails from patients.

“They’re phoning up with a croaky voice and asking what to do,” she said. She’s telling them to treat the symptoms.

Staff at Whitehart Container Bar are behaving responsibly even though there are rumours that night clubs are hosting COVID parties.

Kieren Calder had just returned to work after five days of isolation, missing out on shifts at the bar.

“My flatmate was a contact,” he said. “She tested negative, but I stayed home just in case.”

The bar was the quietest it had been since it re-opened, Max said. The dance floor is closed and there is no queue.

“It’s really bizarre. It feels like everyone has COVID,” he said ●

## Queen Vic Market tower gets green light

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

A 21-storey tower in the Queen Victoria Market precinct will go-ahead after plans were approved by the Minister for Planning.

The \$150 million development at 432-450 Queen St will consist of 129 apartments including 13 affordable rental apartments as well as a roof terrace, and two levels of shops.

The development was endorsed by the City of Melbourne in June last year, with Minister for Planning Richard Wynne giving the project the nod on December 19.

Located at the corner of Queen and Franklin streets and next to the Munro development, the tower is proposed to stand at 67 metres high – with the plan requiring no changes.

The project’s green light paves the way for works to begin in the second half of this year.

The approval comes despite the Bates Smart-designed project requiring demolition of two heritage buildings, while a third building, considered to be of higher heritage value, would be largely retained.

However, conditions were included on the planning permit requiring amendments to the plans to show further retention of existing buildings, increased setbacks of the tower, and internal alterations.

Developer Golden Age said it would respect the site’s historical context, with the approved plans to see the existing Queen Victoria building at the site to be carefully restored and integrated into the development.

The proposal raised concerns among residents and heritage advocates last year, arguing it would overshadow their homes and any demolition would set a dangerous precedent for the city.

Resident David Legge said he believed the scale of the development was negative to the market precinct and “definitely diminishes the quality of life for existing residents”.

“We are living through a social experiment



that is sure to be judged as misguided in the future,” he said.

Friends of Queen Victoria Market president Mary-Lou Howie said the development should have a “buffer zone to protect the environment of the market”.

“This is the problem with having a precinct masterplan rather than a discreet QVM masterplan which would inform the planning decisions around the market,” she said.

Golden Age Founder and managing director Jeff Xu said his team was “excited to develop a project that will further contribute to this ever-evolving pocket of the city”.

“Receiving approval is a reflection of the level of confidence the state government has in us as co-developers of this city,” he said.

Bates Smart director Julian Anderson said the project was designed for the market community, visitors, and residents by providing engaging spaces.

“We have taken great care in designing an enduring and well-crafted addition to this neighbourhood, respecting the site’s historical context while being mindful that this development will have a role in shaping the future character of an evolving and diverse urban fabric,” he said.

The state government said the proposal was an “appropriate response” to the higher built form of the Hoddle Grid to the south and the lower built form of the Queen Victoria Market precinct ●

## PRECINCTS

# Celebrating the Year of the Tiger in Melbourne Chinatown

*The Year of the Tiger is upon us, and to celebrate, Melbourne Chinatown and the Melbourne Dai Loong Association (MDLA), are kicking the Chinese New Year off with a bang.*

Over two nights running from Monday, January 31 to Tuesday, February 1, Melbourne's Chinatown will come alive with traditional lion dance performances and special Chinese New Year banquets on offer from all your favourite restaurants including Flower Drum, Shark Fin Inn, Crystal Jade and many more.

As the longest continuous Chinese settlement in the Western world, founded by Chinese prospectors in 1851, Chinese New Year in Melbourne Chinatown has been a pillar of our city's events calendar for more than 160 years.

Although COVID-19 has paused plans for the usual street festival and wider activation of the precinct, president of the MDLA Eng Lim, and Chinatown Precinct Association Inc. (CPA) president Danny Doon, have left no stone unturned in supporting their traders and celebrating the most important date on the Chinese calendar.

"We want to encourage people to come back into the city, into Chinatown and enjoy a dinner with their family and friends to celebrate Chinese New Year," Mr Doon said.

"As the Tiger comes leaping in and we welcome the sound of the roaring Tiger, we have the naturally fiery and dynamic energy of the Tiger."

"With Tiger energy, things speed up and when it comes to implementing ideas, the ability to get more done in a shorter amount of time is achieved. And we certainly need that, having lost nearly two years in lockdowns and restrictions."

According to the Chinese Zodiac, the Year of the Rat (2020) was about survival, and the Year of the Ox (2021) was about anchoring ourselves in a new reality.



▲ L-R: CPA president Danny Doon, Crystal Jade's Jackie Wong and Jovian Soo, and MDLA president Eng Lim.

This year, the Year of the Tiger, will be about making big changes.

No stranger to big changes during the past two years, Ms Lim said the MDLA and CPA have an eye on a date in late-March or early-April to hold the precincts traditional street festival, giving Melburnians their familiar taste of Chinese celebration.

"While we wish to celebrate the New Year, we also want to keep well and stay safe during this

period. Dragons have paraded in the streets of Melbourne since Federation Day," Ms Lim said. "We have a duty of care to the public and have decided that there will again not be a Dragon Parade this year."

"However, the Lion Teams will be dancing around to ward off undesirable elements. We encourage all visitors and locals to come and visit Melbourne Chinatown during this festive period and enjoy the sight of the specially-built

“

*We want to encourage people to come back into the city, into Chinatown and enjoy a dinner with their family and friends to celebrate Chinese New Year.*

”

trusses decorated with fairy lighting, lanterns, blooms and blossoms – we hope the vibrant colours will lift your festive spirits.” ●

**For more information:**  
[melbournechinesenewyear.com](http://melbournechinesenewyear.com)  
 or [chinatownmelbourne.com.au](http://chinatownmelbourne.com.au)



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## RESIDENTS 3000

## New to living in Melbourne's CBD?

*You have come to live in the city recently expecting to engage in a vibrant, inner-city lifestyle only to find relatively quiet streets and lightly occupied venues, all due to the re-emergence of the pandemic.*

The city is beautiful. Many enticing up-market shops, other boutique venues found hidden in laneways and many places to dine. But wait, some venues are not open. Some places have only take-aways. Where are all the people? How can you establish new friendships and hope to encourage an interesting social life in this environment? What to do?

This article suggests two approaches to help you ride out the pandemic in style. The first is to think about your attitude to all of this. We are now a highly-vaccinated community. There are no mandatory government lockdowns, yet people are being cautious, wearing masks when in close contact with others. People who have had a third dose of vaccine may be getting the disease but are managing. Just think what it would have been like if we did not go into lockdown two years ago and there were no vaccines?

A few mind exercises can help in these strange times. Every day try to find things to be grateful for. Some examples. We are experiencing a bountiful, pleasant summer season. Have you noticed that some of the ducks along our "Birrarrung" (the Yarra River) have produced two lots of ducklings this year? They are so cute! We are blessed in Melbourne's CBD with some of the most beautiful parks where most is growing well this year. Enjoy the gardens and the fresh air.

The second suggestion is to join Residents 3000. Go to our website at [residents3000.com.au](http://residents3000.com.au) and find out that even in a pandemic,

Residents 3000 has some wonderful events and safe activities that will introduce you to the delights of living here.

Monthly guided walks in the safe open air. You can wear your mask and still have lots of fun. Melbourne has many amazing secret things to see just by walking around and our in-house guide knows them all!

Next is our Garden Club. One of our committee members is a skilled indoor plant specialist as well as having a broad knowledge of plants in general. She is able to help you learn the art of growing things indoors and on balconies. During the pandemic, our members have been taken on delightful and informative tours of Melbourne's extensive gardens and well as having informative sessions by Zoom.

Finally, Residents 3000 have monthly events that we call "Forum 3000". How do we do that in a pandemic you ask? Well, we have had quite large attendances via Zoom. For example, more than 100 at our recent annual general meeting in September where Melbourne's Lord Mayor, Sally Capp gave us an update on how, at the time, we were on the road to revitalising our city once the pandemic was over.

At our December meeting we were finally able to meet in person at the Kelvin Club. We were all so glad to meet up again after such a long time meeting online. At this event we were given an informative update on the state of real estate in the CBD for both buyers and renters. The event was followed with a series of door prizes which everyone loved, followed by light



refreshments. Residents 3000 is fortunate to be hosted by the long-standing and well-respected, Kelvin Club in Melbourne Place.

So, what of 2022? Residents 3000 has planned some really wonderful events. Rest assured that we are pandemic proof, believe me! If it is considered safe and all attendees are properly vaccinated, then we are gathering on the first Thursday of each month at the Kelvin Club – check on our website. But if we have to adapt, we are experts at conducting our meetings via Zoom.

Starting on the first Thursday in February, we are having our annual update on the Metro Tunnel. It will be so interesting. How has the project fared in these strange times? Are they on schedule? Be amazed by the consortium's wonderful slides showing us what has been happening under our feet during the past 12 months.

Then in March we are privileged to welcome the CEO of City of Melbourne, Justin Hanney, and our community representative, Michelle James, who will update us on the city's Participate 3000 program.

In April 2022, assuming the pandemic has

waned considerably by then, we will host our highly successful Neighbourhood Marketplace taking up the whole top floor of the Kelvin Club. A larger event with more stands than last year is being planned, including Victoria Police, City Precinct members, City of Melbourne and other local businesses.

Remember to check our website each month to confirm the details of our Forum 3000 events.

For existing members, other city residents and newcomers to the city, life can still be exciting despite the pandemic. The way to think about all of this is that, if it can be good in a pandemic, then how much better it will be as we go forward and eventually drive this pandemic away ●



Dr Sue Saunders

COMMITTEE MEMBER OF  
RESIDENTS 3000 MELBOURNE



## LAW

# Lawyers, lovers and STDs. How to limit your risk – part one

WORDS BY *Peter Nevile*

For those who recently exited or were ejected from a relationship, there can often be increased activity when multiple partners are involved. You may remember the slogan: “If it’s not on it’s not on!”

Absolute protection from risk may be achieved rather drearily through complete abstinence. While it is often said you will live “longer” this way ... I suspect it will just seem a lot longer because your life may be, well, unsatisfied.

Before you jump to the wrong conclusion, let me make it quite clear I am talking about Sexually Transmitted Debt (STD). In this article, I want to look at how STDs occur, and how you might best protect yourself from it.

So firstly, let me explain what a STD is in the legal world ... an STD occurs as a result of joint activity – in the financial arena. It may arise from joint-borrowings and sometimes as insidious as it sounds, comes from obviously signing a personal guarantee.

A favoured legal motto familiar to many lawyers is that “a guarantor is a fool with a pen”. I suggest you throw out your yoga mat and

forget the mantra “Om Namah Shivaya”, and start chanting this every day. Remembering this mantra will keep you living in a debt-free state of Zen. That seems relaxing to me.

If you agree to borrow money together with one or more people, your liability will almost certainly be both joint and several.

That is, each person will be liable for the whole amount. Now ... here’s the bad news ... the consequences of your partner skipping town, going bankrupt and unable to pay for a host of reasons will then result in you becoming immediately liable for the whole debt and not just your half.

If you find this situation not of immediate appeal, you can of course go online dating or hire a matchmaker to quickly find a new partner. This is never as easy as it sounds.

After practising law for many years, I believe the best path to protection, is, wherever possible, to stay away from any joint borrowings and borrow in your own separate names. That is “severally”. If you are unable to do this ensure you are kept fully and directly informed as to the status of the loan and your partner’s financial position.

You are probably thinking this seems



confrontational and hard to discuss. You are right; this outcome is not always easy to achieve. I strongly recommend you seek expert advice, which I also suggest should not be from your local banker who would also like to take your firstborn and anything else within grasp. Discuss it with a lawyer who can explain all the pitfalls and risks and how best to limit your risks. We are in your “hood”.

Want to learn more? Head to our website to read part two of this article: [neville.com.au/articles-videos/](http://neville.com.au/articles-videos/)

Note: This cannot be relied upon as legal advice as it is of a general nature.

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## METRO TUNNEL

## 101 Victorians – could you be one of them?

We all know Victorians are a diverse bunch, but the Metro Tunnel Creative Program is about to find out just how diverse a community we have.

Victorians from all walks of life are invited to take part in a new photographic series, *101 Victorians*, which will exhibit online later this year as part of PHOTO 2022, the nation’s biggest photography event.

The project is inspired by award-winning British artist Jenny Lewis and her *One Hundred Years* project, which features stories and portraits of residents from Hackney, UK, covering every year from birth to 100 in chronological order.

In a similar style and with Lewis’s permission, *101 Victorians* will be a snapshot of people from ages 0 to 100 from all across Victoria. The project is accepting submissions from Victorian residents of any age, with no photographic training or experience required – a mobile phone photo will do!

You might choose to photograph a family member, old friend, colleague or neighbour – someone who will feel comfortable being photographed and sharing a few words about their life.

“Victoria has an incredibly diverse



population,” Metro Tunnel Creative Program engagement manager Sarah Robins said.

“Almost half of our community was born overseas or one or more of their parents were born overseas.”

“We were inspired by Jenny Lewis’s project to take a look at the extraordinary make-up of our community.”

Participants can nominate a subject’s age,

from zero to 100, and submit a corresponding photo portrait and quote from their subject at [101victorians.com.au](http://101victorians.com.au).

Submission opportunities are limited, as there will only be one photo entry allocated per age. The final selection of 101 photographs will exhibit in an online gallery concurrently with Lewis’s *One Hundred Years*, showing at PHOTO 2022 from April 29 to May 22.

### Miss First Nation portraits

To celebrate the 2022 Midsumma Festival, the Metro Tunnel is showing photo portraits of Miss First Nation 2021 contestants at its outdoor galleries in the city.

In May 2021 Melbourne’s YIRRAMBOI festival hosted Miss First Nation, Australia’s only national competition for First Nations drag entertainers. Photographer Joseph Mayers captured portraits of contestants running in the Miss Photogenic category, using a replica tunnel at Holmesglen TAFE’s Victorian Tunnelling Centre as the backdrop.

See the portraits of Lady Gargles, Estelle, Karma Bites, Stone Motherless Cold, Peaches and 2021 Miss First Nation winner Cerulean near Metro Tunnel construction sites at Franklin St and Scott Alley from January 23 until February 28.

The exhibition is presented by the Metro Tunnel Creative Program in collaboration with YIRRAMBOI and Midsumma festivals ●

### For more information:

[metrotunnel.vic.gov.au](http://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au)

## HERITAGE

## Centreway Arcade

While being back in the city again post lockdown has revealed so many beautiful sites, one favourite Melbourne shortcut has sadly been stripped of all its appeal.

As the city rose out of its last lockdown, so much was reopened to the people of Melbourne, apart from Centreway Arcade, which remained closed with scaffolding up on both ends, effecting the recovery of iconic Centre Place cafes that rely on people using the well-trodden shortcut from Collins St to Flinders Lane.

Scaffolding over both ends meant worry for the heritage community and other design lovers, with the unprotected but well-regarded post-modern interior potentially under threat of further alteration. We hoped that at the very



least if the 1980s design was being cleared away, perhaps the work might lead to a bold new design to greet Melburnians, but the revelation when the scaffolds came down was nothing short of a travesty.

Gone were the snazzy patterned terrazzo floors, covered over by some cheap white surface. Gone were the 1980s granite shopfronts with bay windows, custom metal framing

and bespoke doorknobs, replaced with cheap plain glass and plain white plasterboard. Gone too was the multi-level view above that revealed more pomo granite and glass bricks, Hollywood-style lighting, an important custom lettered artwork with a hidden anti-consumerist message, romantic faux-balconies, and staircases with Australiana fittings, replaced with a low hanging white ceiling and cheap down lights hanging oppressively just above you.

An interior that was a fun and interesting place to window-shop and stop and look around in when using the arcade route from Flinders St to Little Bourke St has been replaced by a second-rate airport terminal you want to rush through on the way to somewhere else.

Our post-modern version of the Royal Arcade with all its quirky features was replaced by the kind of corridor you’d see beside a suburban supermarket leading to an emergency exit, or some attempt at recreating the banal Flinders Street Station concourse. The equivalent of buffing all of Hosier Lane with grey paint and

keeping it that way.

Were the owners warding off a future potential for heritage listing like the developers of the Palace Theatre, hoping a generic series of identical shops would somehow attract new tenants, or just being spiteful towards people actually enjoying the space for more reasons than brief retail transactions?

We may never know, but we do recommend taking a hook through the doors at the end of western alcove of Centre Place and through the old National Bank of Australasia banking chamber converted into a shopping arcade if you want a more pleasant window-shopping shortcut to Collins St after your coffee from now on ●



*Tristan Davies*

PRESIDENT  
MELBOURNE HERITAGE ACTION  
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# Helping CBD locals get Functional For Life

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

In the age of fitness training conglomerates and international franchises, the personal is quickly fading away from personal training.

One-size-fits-all, high intensity and exceedingly complex training programs are becoming commonplace, often resulting in poor movement repetition and subsequent injury.

Specialising in evidence-based, tailored and fully mobile personal training, the team at Functional For Life is dispelling the growing perception of the industry by helping their clients create a positive relationship with their health and fitness.

According to Functional For Life co-founder, Ryan Bartlett, the freedom and flexibility of mobile training allows his team to fit in around their clients' often busy lives.

"We are an entry point for anyone, from novices right through to experienced athletes. Not all trainers are an appropriate entry point for someone who has to deal with what we call 'prehab' and rehab training," Mr Bartlett said. "Prehab is proactively getting on top of the body so you don't get injured, and rehab is obviously treating injuries through training."

"Our programs are about enhancing human movement through training. At larger group training facilities the ratio is often one trainer to 20-odd clients and you will likely be doing highly complex movements that some people may not be ready to do, potentially resulting in injury or reinforcing poor moving patterns."

Mr Bartlett and his brother, Justin – who have more than 15 years of combined experience in the industry – founded Functional For Life in 2017 with the pair citing a desperate need to steer away from the growing presence of "cookie-cutter, crash and bash" training programs.

The core values at Functional For Life are to reset, build and flourish.

According to Mr Bartlett, when your movement patterns are wrong, the first move is to hit the reset button – looking at mobility, activating and loosening the right muscles, then building up the correct movement patterns from there – creating biomechanically efficient movement.

"Our approach can be useful for people who are time-poor, it can be useful for people who don't feel comfortable in a commercial gym, it can be useful for people who have a gym in their apartment building, or people who just simply want to mix things up by training outdoors or down at the beach," Mr Bartlett said.

"We work in apartment buildings throughout the city helping fill out the building's obligation for gym inductions. We make sure each resident of these buildings has been familiarised with each and every piece of equipment, in accordance with their due diligence."

"We offer a free trial, analyse your movement and build a program that is going to help you get to your goals while helping you move better."

Along with individual, group, online, home and outdoor personal training, Functional For Life also specialises in corporate training, having worked with clients including Clarendon Lawyers, Strata Community and Brookfield Asset Management.

"We are the perfect corporate training model because we focus on movement enhancement, which is often all people need to combat a sedentary lifestyle," Mr Bartlett said.

"There is a lot of disfunction when you sit for long periods of time, your glutes get under-activated, your core gets weak, you get weak and under-activated muscles in other areas of your body."

"Research has shown that the specific benefits of corporate group training include reduced



*We offer a free trial, analyse your movement and build a program that is going to help you get to your goals while helping you move better.*



costs, reduced stress, greater productivity and improved morale and finally improved relationships."

Functional For Life services all of metro Melbourne, you can call them on 1300 070 955 or visit their website below ●

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

## CBD LOCAL

# Down but not out

*It's 4pm on Sunday, January 23 and it's still over 30 degrees, probably more on the CBD's bitumen streets.*

The sun beats down on the Central City Community Health Service on Victoria St.

A man has found a shadowy nook and is sleeping on the pavement outside the door.

His bike is propped up next to him. A small sack is his headrest. Above him is a sign saying "Welcome".

It's possible that the man is suffering from COVID but due to the impact of the virus, the clinic had moved for the weekend to West Melbourne.

And on the Friday before, it had closed early because of the heat.

Those sleeping rough in the CBD can still access services but it's getting more difficult to help them.

"Our work has still continued full speed, the volume of work," says social worker Ado Barker, who like many in the sector has once again retreated to the safety of working remotely from his home in Coburg.

"We're champing at the bit to be out there," he said. "It's been really hard for anyone doing direct work with the loss of face-to-face."

Ado began working with Justice Connect in Bourke St last April as the homeless persons liaison officer and works one day a week at an outreach partnership with Cohealth Central City on Victoria St.

He's never experienced the city running at its full capacity. "It's a shadow of its former self," he said.

"The CBD is definitely a difficult place to be homeless," he said. "At the end of the hotel emergency response, when it started to wind



*We're champing at the bit to be out there. It's been really hard for anyone doing direct work with the loss of face-to face.*



down during last year, people came back. Part of that is a sense of safety and security in places people know."

He said as a social worker it was really important to feel that, even in small ways, you were making a difference.

Justice Connect runs a state-wide homeless law program that offers an integrated practice with both social workers and lawyers helping resolve legal problems faced by rough sleepers.

During mid-January Ado had an issue with a client in a rooming house who came down with COVID but had no capacity to isolate. He said services are struggling to manage the spread.

"He went to a GP with symptoms and had a RAT and PCR test. It's hard for people to negotiate the system. I was able to refer the client to a triage service run by Quarantine Victoria and they secured hotel quarantine."

He is a big rap for the walk-in services of the

Victoria St clinic.

"If he could have accessed Cohealth he would have received a good wrap-around response."

He said the secret to being a good social worker is "listening and hearing".

The liaison position was established by Justice Connect in 2010, and since then has assisted more than 1300 people experiencing or at risk of homelessness ●



*Rhonda Dredge*  
JOURNALIST  
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## HISTORY

## St James Old Cathedral – a link with Melbourne’s past

There are so many reasons why you should visit St James Old Cathedral, located on the corner of King and Batman streets, just across the road from Flagstaff Gardens.

The oldest church in Melbourne, it is the only surviving work of colonial architect Robert Russell who had been employed in Melbourne’s earliest days as a surveyor. And it is one of the few surviving buildings in the CBD to predate the Gold Rush, which began in 1851.

Known as the “Church of the Pioneers”, it was originally built on the corner of William and Little Collins streets on a five-acre Crown Grant site where a simple wooden church had preceded it. The foundation stone was laid in November 1839 by Superintendent Charles Joseph La Trobe and it opened in October 1842, five years before it was finished. The cathedral was consecrated in 1853, by which time it was found to be too small for its purpose. The influx of migrants lured to the colony by the hope of finding gold meant that Melbourne was changing beyond recognition and at a far faster rate than anyone could have anticipated when St James was built.

St James was replaced as Melbourne’s Anglican Cathedral by St Paul’s, built in 1891 on the corner of Flinders and Swanston streets, around the time that the former’s congregation was diminishing. This, coupled with the high cost of maintaining an aging and deteriorating building on a site that was increasingly valuable, pointed the way for its demolition. “Historic Church Doomed” cried the headlines.

In mid-1913, the building was condemned, and services ceased. Remarkably, St James survived. Despite its detractors (one Melburnian dubbed it a “pile of ugliness” and another “about as ugly a specimen of ecclesiastical architecture as could be imagined”), it was saved after a campaign by a number of pioneer families for whom it had been a place of worship, and a place where family members had married, were baptised and where burial services took place for more than 70 years.

In early October 1914, *The Herald* newspaper reported on one last ceremony at the old site. Even as the building was being demolished, a final wedding – “Love Among the Ruins” took place, the reporter commenting that “it is doubtful whether lovers were ever before made man and wife in such strange circumstances”.

By November there was nothing left on the site but the tower and a fragment of the staircase by which Governor La Trobe had reached his private box. Now dismantled, the Old Cathedral was moved piece by numbered piece to its present site on the north-west corner of King St where it was meticulously reassembled with relatively few alterations to its design. It reopened for worship in April 1914.

The image you see here is part of a photographic collection bequeathed to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) by philanthropist, art collector and photographer Everard Studley Miller. It was taken after the Old Cathedral’s removal to King St and Russell’s simple design is evident. It is built of stone in the Colonial Georgian style, with bluestone footings that remind us of the rich bluestone architectural heritage of the era that predates “Marvellous Melbourne” (that is, before the 1880s).

It has a distinctive octagonal bell tower atop two square bell towers. The domed tower, designed by architect Charles Laing, who had replaced Robert Russell, was known as “Palmer’s Pepperbox” after Dr Palmer of the Church Building Committee who had insisted on the domed design.

In the RHSV’s publication *Remembering Melbourne*, Andrew J. May writes that, “its bells rang out through the 19<sup>th</sup> century on special occasions, including the Queen’s Birthday, Separation Day, Christmas and New Year’s Eve, lending a sacred air to this precinct of businessmen and bankers.” The church history adds that Melbourne’s first peal of bells (six bells) was hung in 1853, replacing an old ship’s bell, and two more bells were added in 1885. The story



goes that a group of miners banking their profits from the goldfields saw the bells being hung and resolved to stay in town to form a team of ringers. RHSV has in its collection a number of images of the Old Cathedral, including one of six bells on the ground outside the few remaining walls of the church (by then a parish church, not a cathedral), awaiting removal to King St. These massive bells remind us of Melbourne’s growing status during the lifetime of St James and when they ring out across the western part of the CBD, they remind us of this church’s place in our history and its continuing place in our cultural life.

St James has a beautiful and unusual interior, with many features of historical and architectural interest, including original high-backed cedar box pews and their doors, Vice-Regal boxes for the use of the governor and the chief justice, a christening font containing a bowl presented to Charles La Trobe by Queen Victoria, and five stained glass windows designed by Christian Waller, the wife of artist

Napier Waller.

St James Old Cathedral is still open as a place of worship that represents almost the entire history of white settlement in Melbourne. However, the journalist who wrote in 1914 that the Old Cathedral has “seen whatever history Melbourne has known” was wrong. Whether in Little Collins St or King St, the cathedral has always stood on the unceded lands of its traditional owners, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, a fact acknowledged by today’s church on its website: “We pay them a symbolic annual tribute to express our intention to continue to seek understanding and reconciliation”



Dr. Cheryl Griffin  
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## TRADER PROFILE



## New heights, Turkish delights: Family business thrives at QVM

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*

Having recently opened a custom-built, copper kiosk at Queen Victoria Market complete with ornate Turkish designs, Mr Baydar, his brother and father are ready to take their business to new heights.

It all started when Mr Baydar’s grandad learnt the original recipe from his uncle in Turkey many years ago.

“Going back 20 years ago, my family moved from Turkey to Australia because Turkey was in a bit of a sticky economic situation,” Mr Baydar said.

“Grandad started a business here and taught my dad and he taught my brother and I when we were teenagers.”

From a young age, Mr Baydar watched his father painstakingly perfect the recipe for their Turkish delight, modifying the recipe to make it gluten free, vegan, and with no glucose additives to suit modern appetites.

“Dad probably wasted about five tonnes of Turkish delight to perfect it. Probably more, I was young,” Mr Baydar said.

“My dad worked almost 16 hours a day to ensure the product was perfect. We needed to change it and make it far more healthy.”

While the original flavour was rose, which is the traditional Turkish flavour, Lunara Delights now boasts a range of modern twists including passionfruit, pistachio, peach, blackberry and green apple, Mr Baydar’s personal favourite.

“I hated Turkish delight growing up even though it was the family business!” he said.

“The original recipe was a lot firmer and had a better shape, but we changed the recipe to suit the masses.

“It’s a little softer, but I’m not going to lie, it’s a lot better!”

A structural engineer by trade, Mr Baydar works at his family business, which includes a small factory in the northern suburbs, when he has a spare moment.

It’s a skillset he has harnessed to improve the business’s efficiency.

“Just before the pandemic, I sent my dad to Turkey to improve our efficiency – our old machines were too slow and inefficient to make the sort of volume we needed per day,” he said.

“We now have two machines that have halved our cooking time.”

But while Mr Baydar was focusing on ensuring they weren’t “drastically outdated”, his father had other plans.

“My dad had a lightbulb moment in Turkey and sent some photos on WhatsApp – I was sceptical,” Mr Baydar said.

“My dad knew the Australian community gives value to nostalgic or heritage items.”

“It took about two-and-a-half months to get that kiosk made. The internal frame is stainless aluminium, the outer frame is copper. It cost an arm and leg to make!”

Now in their third month since setting up shop at QVM, Mr Baydar said business was on

an upward trajectory.

In 2019, he said their sales were at an all-time high before the pandemic hit and they lost 90 per cent of their first-year sales.

Mr Baydar said Lunara Delights operated at a 50 per cent loss last year but was now slowly but surely making a comeback.

Looking forward, he said his family wanted to continue the old, Turkish-style dining experience by creating seating areas with patterned cushions.

“We want that nice, Turkish vibe; just sitting down and having a coffee and tea while relaxing,” he said.

“We want to expand the business and we’re open to supplying larger franchises with our Turkish delights.”

Lunara Delights is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9am to 3pm and Saturday and Sunday 9am to 4pm. You can also treat yourself to Lunara Delights every Wednesday during January at the Summer Night Market.

Lunara Delights will also be open at the upcoming Turkish Festival at QVM on Saturday, March 12, as well as the Winter Night Market later this year ●

**For more information:**  
*Instagram: Lunara.delights*

“

*For Furkan Baydar, co-owner of Lunara Delights, running a Turkish delight business is a family tradition three-generations in the making.*

”

# Aboriginal man wins top prize for artwork depicting identity and sexuality

*As a proud gay Aboriginal man, Ronald Pepper didn't hold back in putting his all into a recent piece of artwork which took home the top prize in the Koorie Art Show.*

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*

A swirling, brightly coloured collection of images and paintings on canvas, Mr Pepper's artwork *Coming Out 2* tells the story of his identity growing up as a First Nations man, a story he is "proud and honoured" to tell.

"It's exhilarating," he told *CBD News*. "It's nice to put my stories out there and to win an amazing award and to have all the elements of my art practice and to tell a story in a nice way."

Part of Mr Pepper's painting exhibits trips he took to Japan and China in 2010 under his local government's Sister City program.

Since then, his love for art has only grown having graduated from Federation University with a Bachelor of Visual and Media Arts in 2017.

He has since had multiple commissions and been involved in exhibitions in Australia and overseas.

Asked what inspired him to create *Coming Out 2*, which earned him the Koorie Heritage Trust's (KHT) \$10,000 top prize, Mr Pepper said he wanted to put everything into one painting.

"What inspired me was I wanted to create something that tells the story of my identity

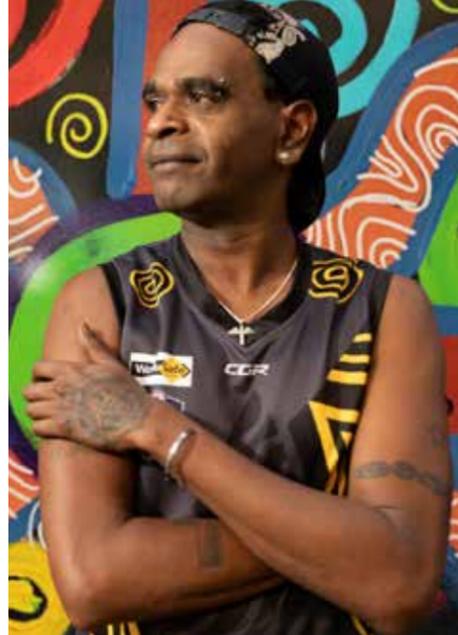


and growing up as an Aboriginal man," he said.

"I'm gay in two worlds, in a positive cultural way, and I wanted to let people know that coming out in the 21st century; you can be who you are and be proud of what you do in your culture and where you're from – to be a role model for your people."

Mr Pepper's esteemed piece of artwork is also about passing on the lore of the land to the next generation, which he experienced with stories told to him by his late mother.

"Last year and the year before were sad and very dark for me," he said of this experience in



"Moving on in healing, in art – that has helped me a lot to process what has happened and to move forward."

Mr Pepper said the spirals signifying the intergenerational passing on of knowledge "will get bigger and bigger and grow more."

Mr Pepper also wished to congratulate his fellow artists in the Koorie Art Show and the artists who exhibited their work in KHT's Blak Jewellery exhibition.

"I see all the amazing artists making their art and it's bringing back what we've learnt through our time, and I'd like to say congratulations and to keep doing what we're doing to shape who we are as Aboriginal people," he said.

"I'd also like to thank the Koorie Heritage Trust for the opportunity they've provided me."

Mr Pepper is currently using an array of new art equipment he purchased using the prize money to produce new, "very different" artwork which will be exhibited at the KHT soon ●

an interview with KHT's Andrew Stephens.

"Doing the bright colours and having support around me brought me to where I am. They [my parents] would be very proud of me now."

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

## MUSIC

# Turning Green

"There's always time," Bailter Space singer guitarist John Halversen said introducing a song at their Melbourne show promoting their *Robot World* album.

Years later, Melbourne songwriter singer guitarist Courtney Barnett's new album *Things Take Time, Take Time* is receiving tremendous accolades from critics and fans alike. This is a collection of songs demo-ed and recorded during all those lockdowns and gaps between.

This material is as strong as her much-loved *Avant Gardener*. Some of the songs were written at The Joshua Tree, a town in the desert that has a mystical vibe to it. The Joshua Tree is a place that Courtney Barnett likes to stay at before or after tours.

During a west coast tour of the USA to help promote the album, near the end of the tour the Courtney Barnett group played on Cheryl Waters's Midday Show on KEXP on December 14, 2021. Some may say that this was the best performance of the tour. The four songs they played on the show were *Rae Street*, *Sunfair Sundown*, *Before You Gotta Go* and *Turning Green*. The band played this radio show before playing The Paramount Theatre in Seattle that night. Stella the drummer who also helped produce the album was fantastic. She's worked previously with Courtney Barnett when she recorded and toured an album with Kurt Vile.

*Turning Green* is a great song where after singing along with a cowbell in the first half of the song Courtney Barnett shreds it on guitar in the second half, a beautiful ascending lead break that sounds like a combination of Tom Verlaine and Rowland S Howard. It is fantastic, Barnett had it dialled in for Cheryl Waters audience.

*Rae Street* is like a fictionalised whimsical account of Courtney Barnett's experience of living in an apartment north of the Yarra River with a view of a cul-de-sac street. There's something very Raymond Carver about the song. The film clip to *Rae Street* is a cracker. Barnett and her creative team have excelled in creating some awesome videos to her songs from the album. In the live context the songs sound better than ever.

For the final 14 and a half minutes or so, Cheryl Waters had a conversation/interview with Courtney Barnett. Having visited Melbourne in 2017 Cheryl Waters has a great feel for Melbourne and its music and coffee culture. It's a tremendous conversation. Cheryl is a huge fan of Courtney Barnett and her music, stating that *Things Take Time, Take Time* is a beautiful album. It is reminiscent of Neil Young's *On The Beach* album.

Alice Skye will be supporting Courtney Barnett at her Forum Theatre show in Melbourne on March 17 and 18.

Camp Cope, the superb Melbourne rock trio, have announced that their new album entitled *Running With The Hurricane* is now available ...

Two songs that were staples of summer candidates are Andrew McCubbin's *Run All Night* and Amyll And The Sniffers's *Security* from their great new second album *Comfort To Me*. I'm looking forward to Andrew McCubbin's new album scheduled for later this year.

Dan Sultan, Kutcha Edwards and many more play the Share The Spirit concert at Sidney Myer Music Bowl on January 26.

There will be a series of free classical music concerts at The Bowl over the course of this summer. Bring your picnic rugs, teddy bears and experience a fantastic musical treat of tremendous songs at sunset.

Benjamin Northey will be the conductor of the orchestra and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) Composer in Residence Paul Grabowsky will play the piano for the performance on February 19. The versatile Grabowsky worked recently on an album of material with one of Melbourne's most iconic musicians, crowd favourite Paul Kelly.

Entrance is free, kick-off is at 7.30pm and the dates are February 9, 12 and 19 ●



*Chris Mineral*

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## Vertical village “volunteers”

*Australia is a nation of volunteers and in 2020, Volunteering Victoria claims that 42.1 per cent of Victorians aged over 15 volunteered in our state.*

But volunteering is a term often used loosely – so it is useful to know what counts.

According to Volunteering Australia, volunteering is defined as “time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain”. It involves an offer of something that is not required nor is an obligation.

Volunteering can be formal, where assistance is given to a not-for-profit or other “for-good” organisation, or it can be informal, where there is no association with another entity, but actions still contribute to a community’s common good.

The ascribed motivations for volunteering are many, including supporting communities

in crisis (such as after fires), supporting a cause (such as adult literacy), growing one’s own social connections (meeting new people with similar values) and personal development (such as gaining confidence).

And all these motivations can be seen in the different instances of volunteering in our vertical villages. In particular, COVID-19 saw many building-based groups come to life. Informal volunteering in the form of offers of dog walking, trips to shops and even home cooked meal drop-offs all took place within our vertical villages.

But a note of caution has been sounded about some types of volunteering. For instance, offers by volunteers to “fix” common property (such as that annoying leak) can have far reaching insurance implications. And if injury occurs during or due to this work, then Pandora’s Box opens.

There is, of course, another group of volunteers that feature in residential strata – namely, the owners’ corporation (OC).

As most of us well know, an owners’ corporation is automatically created when a plan of

subdivision containing common property is registered at Land Use Victoria. The resultant owners’ corporation is responsible for managing this common property. And, as stated by Consumer Affairs Victoria, if an owners’ corporation has 13 or more lots, a committee *must* be elected at each annual general meeting. For us high risers, this means that our vertical villages all have OC committees which have specific regulatory responsibilities related to managing common property.

This raises an interesting point about the notion of our “volunteer” OC committees.

Indeed, according to the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO), the more formalised the volunteer arrangement, the greater the possibility that the role is not one of volunteer. One key characteristic of genuine volunteering identified by FWO is that the arrangement include that the volunteer is under no obligation to perform work.

Is this the case with our OC committees?

Our regulations require the existence of an owners’ corporation committee and tasks this group with specific responsibilities. Added to

this is the question whether it can be said that these activities are undertaken for “selfless purposes” or for “furthering a particular belief in the not-for-profit sector”?

Indeed, is there mention of “volunteer committees” in our OC regulations?

You may now be asking what is the point of raising this issue? And does it matter whether or not the OC committee are volunteers or have another legal status?

My opinion is that for such an important group – one that holds responsibility for managing common property worth many millions – clarity about the OC committee’s status is a needed starting point for the development of our high-rise residential sector •



Dr. Janette Corcoran

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### CRITIC

## Not afraid to speak her mind

Australia’s richest literary prize is up for grabs, with just six novels shortlisted for the fiction section, yet none of the major bookshops in the CBD have them featured.

A worker at Readings’ new store in Emporium said she hadn’t read the books and that they were just on the general shelves.

A spokeswoman at Dymocks in Collins St said they didn’t do shortlist promotions.

The Victorian Prize for Literature is worth \$100,000 and it was awarded this year for a debut novel about the pandemic, *The Animals in That Country* by Laura Jean McKay.

The 2022 prize will be announced at a function at the Wheeler Centre on February 3 with individual prizes to fiction, non-fiction, plays, poetry and unpublished manuscripts.

It’s a pity there is so little build-up in bookshops. In the United Kingdom bets are taken on the odds of particular authors winning.

Staff at Dymocks were willing to make some predictions, on the basis of demand from readers. The shortlist was released in December for the Christmas reading period.

“*After Story*. It’s meant to be really good,” a spokeswoman said. “I’ve heard from customers. *Bodies of Light* has also been quite popular, based on sales and customer feedback.”

Readers, even those who work in bookshops, can be reluctant to make definitive statements about particular books, as if someone was going to rap them over the knuckles for getting it wrong.

“We’ve grown up with the internet and know what it is to be accountable,” said one staff member at Readings.

That doesn’t stop them from making recommendations, however. Beneath *After Story* on the shelves at Dymocks is one such blurb that reads as follows.

“If you’re looking for an uproariously funny, gritty, Aussie read, then look no further. I was floored by this debut.”

Unfortunately, this brilliant rap turned out to be a recommendation for a book further along the shelves, although it could equally well apply to *After Story*.

*CBD News* is willing to go on the record in the interest of Aussie lit to make a prediction for the 2022 Fiction Prize. *After Story* by Larissa Behrendt does indeed deserve to win.

Della, one of two main characters in the novel, is in her early 50s, attractive, indigenous, a mother of three and on a literary tour of England.

Her daughter Jasmine is on the same tour, but she is judgmental. Della drinks too much, goes off by herself and occasionally mouths off at others on the tour.



▲ *After Story*, Larissa Behrendt, University of Queensland Press, 2021.

Naturally Jasmine is embarrassed instead of supportive. Luckily the tour guide is warm and admires Della’s strong reason and receptive heart.

This mother and daughter travel tale is a gem that shines with truth and respect for story. Many readers may recognise themselves in Della’s younger, more freeform self when Australia was a less suspicious place.

Somehow the visits to the homes of Jane Austin, Virginia Woolf, Thomas Hardy and other leading literary lights help salve the pain.

The humour is almost up to Austin’s when Della mistakes another tour member for the gardener at Sissinghurst.

The voice is very Aussie, frank, almost disingenuous, as if Della was having a D and M with her sister. She’s not afraid to speak her mind and neither should those who work in the industry •



Rhonda Dredge

JOURNALIST

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### SALVOS

## Tragedy on our streets

*Thursday, January 20 was going along like any other until I received a phone call from St Vincent’s Hospital ICU. The “Can you please get here ASAP” call is always ominous.*

As I raced out the office door, I stumbled upon Steve\*. I was annoyed that he had his shirt off and was curled up in a ball. “What will the neighbours think?” I was thinking to myself. I crouched down and saw that Steve was in bad shape. His jaw and eye socket were severely swollen and bruised. They both appeared to be fractured. He had been involved in an altercation on Elizabeth St that morning. With some hesitancy, Steve agreed to allow me to drive him to hospital.

Steve still remains there today. I then went to the ICU. I was briefed outside ICU about what had happened and I was asked to wait for a doctor who would take me inside. I was told that Alex\*, who had just celebrated his 28<sup>th</sup> birthday a few days earlier, had been found unconscious in a laneway in the city. This news hit me hard.

As I sat on my own outside ICU, I recalled finding Alex sleeping rough out the back of St. Paul’s Cathedral. Alex was nine years old at the time. We did everything we could to get Alex the help he desperately needed. However, life for Alex at home was chaotic. A few months after I met Alex, his father was killed in a car accident. We arranged for Alex to be cared for at a Salvation Army Centre in Launceston for four months. It was our way of trying to get Alex away from the craziness that was unfolding on the streets of the city at that time.

While we were waiting for the final approvals to be issued, Alex appeared at The Salvo’s Café at Bourke St. At the age of 10, Alex and two of his young friends witnessed their 13-year-old friend, Georgia\*, fall three floors to her death at an abandoned building in the city. We used this tragedy to sharpen our response to young vulnerable people who hung out in the city. With the support of the then CEO of AXA Insurance and the current CEO of Telstra, Andy Penn, we developed a double-decker bus that was designed to take our services to young people in need rather than waiting for them to come to us. Alex became a key user and advocate of and for this service.

We were finally able to get Alex to Tasmania, beautifully supported by our staff and volunteers. In the meantime, arrangements were made for Alex to live with a new foster family.

Alex became involved with his local football and cricket club and was really starting to enjoy life. Tragically, his foster father died of cancer. A few years ago, Alex’s birth mum died at the age of 47. Tragedy always seemed to follow Alex.

As I sat and pondered the loss of yet another friend, my phone rang. It was one of the St Vincent’s Hospital nurses calling. She is one of two nurses who are based at The Salvo’s at Bourke St. Her and her colleague do amazing work on a daily basis. The phone call started with, “Brendan, I have some terrible news.” My response was, “I already know. I’m at St Vincent’s now waiting to see Alex.” “Alex?” she replied. “What has happened?” she then said, “I’m calling about Arnold\*.”

Arnold was found dead in the city on Thursday morning. Arnold was aged in his early 50s and was one of the real characters who attended our services at The Salvo’s at Bourke St. Arnold had many friends both on the street and at services across the city and inner city. The loss of Alex and Arnold on the same day in completely unrelated circumstances was and is devastating for so many who struggle simply to survive on a daily basis.

The response from me is what do we do to fully respect and honour the memory of Alex and Arnold?

I think the one thing that is consistently missing from our city is a service that is mobile, operates at all hours of the day and night and is truly multi-disciplinary. Mental health, addiction and health services and housing services all need to be rolled into one mobile response that is designed to have time to listen and respond, with the needs of the individual at the heart of that response. Often trust has been breached, and it takes time to re-establish trust with a cohort that is incredibly difficult to reach.

But if we are serious as a community, in our belief that all lives are equal and every single person counts, then we will do our utmost, no matter what the cost, to ensure that no-one is ever left behind.

\*These names have been changed to protect privacy •



Major Brendan Nottle

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WE LIVE HERE

# Learning from others

Around the world, cities are all regulating short stays, sometimes with eye-watering penalties greater than the property value of the apartment involved.

Now, as we hope to leave lockdowns behind us in Melbourne, what short stay listing regulations do we have here? None. Here in Victoria, no oversight, no control over short stay listings. Absolutely none.

If we look around the globe, we can find many examples of regulations that are being refined and adapted as circumstances change.

For example, as tourism in Europe begins to recover from the pandemic, a new Barcelona ban targets the short-term letting of rooms. The city already has a short stay registration and monitoring framework that seeks to rein in whole-apartment short term rentals with heavy fines and threats of suspension.

Janet Sanz, Barcelona's deputy mayor is quoted in the *New York Times* as saying, "We love our city and we want to share it – but we need rules and we need balance. People in Barcelona can still rent out a room for a year to a student coming from abroad but for less than 31 days, it's such a tricky market to regulate that, from now on, we have to stop it."

## Expert research on short stays

If our politicians are going to learn from other cities facing similar problems, how do they get the information they need?

Well, now it's easier. Two sedulous researchers from the University of Queensland, Dorine von Briel and Sara Dolnicar, have been studying the effect of short stays in cities around the world and the regulations that have been framed in response. They have published a paper: *The evolution of Airbnb regulations* that identifies

a global trend toward increasingly strict rules and stiff penalties targeting an industry that is underreported and difficult to monitor.

Here are a just a few of our observations from reviewing this recent research paper:

**Berlin:** Berlin State enforces annual registration with €100,000 fines for non-compliance. Hosts can only rent their property as a short stay for 90 days a year – and the host must apply for "change of use" permission. The penalty for non-compliance is a whopping €500,000 (A\$800,000).

**London:** London City's power of persuasion helped it thrash out an agreement with Airbnb to limit listings to 90 days per year. Yes, the corporate colossus agreed not to challenge the rule in court.

**New York:** The Big Apple enforces registration of all short-stay listings, with fines for non-compliance ranging from US\$1000 for a first offence to US\$7500 for a third strike.

**Paris:** Local municipalities can set annual limits, impose heavy fines on non-compliant hosts, and force hosts to disclose their records to the council. Parisians enjoy a rule that Melbourne desperately needs: All building co-owners must vote and agree to having short stays in the building. Let the residents decide!

**San Francisco:** New buildings in San Francisco that will allow short stays must have planning approval. The city has also introduced limits and disclosure rules on political funding and controls over politicians' short-stay interests – something we need in Australia.

## Lessons for Victoria

There you have it – a new, Australian **independent expert report** that we can take to our politicians and say, "*The research has been done for you. Now, please show some leadership.*"

We Live Here has long argued for the regulations that have been variously implemented in major cities around the world:

- Let owners' corporation lot owners decide if their building will have short stays.

- Limit the number of days that an apartment can be short-term let.
- Require all short-stay hosts to be registered with the local council.
- Introduce proportionate penalties for non-compliance.

Thank you, Dorine von Briel, and Sara Dolnicar from the University of Queensland for documenting the global regulatory reality. Victorian politicians should be suitably edified.

## What are the parties' policies?

We have been talking with all major parties about regulating short stays. We have engaged with the first, second and third Minister for Consumer Affairs, currently Melissa Horne. We met with Planning Minister Richard Wynne. We had talks with the Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council, David Davis. And we have ongoing communications with the Greens.

Even through the pandemic we tried to keep engaged with politicians across the political spectrum, via Zoom of course. We have been providing Victorian politicians with case studies, precedent legislation and regulations from other jurisdictions, expert reports, impact statements and statistics.

After all the work we have done, we are very pleased to see that at least one party continues formally to support our practical plans for dealing with short-stay apartments.

Ellen Sandell, Greens State MP for Melbourne, has again published a call for regulation of the short-stay industry, something we have been arguing strenuously.

And when we talk about short stays, we mean much more than unruly parties. Short stays bring many challenges to apartment living, with the attendant impacts on security, liveability, amenity, maintenance costs, community fabric, housing affordability and – most salient now – infection management. These are the issues we have canvassed with politicians of all persuasions.

We applaud Ellen Sandell's announcement. We call on members of the government and the opposition to acknowledge that having well-researched policies for regulating short stays is indeed politic – your electors want to know how you will protect residents.

## Disappointing anniversary

February 2002 marks the disappointing anniversary of a major deadline missed by the state government.

In 2018, the government committed to a review of the *Owners' Corporation Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation Act)* by February 2019.

The government needs to set up the review and implement significant changes before the pre-pandemic short-stay problems flood back. We asked about this promised review when we met late last year with the current Minister for Consumer Affairs, Melissa Horne. Let's get this started, please.

## Coming up ...

Next month we will give you an update on the committee-stacking scandal that we have been following in this column. Plus, we will talk about the recently announced "design-to-rent" development that will deliver thousands of rental apartments and an equal number of unfettered opportunities for rent sharks to convert apartments to short stays en masse.



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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LEARN MORE AT [WELIVEHERE.NET](http://WELIVEHERE.NET)



## STREET ART

# Let's paint the city

When Howard Arkley painted a tram in 1980 for the Transporting Art project initiated by Victoria's Hamer Government, it was edgy, experimental and an amazing initiative.

He was one of many important Australian artists that were in the first round of painted trams that ran from 1978 to 1982 and included artists like Clifton Pugh, Mike Brown, Elizabeth Gower and Mika Mora. The second round of art trams ran from 1986 to 1993 and included artists like Lin Onus, Reg Mombassa and Michael Leunig.

These early art trams became a tourist attraction and were some of the first beginnings of the ephemeral public art movement. I feel like the commitment to the Art Trams project seemed deeper when artists were asked to paint directly on the tram, and both inside and out. I remember the W-class trams shunting down Swanston St completely painted with art.

I loved the art trams, but I feel the project definitely seemed more interesting when artists were allowed to paint directly on the surface. Artists now send a file, and the tram is wrapped with the plastic printed design.

I understand the commitment required to allow an artist to paint directly on a tram, especially in today's world of fancy trams and advertising. Yet it seems a shame that artists are rarely given the opportunity to create art directly on a surface, it's like the people whom allow these awesome projects to go ahead are not fully committed.

Many projects and opportunities that are coming out at the moment ask artists to send files instead of painting directly on the wall. This doesn't allow for texture and style to truly translate. The public is getting some weird print of the original artwork that is often stretched, pixelated and flat.

As an artist I studied painting and drawing at university, and yes, I have had to learn how to do some aspects of graphic design but I am far from a designer. Surely it would make more



sense to have an artist in my situation paint the artwork, instead of trying to figure out how to create a giant graphic design artwork.

It would also be far cheaper to have artists paint directly on the wall. There is something really beautiful and tangible with a hand-painted artwork. The artwork on the shed in the City Square by Emma Coultre is painted by hand and it looks great. The problem with the graphic artwork, which is becoming more prevalent, is that it can look a little like an advertisement.

I love the tram art project and all the cool stuff the Metro Tunnel and City of Melbourne do with the arts and the city. I just feel the city would be far more beautiful if much of this work was painted by hand. It seems it would be easier to paint it, than have some vinyl guy complete the artwork.

That's what us artists do – we paint, and we can do it well, as opposed to graphic design. I do murals all the time and it would make since to get artist to make the artwork. It would be cheaper, and it would look better.

Anyway, happy to be back! Have a beautiful year and thanks for reading.

Keep painting,  
Adrian Doyle @doylesart •



Adrian Doyle

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# Quiz



- In which US state was award-winning pop star Britney Spears (pictured) born?
- Melbourne was the capital of Australia for how many years?
- What is the name of the 1990s planning policy aimed at increasing residential development in the CBD?
- Which 2021 film features real-life married couple Jesse Plemons and Kirsten Dunst as husband and wife?
- In 1966, students and a teacher at Westall High School, Victoria, claimed to see what in the sky?
- Attracting over 100,000 attendees, what event, styled after the Royal Regatta in Oxfordshire, England, took place on the Yarra River on October 30, 1920?
- Which species of monkey is the largest?
- In 1880, notorious bushranger Edward 'Ned' Kelly was hanged for murder at which CBD landmark?
- Where was poet Mahmoud Darwish born?
- Who was the first transgender artist to be nominated for a Grammy?
- Why was Melbourne one of the largest and richest cities in the world during the 1850s?
- Who founded the Kino cinemas at Collins Place in 1987?

### QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Mississippi 2. 26 (1901-1927)  
 3. Postcode 3000 4. The Power of the Dog  
 5. A UFO 6. The Henley Regatta  
 7. Mandrill 8. Melbourne Gaol  
 9. Palestine 10. Sophie Xeon 11. The Victorian gold rush 12. Frank Cox

# 5x5 No. 008

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

S		A		S
	A		O	
O		E		A
	E		U	
Y		K		L

### SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: SCARS, TALON, OMEGA, RECUR, YORKEL, DOWN: STORK, CAMERO, ALECK, ROGUE, SNARL.

# Sudoku No. 008

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

### EASY

		2	1	7		5		
4			5					
8				9				3
9	2		3				7	1
		6		5	8			
5	4				1		9	6
3				7				2
					8			9
	6		4	3	2			

### HARD

3			2			7		9
	9	7						
	5		8			6		4
					8	2		
			1	4	5			
		6	9					
9	4				3		6	
						4	7	
2		3			1			8

### SOLUTIONS

#### EASY

9	8	1	2	3	4	7	6	9	2
6	3	7	8	9	4	4	2	5	4
2	4	4	6	5	7	1	8	3	6
9	6	3	1	2	8	7	4	7	8
4	2	2	8	6	5	6	2	3	4
1	7	9	4	4	3	8	2	6	4
3	1	1	2	7	6	9	7	8	1
7	9	6	3	8	5	1	4	7	6
8	5	4	5	1	7	1	1	6	3

#### HARD

8	9	6	7	1	7	4	3	9	2
3	7	4	2	8	6	2	9	5	8
2	9	1	8	5	8	7	7	2	6
7	4	7	7	5	2	3	6	9	8
9	8	3	5	1	4	7	2	9	4
1	6	2	2	8	9	7	5	3	4
4	3	9	7	6	8	2	7	1	1
5	2	8	1	4	6	7	6	9	3
1	6	7	9	5	2	8	2	4	3

# Wordfind

Theme: Breakfast

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

O	R	A	N	G	E	J	U	I	C	E
M	A	T	E	G	D	I	R	R	O	P
U	N	T	E	N	A	R	B	E	R	T
E	I	W	M	A	E	A	T	E	N	E
S	F	Y	K	E	G	G	S	F	F	F
L	F	N	O	C	A	B	O	F	L	F
I	U	A	K	G	A	L	U	O	A	U
E	M	H	A	M	H	N	P	C	K	B
W	A	F	F	L	E	U	S	U	E	L
K	L	I	M	E	P	E	R	C	S	O
C	R	O	I	S	S	A	N	T	P	X

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| BACON      | MILK         |
| BRAN       | MUESLI       |
| BUFFET     | MUFFIN       |
| COFFEE     | OATMEAL      |
| CORNFLAKES | ORANGE JUICE |
| CREPE      | PORRIDGE     |
| CROISSANT  | SNACK        |
| EAT        | SOUP         |
| EGGS       | TEA          |
| HAM        | WAFFLE       |
| LOX        | YOGHURT      |

Secret message: Wake up.

# Crossword No. 008

### ACROSS

- Japanese warrior (7)
- German city (7)
- Last (5)
- Related to government (9)
- Away from the centre (8)
- Covered (6)
- Concur (5)
- Government department leaders (9)
- Laziness (9)
- Outdoor area adjoining a house (5)
- Sweet liquid (6)
- Sleeplessness (8)
- Key maker (9)
- Famous Swiss children's book (5)
- Baked chocolate treat (7)
- Repetitive design (7)

### DOWN

- Asphyxiation (11)
- Observed (9)
- Let go (7)
- Obstacle (10)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9						10								
11								12						13
								14						
15								16						17
18														20
21		22						23						
								24						
25														26
27														28

- High ground (4)
- Ways (7)
- Not edited (5)
- Hair product (3)
- Common joint injury (11)
- Traineeship (10)
- Vast (9)
- Middleman (7)
- Speaker of the word of God (7)
- Chocolate bean tree (5)
- Citrus fruit (4)
- Science room (3)

### SOLUTION

N	B	E	L	I	V	A	P	E	I	N	M	O	H	E
O	A	E	I	W	O	R								
I	O	I	H	H	I	W	S	K	O	T				
I	S	E	S	T	I	V								
V	I	N	I	O	G	E	N	I	U	L	O	N	I	
O	I	L	P	A	R	E								
T	X	I	E											
S	B	E	E											
I	G	I	I	S	O									
I	G	E	I	S	O									
I	U	H	L											
L	U	H	L											
L	L													
L	E	N	E											
L	E	N	E											
L	E	N	E											
L	E	N	E											

# Codeword No. 008

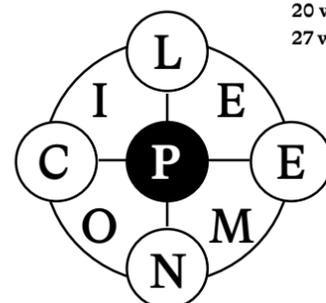
23	7	23		1	24	22	6	19	22	1	11	23
14		5		24		24		22		14		11
3	19	18	11	15	24	18	12	23		T	19	11
3		19				15		19		23		12
18	11	14	18	23		14	21	21	18	11	23	23
24				2		5		19		5		
22	19	7	17	16	23		20	24	23	11	9	H
		11		19		9		16				24
11	22	21	24	18	23	11		23	19	8	11	23
10		19				21				11		T
T	19	1		19	18	14	23	1	19	17	4	11
18		14		22		22		14		18		4
14	4	4	19	13	14	T	24	18		14	21	23

### SOLUTIONS

A	W	U	B	R	I	J	D	N	S	O	H	L
23	18	11	17	16	23	1	20	24	23	11	9	14
18	11	14	18	23	1	19	18	14	23	1	19	17
14	4	4	19	13	14	T	24	18		14	21	23

# 9-Letter No. 008

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



### SOLUTIONS

Today's Focus:  
 13 words: Good  
 20 words: Very good  
 27 words: Excellent

Reference:  
 Collins Concise  
 English Dictionary

clip, clomp, clop, compel, compile, cope, cope, epic, impel, limp, hope, more, open, opine, peel, peen, pence, penile, peon, piece, pine, pine, pole, polemic, police, POLICEMEN

## 豪华公寓大楼中的暴力和毒品活动

市中心一栋豪华摩天大楼的居民说，在这栋新开发的公寓楼里居住再也没有安全和舒适感了，因为那里充斥着暴力和非法毒品活动。

**Brendan Rees**

这位居民Jane(化名)于去年7月搬进这栋位于Queen街和A'Beckett街拐角处的Queens Place公寓大楼，她说：“在光天化日之下有人向我索要海洛因、冰毒及各种毒品，这太令人不安了。”

州政府去年5月购买了在Queens Place综合大楼里的一些公寓，作为其1.5亿澳元“无家可归者住家计划”的一部分，目前大楼中12套公寓已用作此计划。

该计划是为了帮助维州无家可归的人在离开紧急住所后，进入长期住房。



这位害怕报复并危及她个人安全而不愿透露姓名的居民Jane表示，她赞同让无家可归者离开街头的倡议计划，但是经历了与这些人一起生活让她感到很不安全。

她说：“我甚至不想下楼去拿UberEats的食物，我在楼里不得不和每个人打交道。这些人之间总有争吵，并总有事情发生。”

这位24岁的女子说，安保人员已经驻扎在大楼里，但这并没有阻止这些问题的发生，包括大楼里的暴力尖叫声和攻击行为。

她说，一名男子还故意裸露自己，她的朋友和其他居民还拍下了“一个男人竟然在大楼入口处用烟管吸毒”的镜头。

她说，还有一次，当她在晚上9:30去楼下大厅用餐时，一名妇女走近她，索要“shard”[也称为冰毒，一种甲基苯丙胺]。

“我说没有”，然后那个女人又走向其他人，“并且做了交易”。

还有一次，一名男子被发现睡着或昏倒在大楼前面台阶上，然后被保安挪走。

她说，对这种情况她感到愤怒，并向大楼管理层报告了多起事件，但是“对此没有采取任何措施”。



## 民众日益担忧历史遗产建筑

**Brendan Rees**

在州规划部长Richard Wynne介入审理历史遗产建筑Shell House场地的改造开发申请之际，一场拯救城市地标免遭破坏的战斗由此发起。

这座位于Flinders街和Spring街拐角处的28层建筑是由澳大利亚最伟大的现代主义建筑师之一，已故的Harry Seidler设计的，他曾获得过多个州级和国家级建筑设计奖项。

这座位于Spring街1号的大楼原名为“Shell House (贝壳之家)”，融合了政府和商业办公场所，以其弯曲且环环相扣的贝壳状外形而闻名，于2017年被列入维多利亚遗产名录。

然而，目前的一个项目申请提议在Shell House的同一地点建造第二座121.68米高的办公大楼，并在其第15层修建连接两座大楼的桥梁，此申请引发了国家信托、澳大利亚建筑师协会和居民团体的担忧。

根据2020年11月提交的这个项目计划(据了解，该计划已被修改)，现有的Flinders Lane前院将“重新改造，在拟建的第二座大楼和现有的1号大楼之间为公众提供一个吸引人的无障碍广场和一个受欢迎的内部广场”。

Wynne先生说，这个申请被维多利亚遗产局拒绝了，申请人又寻求维州文化遗产理

## 市中心新疫苗接种诊所向儿童开放

Cohealth 健康机构在位于维多利亚女王市场对面的Drill Hall开设了CBD疫苗接种诊所，并在西墨尔本开设了另一家疫苗接种诊所，于1月10日起向5至11岁的儿童开放疫苗接种。

**Spencer Fowler Steen**

这两个诊所都将接受5至11岁的儿童接种第一剂辉瑞(Pfizer)疫苗，同时也欢迎12岁以上的人接种COVID疫苗。

Cohealth的西墨尔本诊所已经设立了适合儿童的本土动物主题房间，以满足接下来几周数千名儿童的到来。

自去年底以来，Cohealth一直在为5至11岁的儿童推出疫苗接种做准备，为了能够安全地为儿童接种疫苗，工作人员接受了特殊的培训。

除了接种剂量的要求，还给工作人员进行如何减少儿童对疫苗接种压力的培训，包



括避免使用“针头”和“注射”的字眼。

Cohealth首席执行官Nicole Bartholomeusz 敦促父母和照看者为他们的孩子预订COVID疫苗接种。

Bartholomeusz女士说：“选择让你的孩

子接种COVID疫苗，给了他们对病毒最好的保护，也保护了他们周围的人。

如需预约，请致电1800675398或通过维多利亚州政府COVID网站。

## 员工短缺 顾客稀少 商家陷困

**Brendan Rees**

快速蔓延的Omicron疫情让CBD的酒店餐饮业主陷入困境，将这场危机称为“像封锁一样糟糕”。

许多餐饮商家告诉本报，他们正在挣扎于两个危机，一是由于新冠疫情感染导致的员工短缺或不得不隔离的密切接触者，二是犹豫不决的维州顾客避开公共场所而导致的消费骤降。

位于Flinders巷和Little Collins街的咖啡店(Seedlings Café)业主Georgia Mackie说，尽管她正在休产假，但是店里两位厨师在为等候PCR的结果而不得不自我隔离一周，所以她只能自己去店里下厨。

她说：“我既要照顾一个14周大的婴儿，又要来店里下厨。我只能让我的朋友和家人照看孩子，并在喂奶时间带到市中心及处理其他事情。”

“每个业主都渴望有员工上班。目前的情况和封锁时一样糟糕，我认为在CBD的人们都被告知在家工作，这是前所未有的糟糕。”

她说“我们正在竭尽所能地坚持开业，希望有一些营业收入”。她补充说，希望政



府能提供新的财政支持计划。

“我们的生意实际上比封锁时更糟糕，而且还得不到支持。”

“市场太安静了，我们一天只有两百块钱的营业额，简直是要疯了。附近还有一些游客，我们还希望有一些与网球赛有关的客人，不过我们的生意主要是依赖市中心企业的上班人员。”

在Block Place的Café Segovia餐厅业主Caroline Tuohy说，由于人手短缺，她不

得不缩短了营业时间。

她说：“我在一天之内失去了四名员工，都是由于新冠密切接触。”

“我们这个行业都在迅速失去上班的员工；每个人都很糟糕。”

她说“实际上没有人”可以雇用了。“有人说‘让学生试试怎么样？’我确实雇用了学生，我的三名员工是单亲父母，一名员工是成年学生。我确实雇佣了大量不同的人。”

# What's on: February 2022



**DRONES SHOW DOCKLANDS**  
 Until February 5, 9.30 pm - 9.40 pm

See the night sky sparkle as 350 drones light up Docklands to tell stories in the stars. The eight-minute show runs over Victoria Harbour nightly in an enchanting visual spectacular.

[whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)



**FLASH FORWARD LANEWAY FEST**  
 Ongoing

Flash Forward is the epic new creative program taking over 40 city laneways with music, murals and more from the best local talent. For more information visit:

[whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

**THIRD TUESDAY OF MONTH @ 10AM**  
 EastEnders meet-ups

Representing residents living in the CBD's eastern quadrant, EastEnders host monthly meetings at the Gorman Room, 27 Little Lonsdale St. For more information contact president Stan Capp.

[eastendersinc@gmail.com](mailto:eastendersinc@gmail.com)

**RESIDENTS 3000 @ KELVIN CLUB**

Residents 3000 members, guests and friends meet for its Forum 3000 events on the first Thursday of each month, beginning at 6pm for registration and networking, and 6:30pm for presentations and are hosted at the Kelvin Club, 14-20 Melbourne Place.

[residents3000.com.au](http://residents3000.com.au)

**TUESDAYS RACV CLUB @ 7.40AM**  
 Rotary Club of Central Melbourne

If you would like to visit our meeting, please contact us by email on [rotaryclubcentralmelbourne@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubcentralmelbourne@gmail.com) or phone 0455 858 996 and request attendance details.

[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. 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)

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[chinatownmelbourne.com.au](http://chinatownmelbourne.com.au)  
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(03) 9328 4637 office@ellensandell.com 146 Peel Street North Melbourne VIC 3051

### 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)

35 Collins St, Melbourne [collinsplace.com.au](http://collinsplace.com.au)



# Donazzan Boutique Property

*Happy New Year Melbourne!*

*So many unexpected events have happened to us all in 2021. Its like we have all been hit by a "Whirlwind"! Nevertheless, we can still have a laugh, keep smiling and give thanks and believe in a much brighter year ahead for everyone.*

*The Donazzan Boutique Property Team look forward to looking after you in 2022.*

We  You,  
**Melbourne**

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Gina Donazzan 0412 430 326  
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